



MAKING A COMEBACK

Actor Priyanka Chopra says women were silenced in the past but they have come together to right the wrongs

LEISURE P2



UKRAINE TAKES LYMAN

Ukraine claims full control of the logistics hub of Lyman, Kyiv's most significant battlefield gain in weeks

INTERNATIONAL P10



HAALAND, FODEN SHINE

Erling Haaland and Phil Foden score hat-tricks in Manchester City's 6-3 win over Manchester United

SPORTS P12

Youth hacked to death after house set afire in revenge act

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 2: A youth was brutally hacked to death by some co-villagers over past enmity after his house was set on fire at Hundula village under Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district, late Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Pranab Mohanta, 25, son of Prakash Mohanta of the village. Police detained two persons identified as Bhuban Das and his son Shakti Prasad Das of the same village over a complaint lodged by the deceased's father. The body was sent for post-mortem and an investigation launched into the incident.

Police said that the deceased had assaulted the youngest son of Bhuban, a shopkeeper in the village, Saturday. Bhuban's family members had lodged a complaint at Sadar police station but police visited the spot and left the place after placating both the groups.

This infuriated Bhuban's family members. Bhuban decided to settle scores and visited Pranab's house at night with some village youths. Panicked over their arrival, Pranab hid himself inside the house by bolting the door from inside. They poured petrol on his house and set it on fire and latter burnt chilli powder to suffocate him. Feeling suffocated and caught in fire, Pranab ran out of his house when the miscreants caught him and hacked him to death.

When contacted, Sadar IIC Sunil Kar said the detainees are being questioned in this connection and the actual reason behind the murder could be ascertained after completion of the probe.

SOCCER SHOCKER

INDONESIA STADIUM STAMPEDE KILLS 125

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jakarta, Oct 2: In one of the world's worst sports tragedies, at least 125 people died at an Indonesian football stadium when thousands of angry home fans invaded the pitch and police responded with tear gas that triggered a stampede, authorities said Sunday.

The tragedy Saturday night in the city of Malang, which also left 323 injured according to police, was one of the world's deadliest sporting stadium disasters.

Arena FC supporters at the Kanjuruhan stadium marched onto the pitch after their team lost 3-2 to the visiting team and bitter rivals, Persebaya Surabaya.

Police, who described the unrest as "riots", said they tried to force fans to return to the stands and fired tear gas after two officers were killed. Many of the victims were trampled or choked to death, according to police.

At least 125 people died, East Java deputy governor Emil Dardak told broadcaster Metro TV Sunday evening, significantly lowering officials' earlier death count of 174 because of double counting.

"Some names were recorded

twice because they had been referred to another hospital and were written down again," he said, citing data collected by local police from 10 hospitals.

Survivors described panicking spectators in a packed crowd as tear gas rained down on them.

"Officers fired tear gas, and automatically people were rushing to come out, pushing each other and it caused many victims," 43-year-old spectator Doni, who declined to give his last name, told AFP.

"Nothing was happening, there was no riot. I don't know what the issue was, they suddenly fired tear gas. That's what shocked me, didn't they think about kids, women?"

President Joko Widodo ordered an investigation into the tragedy, a safety review into all football matches and directed the country's football association to suspend all matches until "security improvements" were completed.

A hospital director told local TV that one of the victims was five years old. Images taken from inside the stadium during the stampede showed police firing huge amounts of tear gas and people clambering over fences.

Contd...P4



FATAL CRUSH: Security officers detain a man during a clash between fans of two soccer teams that led to a stampede at Kanjuruhan Stadium in Indonesia

FOOTBALL WORLD MOURNS

The football world mourned the disaster with Gianni Infantino, president of FIFA, calling the stampede "a tragedy beyond comprehension". Manchester United and Barcelona posted tributes online while Spanish football clubs were to observe a minute's silence before matches

Sunday as a mark of respect. The German football association and Italy's Serie A also tweeted their condolences. The Asian Football Confederation, the governing body for football in the region, expressed its regret at the loss of life. The Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) was in touch with FIFA

about the stampede and hoped to avoid sanctions, PSSI secretary general Yunus Yussi told a press conference. FIFA's safety guidelines prohibit the carrying of crowd control gas by police or stewards at pitchside. Indonesia is to host the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in May.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I like him more when his birthday doesn't fall on a Sunday

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
MAX	32.4°C 32.2°C
MIN	24.1°C 23.0°C
Humidity	85% 92%
Rainfall	1.2mm 0.0mm
	Light rain likely

4 killed as tourist bus turns turtle in Jharkhand; 25 hurt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kaniha, Oct 2: At least four tourists from Kaniha area of Angul district died and over 25 others were injured after a trailer truck collided with the bus carrying them, Saturday night. The accident took place in Hazaribagh district of neighbouring Jharkhand.

As per sources, a total of 55 tourists from Kaniha were returning to state from Gaya in Bihar by a bus. The passengers hailing from Angul, Dhenkanal, and Mayurbhanj districts were on the bus, officials said. On the way in Jharkhand, a trailer truck ramed into the bus and it overturned.

Four of the tourists died on the spot and over 25 others were injured, a senior police officer



said in Jharkhand. The injured were admitted to a hospital in Hazaribagh. The kin of the deceased and the injured have left for Jharkhand to receive the bodies, sources said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

Sunday announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each to next of kin of the victims. Patnaik also asked the Mayurbhanj district collector to coordinate with the Jharkhand government to ensure proper treatment of the injured persons.

SHORT TAKES

Varsha Priyadarshini vacates in-laws' house

Bhubaneswar: In a fresh twist to the marital discord between the celebrity couple, actress Varsha Priyadarshini vacated the actor-turned-politician Anubhav Mohanty's residence. She shifted her furniture, luggage and other articles as she wasn't staying at her estranged husband's house regularly. As of now, she is learnt to have moved to her sister's residence and will be staying there till she makes an alternative arrangement. Notably, while hearing the marital discord August 30, the court had directed the actress to vacate her husband's residence in Cuttack.



Ex-UP CM Mulayam Singh Yadav in ICU

Gurugram/Lucknow: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav was shifted to the ICU of Medanta Hospital in Gurugram Sunday after his health deteriorated, the party said. Family members are reaching Gurugram to check up on his health. While his brother Shivpal Singh Yadav is already there, Samajwadi Party president and Mulayam's son Akhilesh Yadav has left Lucknow for Delhi, SP state unit spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said. He has been under treatment in the hospital since August 22, sources said.



Militants kill cop, injure CRPF jawan 2 days ahead of Shah's J&K tour

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Oct 2: Two days ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, terrorists Sunday attacked a security forces team in Pulwama district of the Union territory killing a special police officer (SPO) and injuring a CRPF jawan, officials said.

Director General of Police Dilbag Singh did not rule out possibility of the terrorist attack linked to the high profile visit of Shah to Jammu and Kashmir, beginning October 4.

"Deputy Superintendent of Police, headquarters, was inspecting a check point when terrorists opened fire on the joint party of police and CRPF, killing an SPO and injuring a CRPF jawan. We have identified the attackers and will share details later as the operation is in progress," the J&K police chief told reporters in Jammu. He said the case will be worked out shortly.

This was the second major terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five days. Twin blasts had ripped apart two parked buses in Udhampur district of Jammu region within eight hours during the intervening night of September 28 and 29, and injured two persons.

He said the Udhampur blast was carried out by the LeT ahead of the home minister's visit to convey "all is not well" on the security front in the Union Territory.

However, the case was solved with the arrest of a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist along with five improvised explosive devices. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political parties condemned the attack. Former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti also condemned the attack.

With drained battery, Mars Orbiter craft quietly bids adieu

THE MANGALYAAN ORBITER FUNCTIONED FOR ALMOST 8 YEARS, WELL BEYOND ITS DESIGNED MISSION LIFE OF 6 MONTHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 2: Mars Orbiter craft has run out of propellant and its battery drained beyond the safe limit, fuelling speculation that India's maiden interplanetary mission 'Mangalyaan' may have finally completed its long innings.

The ₹450 crore Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was launched on-board PSLV-C25 November 5, 2013, and the MOM spacecraft was successfully inserted into Martian orbit September 24, 2014 in its first attempt.

Right now, there is no fuel left. The satellite battery has drained, sources in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) told PTI. The link has been lost. There was, however, no official word from the national space agency headquartered here.

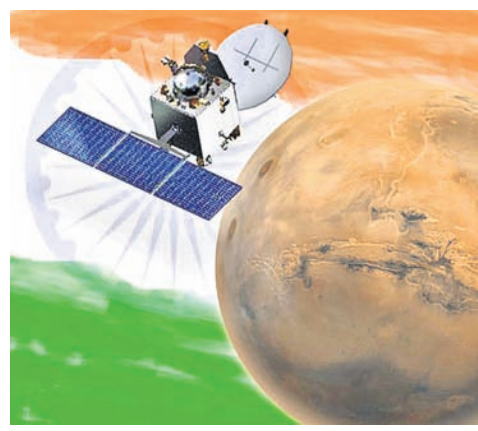
With fuel on board, ISRO had been performing orbital manoeuvres on MOM spacecraft to take it to a new orbit to avoid an impending eclipse in the past.

But recently there were back-to-back eclipses including one that lasted seven-and-half hours, officials said on condition of anonymity, noting that all the propellant on board the ageing satellite had been consumed.

As the satellite battery is designed to handle eclipse duration of only about one hour and 40 minutes, a longer eclipse would drain the battery beyond the safe limit, another official said.

ISRO officials noted that the Mars orbiter craft functioned for almost eight years, well beyond its designed mission life of six months.

It has done its job and yielded significant scientific results, they



said. The objectives of the mission were primarily technological and included design, realisation and launch of a Mars Orbiter spacecraft capable of operating with sufficient autonomy during

the journey phase; Mars orbit insertion capture and in-orbit phase around Mars.

The MOM - a technology demonstration venture - carried five scientific payloads (total 15 kg) col-

lecting data on surface geology, morphology, atmospheric processes, surface temperature and atmospheric escape process.

The five instruments are Mars Color Camera (MCC), Thermal Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (TIS), Methane Sensor for Mars (MSM), Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA) and Lyman Alpha Photometer (LAP).

MOM is credited with many laurels like cost-effectiveness, short period of realisation, economical mass-budget, and miniaturisation of five heterogeneous science payloads

and published a Mars Atlas. Meanwhile, plans on a follow-on 'Mangalyaan' mission to the red planet, however, are yet to be firmed up.

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MOM is credited with many laurels like cost-effectiveness, short period of realisation, economical mass-budget, and miniaturisation of five heterogeneous science payloads, ISRO officials pointed out.

Highly elliptical orbit geometry of MOM enabled MCC to take snap shots of 'Full disc' of Mars at its farthest point and finer details from closest point. The MCC has produced more than 1,000 images

and published a Mars Atlas. Meanwhile, plans on a follow-on 'Mangalyaan' mission to the red planet, however, are yet to be firmed up.

leisure



NATURE HELPED LISA SNOWDON THROUGH PERIMENOPAUSE

Presenter and model Lisa Snowdon, 50, who famously dated George Clooney, went through the perimenopause at the age of 42. She found getting out for walks in the woods alone worked wonders on her mental health and intense hormonal changes, said Lisa.

ADELE'S FANGIRL MOMENT WITH HER IDOL GABRIELLE

British singer Adele had an emotional moment when she met her idol, Gabrielle, who is best remembered for her Bridget Jones's Diary' sound track. The *Rolling In the Deep* hitmaker cried her heart out upon meeting the senior singer and UK chart-topper, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you may want to wear your power suit, says Ganesh. If you notice people bending and bowing a bit, understand that your hard work has paid off! If not, then you need to get more organised. Either way, there's work to be done.

TAURUS

The competitive streak in you might relent today as you look for a lifestyle that is more relaxed and laid-back. The rat race is tiring and you will feel the urge to get away, far from the maddening crowd and the never-ending routine. Matters pertaining to your home may also occupy some of your time today, says Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today, the bond that you share with your friends will get stronger. You are also likely to fall in love. If you are already in a relationship, you will plan to validate your bond either through an engagement or marriage. If you are a student, this is a good phase for you.

CANCER

You will be quite sharp at work, and equally penetrating in the matters of the heart. Though, you may temporarily lose focus, your mind will bring you back to the real world. You will work at a break-neck speed, only to be able to spend as much time as possible with your sweetheart.

LEO

Few and rare are the days when creativity takes flight. After all, even Picasso couldn't make a masterpiece every day. So make the most of this auspicious day, urges Ganesh, during which your imagination peaks and touches new heights. Especially those in the media shall hit upon a new level in their imaginative capabilities. Just remember, says Ganesh, confidence is the key.

VIRGO

You will start the day by scribbling down things to do. But don't just jot them down; instead, set realistic goals and prioritise them. Items you mark highest will demand quick actions, cautions Ganesh.

LIBRA

It's a spiritual and harmonious mood that grips you today, feels Ganesh. You may want to focus on meditation, as you essentially seek peace. This may have something to do with the fact that at work, your subordinates may attempt to throw around their weight to force you to make drastic changes. But do not let it bother you too much.

SCORPIO

It is more than likely that you will find yourself in a tricky situation today, says Ganesh. You may start the day feeling lonely and empty but yet, at the same time, you will have some responsibility that will prevent you from showing it. Try to keep your mind off negative thoughts. Work and friends will help you cheer up later in the day.

SAGITTARIUS

Stay stern, says Ganesh, as it might be necessary to exercise your grit to get the desired results today. Your presence may be dominating at the workplace, but your subordinates will find your manner pleasing as you hold them in awe of you. Do not get carried away by your success or the tables may turn, suggests Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

You will prioritise your needs, and the most critical would be the need to manage finances to save for the future. Also, the company you choose to keep will reflect the kind of person you are. So, beware of who you befriend, warns Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will have a lot of fun with your siblings! Though generally well-organised and methodical, you will enjoy going with the flow of what your siblings and friends plan for you. Sometimes, spontaneity is a good thing, says Ganesh.

PISCES

There are indications you will be in hot pursuit of leisure today, says Ganesh. This will probably be in the form of a short trip to recharge your batteries, and is probably fuelled by your satisfaction in the realisation that the role you play within your organisation is consequential, satisfying as well as rewarding.

Priyanka: Women have been shunned, silenced

Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra recently moderated a discussion with US Vice President Kamala Harris at the Women's Leadership Forum conference in Washington DC. Taking to Instagram, the actress shared photos with the VP and also wrote a lengthy note on their talk and spoke about the importance of voting rights and the involvement of women in civic activities.

Care of. Speaking about her daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas' future, Priyanka said, "While I don't vote in this country - my husband can and one day, my daughter will."



Calling it an honour to moderate a discussion with Harris, Chopra wrote, "Since the very beginning, the world has undermined the power of women. We've been shunned and silenced, but thanks to the sacrifices and tenacity of so many selfless women, we are in a place today where we can come together and work collectively to right the wrongs. This was a key take away from the conversation I had the honour to moderate with @vp, Kamala Harris at the Women's Leadership Forum conference in Washington DC last night."

Priyanka further touched upon the importance of voting, especially for women as she spoke about how they need to be actively involved in ensuring their rights are being taken

Bakul Foundation celebrates Daan Utsav

About 300 volunteers of the Foundation took part in events at about 50 slums, two orphanages and an old age home in the city to celebrate the festival



A volunteer during an interaction with the kids

Bhubaneswar: Bakul Foundation, which has been promoting volunteerism in fields like education, environment and arts for many years, celebrated Daan Utsav here, Sunday.

Daan Utsav is India's biggest 'festival of giving' during which people come together and perform acts of kindness by giving their time, material or money in interesting ways to any cause(s) of their choice.

took part in events at about 50 slums, two orphanages and an old age home in the city to celebrate the festival.

They not only donated but also mobilised donations in the form of material such as old and new clothes, books, toys or money for charities. Their other activities included taking part in ice breaking games, art and craft sessions and games around story creation.

The volunteers who took part in the campaign were mostly from different colleges. Some school students and young professionals were also part of the event.

This year, in Bhubaneswar, the volunteers focused on slums near each of the Bakul Libraries at Satyanagar, Forest Park and Kalabhoomi in Pokhariput.

Children from Durga Mandap Basti, Timber Colony, Rajkumar Basti, Triranga Basti were clubbed together for activities at Satya Nagar while the kids of Gandamunda Tarini Basti and Bhakta Madhu Nagar enjoyed the event at Kalabhoomi. Similarly, activities took place at a few slums in Chandrasekharpur area where Bakul had a library earlier. Activities went on in both morning and afternoon sessions. This apart, volunteers spent time with children at community centres close to nearby slums.

Sujit Mahapatra, founder of the organisation, participating in the event, said, "Daan Utsav is a festival like other festivals such as Durga Puja, Ganesh Puja or Eid. Any individual can celebrate it personally at home or with a community. He or she can observe it at a school or college also. No organization owns the festival."

Shruti Kanungo, a Bakul volunteer who studies at Ravenshaw University, has been with the Foundation since 2018. She said, "This year, I am coordinating the entire effort. I have never led such a big group before. Today's was an incredible experience as I am part of an initiative which offered so much joy to over 1,000 kids."

Archana dreams to marry a politician

New Delhi: Actress, model and politician Archana Gautam joined *Bigg Boss 16* and she informed the host, superstar Salman Khan, she wants to marry a politician.

Gautam had contested unsuccessfully on a Congress ticket in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections from the Hastinapur constituency in Meerut district.

She also held forth on what she expects from her partner. Archana said she dreams of her lover holding her

from behind when she's in the kitchen cooking.

Talking about her dream with the host, she recreated it with actor and fellow contestant Gautam Singh.

Archana, who was named Miss Bikini India 2018, has also worked in the Hindi film industry and her first movie was *Great Grand Masti*.

Salman said she has joined the show so that with the popularity she is going to garner here, she can win the next election she contests.

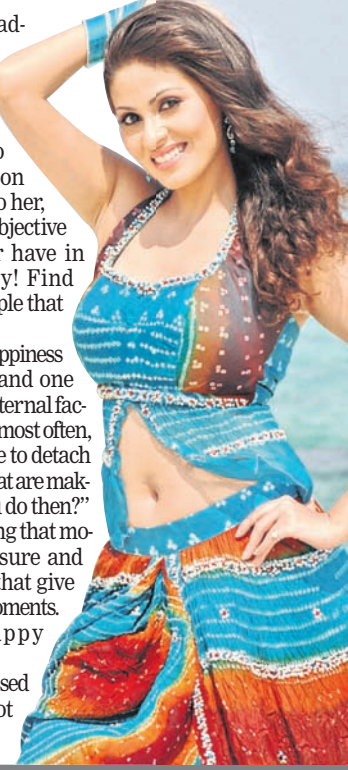
SADAA'S TAKE ON LIFE: ONLY OBJECTIVE IS TO BE HAPPY

Chennai: Actress Sadaa, who was a leading actress in the Tamil and Telugu film industries, said that the only objective one should ever have in life is to feel happiness.

Talking to Instagram, the actress, who has already shared her thoughts on how significant self-respect is to her, Sunday wrote: "The only objective that one should ever have in life is to feel happy! Find things, passions, people that give you joy..."

"We've been told happiness comes from within and one shouldn't depend on external factors for feeling good. But most often, it's not practically possible to detach from people and situations that are making you unhappy. What do you do then?" "Accepting and acknowledging that momentary unhappiness or displeasure and bouncing back on other things that give you joy is the way to go in such moments. Hope you'll have a happy and joyful Sunday!"

Earlier, the actress had expressed that caring for oneself did not amount to being selfish.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

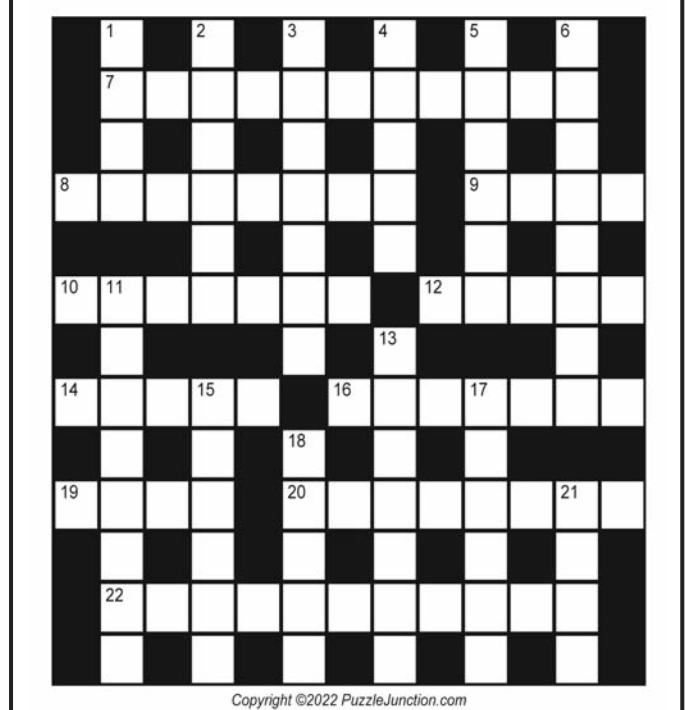


BREVITY



FUN post

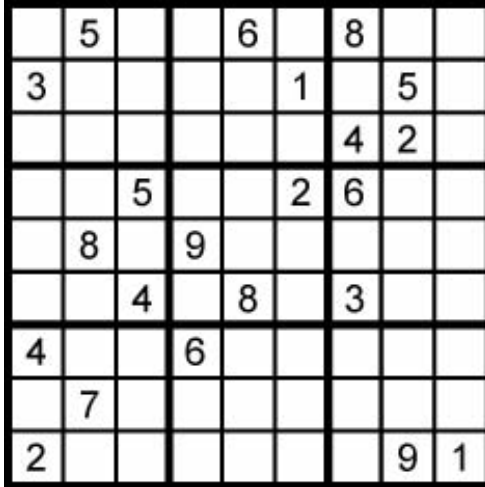
CROSSWORD



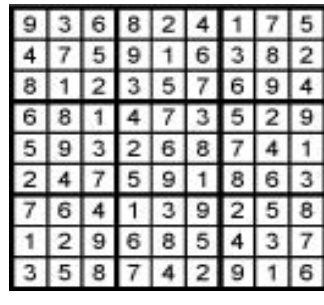
- Across
- 7 Horse race conclusion, at times (5,6)
 - 8 Winter fight, maybe
 - 9 Fax button
 - 10 Médoc or Rioja, e.g. (3,4)
 - 12 Small vascular growth
 - 14 Salon activity
 - 16 Collision on the highway (5-2)
 - 19 Banana skin
 - 20 Like the desert floor
 - 22 Studio couch
- Down
- 1 Sign in a store window
 - 2 Conference
 - 3 Lettuce type
 - 4 Goofy
 - 5 Debacle
 - 6 Words to a life saver (5,3)
 - 11 Proof
 - 13 Hotel's free offering
 - 15 Type of solution
 - 17 Moth-eaten
 - 18 Theatre employee
 - 21 Split personalities?

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



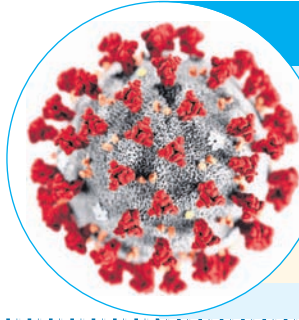
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PAYING HOMAGE

Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary on HC premises in Cuttack, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	62,33,59,039	60,32,08,930	65,50,456
India	4,45,94,487	4,40,28,370	5,28,673
Odisha	13,34,367	13,24,036	9,195

CM plants 'freedom tree' to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday planted a peepal sapling on the premises of Lok Seva Bhawan here as a mark of tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary.

Asserting that peace and non-violence prevails in Odisha, Patnaik said this year's Gandhi Jayanti bears a special significance as the country is also celebrating its 75th year of Independence.

Patnaik after planting the sapling that he christened as 'freedom tree', called upon people to make India stronger by upholding the virtues of brotherhood and unity.

Peepal tree signifies knowledge, enlightenment, happiness and auspiciousness, he said.

"From the ancient Indus Valley civilisation to enlightenment of Lord Buddha, peepal tree has always had significance. It is an inseparable part of our socio-cultural life," the Chief Minister said.

On the occasion, the president of state freedom fighters' association, Nilamani Samal presented a

'charkha' (spinning wheel) to the chief minister.

The CM, in turn, felicitated Samal with a shawl.

The Ahimsa Rath, which was flagged off August 15 to disseminate the message of peace and non-violence across the state, reached Lok Seva Bhawan during the day.

The Chief Minister released special editions of magazines 'Utkal Prasang' and 'Odisha Review'.

Taking to Twitter, he paid humble tributes to both the leaders.

"Humble tributes to #MahatmaGandhi, the Father of the nation and the greatest apostle of peace and non-violence on #GandhiJayanti. His service to humanity, ideals, teachings and principles will always remain an inspiration for generations to come (sic)," the CM tweeted.

Naveen also took to the Twitter to say, "Humble tributes to former Prime Minister, freedom fighter & legendary statesman #LalBahadurShastri on his birth anniversary. His golden words, #JaiJawanJaiKisan continues to inspire us and remains a guiding force behind the process of nation building (sic)."

The CM released special editions of 'Utkal Prasang' and 'Odisha Review'

EUPHORIA AS DURGA PUJA CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

THE DURGA PUJA, WHICH IS BEING HELD THIS YEAR WITH MUCH FANFARE AFTER TWO YEARS OF COVID-19 HIATUS, HAS STARTED IN THE CAPITAL CITY WITH THE INVOCATION OF THE GODDESS, SUNDAY. **Orissa POST** TAKES A TOUR OF THE CITY, CAPTURING THE PICTURESQUE PANDALS AND MESMERISING IDOLS OF THE GODDESS...



Bornikhal



Sahed Nagar



Cuttack Road



Rasulgarh



Old Station Bazar



Ravi Talkies

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Naveen launches 'Jan Sampark Padyatra'

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik Sunday launched the party's annual month-long 'Jan Sampark Padyatra' from Ekamra-Bhubaneswar Assembly Constituency here.

Naveen, who described politics as just a medium to serve the people, kick-started the party's outreach programme on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti here calling upon the party workers and leaders to work in tandem with the people for the development of Odisha.

Naveen advised them to reach each household and ascertain their problems.

Senior BJD leader and Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda said that the CM has stressed that BJD is with the people and working for the people.

The month-long outreach pro-



CM Naveen Patnaik during the Jan Sampark Padyatra near Kargil Slum in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

gramme aims to sensitise people on various welfare and developmental programmes of the government, said Panda, highlighting that Naveen has been working for the development of Odisha and welfare of its people for the last 25 years.

In the course of the yatra, BJD

will also celebrate the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Gobandhu Dash October 9 and the birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan October 11.

The padyatra is being organised right from the district level and will be held in every ward and panchayat throughout the state.

As part of the programme, BJD workers would sensitise the people on various welfare schemes of the state government

The BJD supremo has asked all the functionaries of the party to actively participate in the programme and ensure the participation of a large number of people in the rallies and meetings.

Party workers and leaders are slated to approach every household and inform them about the development schemes and welfare programs of the BJD government.

The party will also conduct blood donation camps and plantation drives during the programme.

On the concluding day November 2, the BJD leaders and workers would take a pledge to devote their life to the overall development of the state and welfare of its people.

IISc develops algorithm to detect seizures

The development has the potential to do away with the current practice of manual evaluation of Electroencephalogram (EEG) which can be often tedious and sometimes lead to errors



Epilepsy is a neurological condition where the brain emits sudden bursts of electrical signals in a short amount of time, resulting in seizures, fits and sometimes even death

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have joined hands with AIIMS Rishikesh to create an algorithm that can help decipher brain scans and identify the occurrence and type of epilepsy.

The development has the potential to do away with the current practice of manual evaluation of Electroencephalogram (EEG) which can be often tedious and sometimes lead to errors.

Epilepsy is a neurological condition where the brain emits sudden bursts of electrical signals in a short amount of time, resulting in seizures, fits and sometimes even death.

Based on the point of origin of the brain's erratic signals, epilepsy is classified as either focal or generalised epilepsy. Focal epilepsy occurs when the erratic signals are confined to a specific region in the brain. If the signals are at random locations, then it is termed as generalised epilepsy, an IISc statement said.

"The research aims to differentiate EEG of normal subjects from epileptic EEGs. Additionally, the developed algorithm attempts to identify

the types of seizures. Our work is to help the neurologists make an efficient and quick automated screening and diagnosis," says Hardik J. Pandya, Assistant Professor at the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering (DESE) and the corresponding author of the study published in Biomedical Signal Processing and Control.

During the course of their study, the team noted a novel algorithm that can sift through EEG data and identify signatures of epilepsy from the electrical signal patterns.

After initial training, the algorithm was able to detect whether a human subject could have epilepsy or not based on these patterns in their respective analyses - with a high degree of accuracy, the researchers say.

To develop and train the algorithm, the researchers first examined EEG

data from 88 human subjects acquired at AIIMS Rishikesh. Each subject underwent a 45-minute EEG test, divided into two parts: an initial 10-minute test when the subject was awake, which included photic stimulation and hyperventilation, followed by a 35-minute sleep period when the subject was asked to sleep. Next, the team analysed this data and classified different wave patterns into sharp signals, spikes and slow waves.

Spikes are patterns where a signal rises and falls within a very short duration of time (70 milliseconds), while sharps are those with rises and falls spread over a slightly longer duration (250 milliseconds) and slow waves have a much longer duration (400 milliseconds).

An epileptic subject shows a different set of patterns compared to a

healthy individual. The researchers developed an algorithm to calculate the total number of sharp waves - the Cumulative Sharp Count - and use this as a parameter to detect if the subject is epileptic or not (a higher value indicates a greater chance that the subject is epileptic).

The algorithm also calculates the sum of areas under the spikes and sharp curves to distinguish between focal and generalised epilepsy (a greater value indicates generalised epilepsy as opposed to focal epilepsy, which has a lower value).

The researchers add that the study shows a way to identify absence seizures (those that involve a brief, sudden lapse of consciousness), using a Cumulative Spike-Wave Count; in some cases, these absence seizures are critical and can be fatal.

The team then ran their algorithm on a new set of EEG data from subjects for whom the classification (whether they had epilepsy, and if so, what type of epilepsy they had) was already known to the doctors. This blind validation study successfully classified the subjects accurately in nearly 91 per cent of the cases.

"We hope to refine this further by testing on more data to consider more variabilities of human EEGs until we reach the point where this becomes completely translational and robust," says Rathin K. Joshi, a PhD student in DESE and first author of the study. IISc said that a patent has been filed for the work and the algorithm is being tested for its reliability by physicians at AIIMS Rishikesh.

ZP MEMBER SUICIDE: SCRIBE APPEARS BEFORE CITY POLICE

Bhubaneswar: The journalist friend of Dharmendra Sahoo, the BJD Zilla Parishad member who recently committed suicide in his house at Sisupalgarh, appeared before the cops at DCP office here Sunday in connection with the ongoing probe into the mysterious death case. The scribe, Akshaya Nayak, who works as the editor of a local newspaper was earlier summoned by the city police to appear for interrogation. It is pertinent to mention that Nayak recently made a sensational claim about the involvement of School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash in Sahoo's suicide case. The BJP in a presser recently released an audio recording purportedly of a telephonic conversation between Nayak and Sahoo just few hours before the latter's death. Sahoo reportedly spoke to Nayak for more than an hour, during which the former allegedly named as many as seven persons, holding them responsible for him taking the extreme step. Nayak Sunday said, "Three cops asked me about my relationship with Sahoo and Minister Dash. They have seized the mobile phone that contained the audio recording and returned my sim cards. I am fully cooperating with the police in the investigation. There are no allegations against me in this case. The police assured me that they will visit Gop and Nimapada area after Durga Puja and will do detailed investigation to bring forth the truth."

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PUJA RUSH: Heavy crowd at Kathjodi Ring Road during Saptami Puja in Cuttack, Sunday

National award for BMC in Swachh Survekshan 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Citizens' participation is essential for maintenance of sanitation in any city, including the state Capital Bhubaneswar, which has received an award in the 'Citizens Feedback' category at the Swachha Survekshan 2022 awards given by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. "We are happy to announce that Bhubaneswar has received an award in 'Citizens Feedback' category at the Swachha Survekshan 2022 awards", the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced.



"This will help support us in preparing blue prints for other development initiatives for the city, in which also we expect our citizens to play an active role," said Sulochana Das, Mayor, BMC while receiving the award in presence of BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange. The City, which ranked 144 last year in the survey, has stepped up in ranking to 80 in 2022 despite all the challenges presented by the pandemic. "We dedicate this award to the people of Bhubaneswar," said Das. "People's participation in development initiatives is always a positive indicator. And BMC makes the participation more efficient by adopting new strategies and activities like Public Interface and Mo Ward Meetings," said Kulange. Citizens Feedback is an important component of the Swachha Survekshan rankings in which Bhubaneswar has scored 1743 out of 2250, making it the top-ranking Capital city in the category. It should be mentioned that, the toolkit of Swachh Survekshan has a tagline that says, 'People First,' and Bhubaneswar has made it a reality with the support of its people. Recent steps taken by the City, involving SHG and Mission Shakti groups in sanitation activities have been appreciated by different state authorities of the country and representatives of different ULBs have made exposure visits to learn about such participatory approach. In the ceremony, the ULB was represented by dignitaries like standing committee chairman, sanitation BMC, Biranchi Narayan Mahasupakar, special secretary Housing & UD Department Kalyan Kumar Ratha, additional secretary Durgesh Nandini Sahoo, deputy commissioner sanitation BMC, Suvendu Sahoo, and director housing, Debases Singh. CM Naveen Patnaik congratulated the city for winning the award and the Housing and Urban Development Department for the impressive performance in Swachh Survekshan. He also expressed happiness over the efforts of the winning City toward achieving the goal of Swachha Odisha Susta Odisha.

Gandhi Jayanti observed with fervour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gandhi Jayanti in Orissa High court



Orissa High Court observed "Gandhi Jayanti" Sunday at 09:30am in the High Court premises to commemorate the 153rd Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. On this occasion, Justice S Muralidhar, Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa and Justice BR Sarangi, Justice Savitri Ratho, Justice MS Sahoo, Justice RK Pattanaik, Justice Murahari Sri Raman, judges of the High Court of Orissa offered floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the ground floor of the new building of the Court. Ashok Kumar Parija, Advocate General, Dhananjaya Mund, Additional Government advocate; Kshirod Kumar Rout, vice-president and Alok Prasad Nanda, Secretary, the High Court Bar Association, Cuttack along with the officers of the Registry and staff of the Court also offered floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.



Bhubaneswar, Sunday. Principal Heads of the Departments, senior officials and staff of ECoR led by Sharad Kumar Srivastava, General Manager (I/C) paid floral tributes on the photograph of Mahatma Gandhi. Later, all the ECoR officials participated in the Prabhat Pheri and plantation drive. On this occasion a Nukkad Natak was performed to raise awareness about the importance of cleanliness. East Coast Railway organized Swachhata Pakhwada from September 16-30 with great enthusiasm and spontaneous participation by all Railwaymen in every field. During the observance of Swachhata Pakhwada ECoR, various competitions like drawing, painting and essay writing were organised amongst the ward of the railway employees. On the occasion of the closing of the Pakhwada, the General Manager (I/C) awarded the winners of these competitions with certificates and trophies.

Principal chief mechanical engineer; R Rajgopal co-ordinated the programme. All the principal heads of the departments, senior officials and staff were present on this occasion.



ECoR observes Gandhi Jayanti To mark the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, several programmes were organised at East Coast Railway's HQ Rail Sadan, Chandrasekharpur,

BJEM school celebrates Gandhi & Shastri Jayanti The birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri was celebrated at BJEM School with much enthusiasm. On this occasion, 4th edition of Students Remember Mahatma Gandhi (SRMG) was organised by the school in collaboration with the Alumni Association, Government High School, Badagada. Floral tributes were paid to both the great souls with all respect.

Attending the function as the chief guest, Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister, Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Public Enterprises, Science and Technology, highlighted Gandhi's philosophy, ideologies and his attachment to Odisha. The guest of honour, Ramakanta Pradhan, General Manager-cum-Zonal Head of Union Bank of India, Bhubaneswar encouraged students to practise Gandhian values in their real life. He also did the honour of flagging off the Peace March. Presiding over the session Raghunath Mishra, chairman of the school, emphasized to live a quality life adding Gandhian spirits. Eminent Gandhian and social activist Padma Charan Nayak was felicitated on this occasion. In his felicitation address, he appealed the crowd to stand united to fight the corruption and immorality caused due to narcotics and strongly hoped that only Gandhian practices could help win the battle against such an evil. On this occasion a statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by Padma Charan Nayak. Manoja Manjari Sahoo, Headmistress Government High School, Badagada and Sandhya Jena, Principal, BJEM school extended a hearty welcome to the august gathering in the first and second session respectively. Prizes and certificates were given away to about 85 winners of different competitions by the dignitaries. Peace March, all faith prayer and patriotic group dance enriched the programme with patriotic fervour.

Remain alert during puja festival: DCP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The city police Sunday issued advisory urging the denizens to remain alert to avoid the occurrence of any criminal activities during the Durga Puja festival. In a video message, Deputy Commissioner of Police Prateek Singh Sunday requested the residents of the Capital city to ask some known persons to keep vigilance on their house whenever they are going outside to market or visit Puja Mandaps during the festival time. "If you are going outside for a longer period then inform your nearest police station. Preferably use two-wheelers if you are going to a nearby place. It is coming to notice that some bike lifters are taking advantage of the heavy crowd stealing bikes. Use double lock while parking the vehicle. Don't keep any valuable inside the dickey of your bike. When you are going to any puja mandap or crowded place, remain alert about your own belongings and keep it safely. If you spot any doubtful person or find any suspicious item then inform police dialing 112," told DCP Singh. On the other hand, the city traffic police Sunday announced fresh arrangements to ensure smooth traffic congestion in the Capital city in view of the ongoing Puja festivities.

Fugitive accused involved in multi crore fraud held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), of state Crime Branch has arrested an absconding realtor accused of duping many persons including a TCS employee of Rs.20 crore on the pretext of providing them residential flats. The arrested businessman was identified as Manoj Kumar Panda who was one of the directors of M/s Odysa Home & Commercials Pvt Ltd, a Real Estate company. The EOW sleuths, with the help of Andhra Pradesh Police, arrested the accused from Annavaram area of Kakinada District in Andhra Pradesh Saturday. He was later produced before a local court in East Godavari district that allowed the EOW to bring Panda Odisha on transit remand. Notably, EOW registered a case on the basis of a complaint lodged by one Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, an employee of TCS. Mohapatra alleged that he had booked a 3BHK flat at Ganapati Homes, a project of M/s Odysa Home and Commercials Private Limited in Sampur Mouza near Kalinga Studio here, at a consideration price of Rs 65 lakh in 2016. On January 22, 2016, an agreement was also executed between complainant and seller (M/s Odysa Home &



Commercial Pvt Ltd represented through its director, Saroj Kumar Panda). As per the terms of the agreement, the company was supposed to handover the flat to the buyer by the end of June 2018. However, the accused persons neither provided the promised dispute free flat nor returned deposited money to Mohapatra. During investigation, the EOW reportedly found that the company had collected around Rs 20 crore from 42 persons on the promise of providing them affordable flats at Ganapati Homes between 2013 and 2016. "LOC was issued against the present accused Manoj Kumar Panda by the Bureau of Immigration on the request of EOW, BBSR. Acting upon the intelligence input the EOW team was on the trail of the accused all the way from Vishakhapatnam to Annavaram in Kakinada District of Andhra Pradesh and finally became able to arrest the accused Panda from a hotel near Annavaram temple where he was hiding," informed EOW in a press note.

Continued from P1 soccer shocker

Amnesty International called for an investigation into why tear gas was deployed in a confined space, saying it should only be used "when other methods have failed". People carried injured spectators through the chaos and survivors lugged lifeless bodies out of the stadium. Video footage circulating on social media showed people shouting obscenities at police, who were holding riot shields and wielding batons. Torched vehicles, including a police truck, littered the streets outside the stadium Sunday morning. The stadium holds 42,000 people and authorities said it was a sell-out. Police said 3,000 people came onto the pitch. Fan violence is an enduring problem in Indonesia, where deep rivalries have previously turned into deadly confrontations. Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya are longtime rivals. Persebaya Surabaya fans were not allowed to buy tickets for the game due to fears of violence.

Green hydrogen cost and transport are problems

Hydrogen is used mainly to make chemicals such as fertiliser, and in oil refineries. Most hydrogen in the world today is made from natural gas or coal - methods associated with large carbon dioxide emissions. Developed countries are therefore looking to "green hydrogen" instead - produced using renewable electricity such as solar and wind power. Energy experts Rod Crompton and Bruce Young explain green hydrogen's potential benefits and challenges. Global hydrogen demand reached 94 million tons in 2021, and contained energy equal to about 2.5 per cent of global final energy consumption. Only about 0.1 per cent of current global hydrogen production is green, but big expansions are planned. New applications for green hydrogen are also envisaged. Liebreich's classification is a useful indicator of the potential markets for green hydrogen. Since the objective of using green hydrogen is really to reduce carbon dioxide, the applications to target first should be those that will yield the largest reductions in emissions. Liebreich's ladder shows which they are. The applications in the (green) top row are an efficient use of valuable green hydrogen. But green hydrogen currently costs much more to make than less clean types of hydrogen. Using it to produce the 180 million tons per annum of ammonia required globally for fertiliser production would have a severe knock-on effect on food prices. So it is difficult to see how this transition is going to occur. Green hydrogen is made from water. Using renewable ("green") electricity, equipment called electrolyzers separates the hydrogen from oxygen in water (H2O). The process is called electrolysis. Green hydrogen production emits no carbon dioxide, but the construction of renewable electricity infrastructure currently uses fos-



Today, green hydrogen has an estimated energy equivalent cost of between USD 250 and USD 400 per barrel of oil at the factory gate, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. sil fuels, which do emit carbon dioxide. Hydrogen has traditionally been made from non-renewable energy sources like coal ("black hydrogen") and natural gas ("grey hydrogen"). When these methods are combined with carbon capture and storage, the hydrogen pro-

duced is known as "blue hydrogen". Although the costs of renewable power generation have been coming down, the cost of electrolysis is still not commercially competitive. Today, green hydrogen has an estimated energy equivalent cost of between USD 250 and USD 400 per barrel of oil at the factory gate, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. Future cost reductions are forecast but these are uncertain. Current oil prices are around USD 100 a barrel - much less than it would cost to use green hydrogen instead of conventional petroleum products. The costs of transporting hydrogen must be taken into account too. Unfortunately, the physics of hydrogen is against low-cost hydrogen transport. It is much more challenging than oil-based liquid fuels, liquefied petroleum gas or liquefied natural gas. Ocean transport of hydrogen has to be at very low temperatures

(-253 C). Petrol or diesel doesn't need costly refrigeration: it is transported at ambient air temperature. And hydrogen carries only 25 per cent of the energy that a litre of petrol does, making it much more expensive to transport and store the same amount of energy. Alternative ways to transport hydrogen have been investigated. Because ammonia (NH3) is much easier and cheaper to transport than hydrogen, the International Renewable Energy Agency has recommended "storing" hydrogen in ammonia for shipping. But that requires additional equipment to put the hydrogen into ammonia and strip it out at its destination. These processes add costs of about USD2.50-USD4.20/kg (equivalent to USD123-USD207 per barrel of oil) according to the agency. Hydrogen is more difficult to handle than conventional fossil fuels. It is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas, unlike conventional hydrocarbons.

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We must march on with the quiet certitude that what has to be done will be done.

THE MOTHER



Words & Deeds

It was a foregone conclusion that Russia would veto a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution September 30 that sought to condemn its referendums in four Ukrainian regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia as illegal. The resolution further desired to declare them invalid and urge all countries not to recognise any annexation of those territories by Moscow. This was despite 10 votes out of 15 going in favour of the resolution and 1 against with four countries - China, India, Brazil and Gabon - abstaining. The resolution, if passed, would also have demanded an immediate halt to Russia's "full-scale unlawful invasion of Ukraine" and the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all its military forces from that country. The veto and defeat of the resolution was rather a commonplace event as countries holding veto powers had exercised this option umpteenth times in the past in keeping with their respective geopolitical agenda. It was only natural that Russia would also follow this beaten track and veto the resolution intended to declare it as an international pariah.

What, however, has caused a diplomatic stir is India's decision to abstain only days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had formulated a position that India would not countenance war and advocate peace. Modi had recently stated that this was not the era of war. The two different stances are self-contradictory and by hindsight it appears there was no need for raising false expectations in the West about India returning to its age old policy of non-alignment and not siding with Russia at the UN forum.

Britain's ambassador to the UN, Barbara Woodward, explained the position of 10 countries in favour of the resolution by saying that Russia's actions violated the UN Charter. The area Russia is claiming to have annexed is more than 90,000 square kilometres which is being described as the largest forcible annexation of territory since the Second World War. This, of course, may be debatable if China's forcible occupation of Indian territory during the last three years is taken into account.

There is not much doubt, despite Russia's claims to the contrary, that the referendums on whether the regions wanted to join Russia were "pre-determined" in Moscow. These were engineered at a time when Russia was finding it difficult to vanquish Ukraine.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia's claim at the UNSC that the results of the referendums reflected the refusal of the residents of the four regions to return to Ukraine sounds ludicrous. His accusation that the Western nations on UNSC had betrayed their "open" hostility by putting forward a resolution condemning a council member is predictable enough.

What China's Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun said to justify his country's abstention has at least a veneer of logic. He said the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be safeguarded, but the UNSC should try to calm the crisis "rather than intensifying conflicts and exacerbating confrontation."

Likewise, Brazil's Ambassador, asserted the referendums "cannot be perceived as legitimate," but his country abstained because the resolution was not for de-escalating tensions and finding "a solution for the conflict in Ukraine."

Without spelling out the reason for its abstention, Gabon's representative said that his country supported the UN Charter, was against war and called for a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

But, Indian diplomacy cut a sorry figure by its explanation for abstention. It was the least convincing. What India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UNPR) Ruchira Kamboj, said was neither here nor there. She said India was "deeply disturbed" by the recent events in Ukraine and "always advocated" there could be no solution at the cost of human lives. She iterated the Prime Minister's earlier message that it is "not an era for war." This is wishy-washy. India had hoped for getting cheaper crude oil from Russia benefiting from the West's sanctions since the invasion of Ukraine but that situation seems to have changed lately. Besides, Russia is its most important military hardware supplier and benefactor. As such it is in no position to act openly against Russia. In such a situation it is undiplomatic and foolhardy to have created a false impression that India might deviate from its former foreign policy vis-a-vis Russia.

Sticking to the truth might always seem to be a good idea. Even in complex foreign policy. India today is being viewed as a bumbling nation with no clear idea of where it wants to place itself.

WISDOM CORNER

- Great things are done by a series of small things brought together. VINCENT VAN GOGH
- Experience without theory is blind, but theory without experience is mere intellectual play. IMMANUEL KANT
- Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle. NAPOLEON HILL

WORDSWORTH

Cachinnatory

Cachinnatory refers to loud or immoderate laughter. Though this may seem to be celebrating boisterous high spirits, it dates from the early nineteenth century, at a time when gentlemen in England did not laugh out loud, at least not in public. It has about it a sense of the distaste we feel when persons nearby are carousing too loudly for comfort. That master of the second-rate novel, Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton, was a great user of the word and illustrated its exuberance in his Paul Clifford of 1842: "If Paul's comrade laughed at first, he now laughed ten times more merrily than ever. He threw his full length of limb upon a neighbouring sofa, and literally rolled with cachinnatory convulsions; nor did his risible emotions subside until the entrance of the hung-beef restored him to recollection". It also appears in Fan by Henry Harford, published in 1892, in which the heroine is visiting London Zoo: "The laughing jackasses laughed their loudest, almost frightening her with their weird cachinnatory chorus". The Romans clearly knew of this unrestrained outpouring of immoderate humour, since the word is from Latin cachinnare with the same sense.

Cacoethes

An English word starting with a kak sound suggests something bad or unpleasant, by analogy with words such as cacography for bad handwriting and cacophony for a horrible discordant noise. These join a plethora of medical terms, mostly long obsolete, that include cacothymia, a disordered state of mind, and caconychia, decaying nails.) Cack, dung or faeces, is a distant relative. Cacoethes is of the same sort. It's an uncontrollable urge to do something, especially something harmful. The first part is from Greek kakos, bad. To it has been added ethos, a disposition, making a word for a bad habit. It arrived in English unchanged via Latin. It's almost, but not quite, as rare as some of those medical terms, appearing sporadically in prose of the more elevated or pretentious sort. In a dictionary of quotations of 1808, D E Macdonnell commented that cacoethes was never written alone, but always in combination with some other word. That's not true today, but one of his phrases is a Latin tag still known and quoted: cacoethes scribendi. It's from the Satires of the Roman author Juvenal: "Tenet insanabile multos scribendi cacoethes"; in English, "many suffer from the incurable disease of writing". Aspiring wordsmiths should note that an uncontrollable urge to write doesn't necessarily lead to anything worth reading. Macdonnell also listed the vastly less common cacoethes loquendi, a compulsive desire to speak, where the second word derives from Latin loqui, to speak (also the source of loquacious); and cacoethes carpendi, where carpendi is from Latin carpere, to pick, pluck or seize. He defined this as a rage for collecting, but more usually it has been an irresistible desire to criticize or find fault.



Dr Pavitra Mohan and Naina Seth

HEALTHCARE NEEDS TO BE AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, RESPONSIVE AND OF GOOD QUALITY

FOCUS RIGHT TO HEALTH

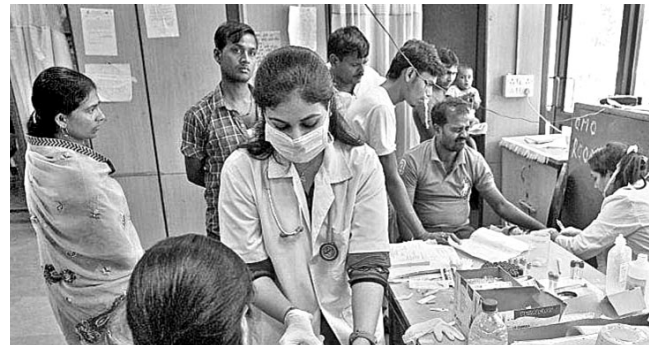
A RAY OF HOPE

September 23 in many senses is a landmark day in the context of India's long and winding road to treating healthcare as a fundamental right. That was the day a right-to-health bill was tabled in the Rajasthan legislative assembly to provide free the full range of health services at public health facilities to all persons in the state, as a matter of right. While it was expected to be passed the next day, the bill has been forwarded for review to a select committee on the suggestion of some members, including some from the ruling party.

By an earlier administrative order, the government of Rajasthan had already made all services, including diagnostics, procedures, inpatient and out-patient, free at all public health facilities. The ground had been set even before the bill came up, and is now on its way to be enshrined into law.

The bill rightfully brings back the focus on public health facilities. There has been a growing policy discourse that public facilities do not deliver, that most people in any case seek healthcare from private facilities, and therefore public facilities should be privatised. An earlier proposal by Niti Ayog to privatise district hospitals for the care of non-communicable diseases is a case in point.

The argument is flawed for many reasons. Firstly, most rural populations in India continue to be dependent on government facilities for most critical healthcare needs: for example, in rural Rajasthan, 98% of childhood vaccination, 70% of contraception, and 79% of institutional childbirths are conducted by government health facilities. According to a study by researchers at the Public Health Foundation of India published in the British Medical Journal, the expenditure on healthcare in India pushes 55 million people into poverty every year; a testimony to the need for affordable healthcare. At the same time, the public expenditure on health is declining. In 2018-19, healthcare expenditure as a percentage of GDP at an all-India



The Rajasthan government's Right to Health Bill rightfully brings back the focus on public health facilities

level declined and fell below 1.3% for the first time since 2004-2005.

On one hand, most rural populations continue to be dependent on government services, and on the other, they continue to be pushed into poverty because of expenditure on healthcare. In this context, a bill that commits to keep public services free is remarkable and is a safeguard for the poor.

Further, the bill commits to free healthcare in public facilities not only for residents but for all persons in the state. This is extremely critical for large numbers of migrants and those who may find it difficult to prove their resident status. It is therefore in the true spirit of fraternity, the minimum a state can offer to fellow Indians from other states. The bill also commits to safeguarding people's rights to free emergency care in all facilities including private facilities. This right (of accessing free emergency care from private hospitals) though is restricted to residents and does not apply to all persons in Rajasthan. The bill also stipulates several other rights related to patient's rights to privacy, right to information and confidentiality. While affirming the right to access free healthcare services from all public facilities, the bill falls short on clarifying the nature of rights and obligations. What is the kind of healthcare that people will have the right to avail?

Healthcare needs to be affordable,

accessible, responsive and of good quality. People living in remote, difficult-to-reach areas, who are in the greatest need of healthcare are not able to reach services that are far. Right to health does not mean much for them if the facilities are not guaranteed to be close to where they live. While the bill states that the government health facilities will be made available based on distance, terrain and population density, no parameters have been laid down. It may continue to make government services inaccessible to people living in hilly and desert areas, and they may continue to fend for themselves.

There is clear evidence that health facilities in India, public and private, often provide poor quality and unresponsive care. It was expected that the bill would therefore commit to certain standards of quality care for government and government funded private facilities. The bill has left the development of quality standards to subsequent rules, which makes it as much ineffective, and uncertain. The bill stipulates formation of district and state health authorities to plan, advice and monitor and redress complaints related to implementation of the right-to-health. There is no representation of the employees such as medical officers and ANMs, and no representation of citizen groups such as patient networks or of civil

society such as those from NGOs or CBOs or of private providers. Such exclusion makes it a highly bureaucratic structure, and does not differentiate the executive functionaries from grievance prevention and redressal functionaries.

Another significant problem with the bill is that it bars the jurisdiction of civil courts to entertain any suit related to a complaint that is within the jurisdiction of the grievance redressal body constituted under the act. This is not only unconstitutional but will restrict even the existing rights of citizens to approach the courts for issues related to their right to survival. Finally, as a common saying goes, you have to put your money where your mouth is. Rajasthan allocates about 6% of its annual state budget to healthcare, which is higher than some other states but is still clearly inadequate. The National Health Policy of 2017 recommended that states spend at least 8% of their budget on healthcare.

By guaranteeing free access to government health services in an era where there are declining government investments in healthcare and increasing reliance on private healthcare, the Rajasthan right-to-health bill is indeed a landmark bill. It marks the first definitive step in the chequered history of making health care a fundamental right of the people of India.

We can ask for more though. Clearer commitments and standards on access and quality, making oversight and redressal mechanisms more participatory and allocating adequate financial resources alone would make the right to healthcare to all citizens a reality. The journey has only begun. At this stage, other states can learn from the provisions and omissions in this bill to draft their own right to health acts.

Dr Pavitra Mohan is co-founder of Basic Healthcare Services, a non-profit. Naina Seth is a research assistant at IIM, Udaipur. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

The populist climate threat

Reactionary populism is now the biggest obstacle to tackling climate change. With outright climate denial no longer an option, populist politicians have increasingly positioned themselves as climate doubters and delayers, and this new approach is proving to be quite insidious. By slowing effective action, the tactics of today's populists are becoming an existential threat.

This trend is reversible, but it is tenacious. Following former US President Donald Trump's dismantling of America's climate commitments, the Biden administration has managed to pass landmark climate legislation despite notable headwinds. But opportunities for populist climate spotters remain. A recent study in 'Nature' shows that, even though supporters of climate policies vastly outnumber their opponents nationwide, most Americans believe the opposite to be true. Given this "false social reality," the climate legislation promises to be a wedge issue in November's midterm elections.

Perhaps even more significant is Brazil, where reactionary populism threatens to become normalised under President Jair Bolsonaro. It is no coincidence that Steve Bannon, Trump's former chief strategist, sees Brazil's election as an inflection point for the international system: in his words, the "second most important election in the world."

Bannon-style tactics have prevailed in many countries in recent years, poisoning the public discourse on issues such as immigration, reproductive rights, and vaccines.

There are multiple reasons why climate action is an especially appealing target for aspiring and incumbent authoritarians, but none has anything to do with the climate itself. The first reason is the perceived cost. Even though decarbonising and building more resilience into the economy will ultimately be much cheaper than covering the costs of a runaway climate crisis, such outlays will forever be exposed to political opportunists' bad-faith attacks.

Moreover, populists will smear policies geared toward international accords like the 2015 Paris climate agreement as an abdication of sovereignty. It is no surprise to see Brexit architect Nigel Farage now agitating for a referendum on the United Kingdom's stated commitment to achieve net-zero emissions. A simplistic notion of national sovereignty has also underpinned Bolsonaro's refusal to discuss the Amazon in international fora, even though its role as a carbon sink is vital for the rest of the world. Bolsonaro's failure to fight criminal activity in the Amazon has allowed for the wanton destruction of Brazil's forests, rivers, and people. As is true of other right-wing populists, "sov-

ereignty" for him amounts to claiming rights but denying the responsibilities that come with them.

Out of either cynicism or naivety, populists refuse to acknowledge that stronger national borders cannot solve our biggest problems. That is as true for climate change and biodiversity loss as it is for this year's energy and food crises, COVID, and mounting debt distress. As a result, climate action and reactionary populism could remain tangled for decades to come, amid climate disruptions, sharpening inequalities, and a social contract fraying everywhere.

According to a recent study of 25 countries over more than a decade, right-wing populist parties have had a consistently negative impact on climate ambition, making international targets even harder to reach. As the host of the foundational 1992 Earth Summit, Brazil previously had a reputation as a leading consensus-builder in multilateral negotiations; yet in the space of just a few years, it has come to be associated with diplomatic volatility and environmental destruction.

If we are going to manage the increasingly disruptive effects of climate change, collective intelligence must prevail over populist division and disinformation. Some countries are already showing the way. In Australia, for example, voters

ousting a conservative government that had become one of the most obstinate climate laggards in the G20. And in Slovenia, a populist prime minister was denied a second consecutive term when his party was defeated by the environmentalist Freedom Movement party.

As in many countries around the world, social movements in Brazil have been organising on an unprecedented scale. Groups from the Amazon - especially those representing traditional communities, women, and young people - are leading the charge, and others, including financial and private-sector players, have joined with them.

An international system subverted by populist priorities would be catastrophic for open societies and effective climate policies. Those of us who believe in science, the wisdom of local communities, and the power of diplomacy must get wise to the threat. If populism is normalised, it will derail effective climate action just when it is needed most. Climate policies have become populists' most inviting target; the rest of us must become populists' most formidable adversaries.

Izabella Teixeira is a former environment minister of Brazil. Ana Toni is Executive Director of Instituto Clima e Sociedade. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Izabella Teixeira & Ana Toni

IF POPULISM IS NORMALISED, IT WILL DERAIL EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION JUST WHEN IT IS NEEDED MOST

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

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Caring for the elderly

Sir, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has stressed the need for a stringent law to deal with those who misbehave with their elderly parents and force them to stay in old age homes. He has noted that the trend of sending aged parents to old age homes has increased significantly and such culture will only make the state move backward. He has also stated that parents in their old age should be given respect and taken good care of and making elderly parents feel insecure can be termed a crime against humanity. It is true that he is outlining the biggest challenges that elderly people face today. There are lots of outdated stereotypes about elderly people, which can lead to isolation and marginalisation in a lot of communities. It is necessary to follow our rich tradition and respect elderly people by touching their feet as they have always been the treasure of our families and our society. Their experience, knowledge and wisdom have enormous power to enable us to overcome all obstacles from our path. In the hollow and materialistic society of the 21st century, the cases of the elderly being abused, harassed, and abandoned in India have soared up. There is an apparent need to compel people to take care of their parents in their old age.

Hitesh Kumar Parida, PANIKOLLI

Landmark judgement

Sir, The landmark judgment by the Supreme Court, extending abortion rights to single women for up to 24 weeks of pregnancy comes as a huge relief to them. The apex court ruling gains more significance viewed in the perspective that earlier this year the US Supreme Court had overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade abortion right, paving the way for many states in that country to ban or restrict women's access to abortions. Termination of pregnancy has always been a cultural, religious and emotional issue in most cultures, and any questions asked about it can be disturbing and traumatising. There should be no distinction between a married woman and an unmarried woman when it comes to all citizens' equal right to care and compassion. The SC's verdict shall always be a watershed moment in India's legal history. But it remains to be seen how far our society shall support the liberty of Indian women on their bodies as mental attitudes do not change fast.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

of the day quote

The cases of sexual assault on women have seen a rise of 40 per cent in Rajasthan in July and August alone and number over 1,300. The government has no concern for people but its members are fighting who will remain in power and who will be its (Congress) president

RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE | BJP SPOKESPERSON

He (Modi) knows that in Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot has the image of a very humble man...A simple man. This has been my image since childhood. How will Modi ji contest this?

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

5G will lead to a qualitative improvement in the pace of work and will help UP become a 1 trillion dollar economy

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

SHORT TAKES

Soldier shot at by miscreants

Jaipur: An Indian Army soldier was shot at by bike-borne miscreants in Kotwali police station area of Bharatpur district of Rajasthan, police said Sunday. Police said a case has been registered against the accused Smera, Anil Gurjar and other accomplices in this regard. SHO Ramkishan said the accused opened fire at Ajit, who is a soldier in the Indian Army, last on Saturday night. He was passing through the area when the accused opened fire.

Body recovered

Dhubri: The body of a government official was traced by a search team on Tuesday, four days after he went missing following a boat capsized in river Brahmaputra in Assam's Dhubri district, an official said. Circle Officer Sanju Das's body was found around 700 metres from the site of mishap at Aironjonga, close to Bangladesh border, by the team comprising personnel of SDRF, NDRF and BSF, the district official said. A mechanised boat, carrying 29 passengers, had capsized in the river on Thursday after hitting a post of an under-construction bridge, around 3km from Dhubri town. Local people along with SDRF had rescued 28 people.

Girl ends life

Nagpur: An 18-year-old college student in Nagpur city of Maharashtra allegedly committed suicide by hanging over her parents "delaying" the buying of an iPhone for her, police said on Sunday. The deceased girl was a student in the first-year degree course at Raisoni College in Hingna town in the Nagpur district. She hanged herself from a ceiling fan with a stole in the bedroom of her house in the Kharbi area of Nagpur city on Friday evening, a police official said.

Man killed

Thane: A 31-year-old man was killed after a portion of a residential building collapsed in Navi Mumbai town of Maharashtra, a fire official said Sunday. The incident took place around Saturday midnight in the ground-plus-three-storey building, which had 20 flats, in Bonkade locality in Koparkhairne area, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation's divisional fire officer Purushottam Jadhav said. A portion of the 25-year-old 'Vaishnavi Apartment' building collapsed. During the clearing of debris, the body of a man, identified as Priyavart Sarveswar Dutta, was found on Sunday morning, the official said.



SHINDE THREATENED
 Security of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has been beefed up following a specific input about a threat to his life, an official said Sunday

The Centre does not have that much money to waive debt as everything is planned and budgeted. The state will have to generate and mobilise its own resources. The AAP government in Punjab is being remote controlled by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP MP Raghav Chadha

CAPT AMRINDER SINGH | FORMER PUNJAB CM



Only 8% of rural households receive water once a week: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Eight per cent of the rural households in the country receive water only once a week, while about 74 per cent of them receive it all seven days, according to a new government study. The national study conducted by the Jal Shakti ministry released on Sunday has revealed that about four per cent of households receive water for 5-6 days in a week and 14 per cent receive at least 3-4 days in a week.

"Close to three-fourths of the HHs (74 per cent) received water all 7 days a week. Out of the remaining 26 per cent, 4 per cent received water for 5-6 days in a week, 14 per cent received at least 3-4 days in a week, and the balance 8 per cent received water only once

a week," the study said.

The average duration per day supply has been found to be three hours. Four out of five (80 per cent) households reported that their daily requirements of water are being met by the household tap connections, the study claimed.

Among the households without working tap connections, eight states, including, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh had a higher proportion of households where tap water was not available. At least six states had more than 30 per cent households which had not had tap water in last seven days.

Under the 'Har Ghar Jal' villages, 91 per cent of the households were found to have a working tap connection on the day of the survey, which is relatively higher



than the overall national proportion (86 per cent). Of these, 88 per cent received ad-

equate quantity (55 litres per person per day of water), 84 per cent received a regular supply, and 90

per cent received potable water through household tap connections.

Among the aspirational districts covered in this assessment, 78 per cent of the households were found to have a working tap connection on the day of the survey, which is relatively lower than the overall national proportion (86 per cent).

Of these, 85 per cent received adequate quantity (>55 LPCD of water), 77 per cent received a fully regular supply, and 88 per cent received potable water through household tap connections. Overall, 62 per cent of the households were found to have a fully functional tap connection, it said.

For the study, a total of 13,299 villages were surveyed, of which 11 per cent were SC-dominated vil-

lages and 23 per cent were dominated by the STs. Functionality of household tap connections is defined under JJM as household taps having infrastructure for providing water in adequate quantity (at least 55 LPCD), of prescribed quality on a regular basis.

Out of the 3,01,389 households sampled for the assessment, water was not available in 42,238 households on the day of the survey. The on-site testing and lab test results of the water indicates that more than 4 out of 5 households (87 per cent) of the sampled households in the state received potable water. Punjab, Tripura, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, and Puducherry were found to provide more than 55 LPCD of water in more than 95 per cent households.

MOOSEWALA MURDER CASE

Gangster escapes from custody



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 2: Gangster Deepak Tinu, one of the accused in singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder, escaped from police custody in Mansa district, in a major embarrassment for Punjab Police which sacked the officer incharge and arrested him.

Tinu escaped from the custody of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) unit of the Mansa Police on Saturday night when he was brought on a production warrant from Goindwal Sahib jail in Tarn Taran district in another case.

The Incharge CIA has been dismissed from service under Article 311 of the constitution, Punjab police said. An FIR under IPC sections 222 (Intentional omission to apprehend on the part of public servant bound to apprehend person under sentence or lawfully committed), 224 (Resistance or obstruction by a person to his lawful apprehension) 225 A (Omission to apprehend, or surferance of escape, on part of public servant...) and 120-B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy) has been registered

from Mansa Police's custody in a cinematic manner while the CM of Punjab is busy performing 'Garba' in Gujarat," Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa said in a tweet.

Charan Kaur, the mother of Sidhu Moosewala, questioned how Deepak Tinu escaped from police custody and also alleged that the arrested gangsters were getting "facilities" in jails. "Yesterday night, one escaped from the custody of CIA staff. How did he escape," she asked in Mansa.

Tinu is a close aide of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, also an accused in the murder case of the Punjabi singer. Earlier in the day when asked about the incident, Patiala Range Inspector General Mukhwinder Singh Chhina, who is currently holding additional charge as Bathinda Range IG, told PTI over phone, "Police parties are on the job and we will catch him soon."

Sources said that after the escape of the gangster, police of neighbouring states including Rajasthan and Haryana had been alerted. Shubdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29.

He was killed when he was on his way to Jawahar Ke village in Mansa in a jeep with his friend and cousin. His vehicle was waylaid and bullets were sprayed on him by six shooters. After the killing, Goldy Brar, a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, claimed responsibility for the murder.

IAF to induct LCH today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will induct Monday the first batch of indigenously-developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), in a boost to its combat prowess as the multi-role platform is capable of firing a range of missiles and other weapons.

The LCH, developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), has been primarily designed for deployment in high-altitude regions. It will be inducted into the IAF at a ceremony in Jodhpur in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, officials said Sunday.

In a Twitter post, the defence minister said the induction of the new helicopters will be a "big boost" to the IAF's "combat prowess". The 5.8-tonne twin-engine helicopter has already completed various weapons firing tests, they said.

In March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the procurement of 15 indigenously developed Limited Series Production (LSP) LCH at a cost of Rs 3,887 crore. The defence ministry had said 10 helicopters would be for the IAF and five will

be for the Indian Army. The LCH has similarities with Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv. It has a number of stealth features, armoured-protection systems, night attack capability and crash-worthy landing gear for better survivability, officials said.

"I would be in Jodhpur, Rajasthan tomorrow, 3rd October, to attend the Induction ceremony of the first indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH). The induction of these helicopters will be a big boost to the IAF's combat prowess. Looking forward to it," Singh tweeted.

The LCH is equipped with requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and all-weather combat capability to perform a range of roles including combat search and rescue (CSAR), destruction of enemy air defence (DEAD) and counter-insurgency (CI) operations.

ANKITA MURDER CASE

Parties observe 'Uttarakhand bandh'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Oct 2: Various political and social organisations Sunday observed 'Uttarakhand bandh', demanding death penalty for the accused in connection with the Ankita Bhandari murder case.

Congress, including all opposition parties, have also supported this bandh. Ankita was allegedly killed by Pulkit Arya, the son of now expelled BJP leader Vinod Arya.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Dehradun, Dillip Singh Kunwar has appealed to the residents of the city to maintain peace in the areas. Uttarakhand Congress Vice-President, Mathura Dutt Joshi and Uttarakhand Congress General



secretary, Vijay Saraswat have issued a joint statement saying that the party is continuously appealing the Central and state governments to hand over the investigation of the Ankita murder case to the Central Bureau of Investigation but the government has not paid any heed to their demand.

The heinous Ankita murder case, which took place in Pauri district of Uttarakhand, drew sharp

response from people. Various organisations have accused the police and the Uttarakhand government of delaying the investigation into the murder case and shielding the accused.

In order to maintain law and order in Dehradun, the district has been divided into nine super zones, 21 zones and 43 sectors by the SSP so that no untoward incident happens during this bandh.

SSP Kunwar said that strict action will be taken against any individual who indulges in violent activities during the bandh. The Congress has directed the district and metropolitan party committees to ensure their participation while fully supporting the bandh.



Youngsters undergo physical test as part of 'Agniveer' recruitment scheme in Kozhikode

PTI PHOTO

Sudden spike in rabies cases a cause of concern for India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: Rabies is one of the oldest recognised zoonotic diseases with almost hundred per cent fatality and has evolved as an important public health concern worldwide. According to some studies, around 174 lakh persons are bitten annually worldwide and more than 55,000 people die annually of the disease.

The sudden rise in cases of dog bites in India has become a cause of concern for all. One incident of a pet dog biting a minor boy inside the lift of a society in Ghaziabad was a shocker and compelled everyone to think about random dog

bites and steps to prevent it.

According to available data, India reported total 72,77,523 cases of animal bites in 2019, which dropped to 46,33,493 in 2020 and 17,01,133 a year later. The first seven months of 2022, however, recorded more than 14.5 lakh cases.

The national guidelines for rabies say that it is an acute viral disease that causes fatal



Vaccination of all dogs, pet and strays, is important in reducing the total rabies reservoir. This is not done enough in India. Repeated doses are necessary

DR RAJEEV JAYADEVAN | VICE CHAIRMAN, RESEARCH CELL, KERALA STATE IMA

encephalomyelitis in virtually all the warm-blooded animals including humans. The virus is found in wild and some domestic ani-

mals, and is transmitted to other animals and to humans through their saliva. In India, dogs are responsible for about 97 per cent of

human rabies, followed by cats (2 per cent), jackals, mongoose and others (1 per cent). The disease is endemic throughout the country.

"Bites by all warm-blooded animals necessitate post-exposure prophylaxis. As rabies is practically 100 per cent fatal, bites by dogs and cats in particular must be considered as a 'medical emergency' and the 'life-saving' post exposure prophylaxis must be provided immediately," say the National Guidelines for Rabies.

The National Rabies Control Programme was approved to address the issue of rabies in the country during the 12th Five Year Plan as Central Sector Scheme to

be implemented under the Umbrella of NHM with two components - Human and Animal Components.

The Human Component for the rollout in all States and UTs through nodal agency NCDC, and Animal Health Component for pilot testing in Haryana and Chennai through the nodal agency, Animal Welfare Board of India.

The Human Health Component has been rolled out in 26 states and UTs. Rabies is almost always fatal for human if post-exposure prophylaxis is not administered immediately after the bite.

It infects the central nervous system, ultimately affecting the brain and resulting in death.

'Kamalabai' vs 'Penguin Sena' Maha calling: Greet with 'Vande Mataram' not 'Hello'

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 2: The bitterness between the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the BJP appears to be growing by the day as leaders from both the parties are increasingly indulging in acerbic attacks, with the former labelling the ruling outfit as 'Kamalabai' and getting the 'Penguin Sena' jibe in return.

The Thackeray faction has been calling the group of rebel lawmakers led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as 'gaddar' (traitors) and taunting them with '50 kholke (boxes)' remark, implying that each MLA of the Shinde faction got Rs 50 crore to switch loyalty.

Leading the attack against the dissidents is Aaditya Thackeray, who last month dubbed state Health Minister Tanaji Sawant as "khekda" (crab).

And this verbal exchange is expected to escalate further ahead of the crucial polls to the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which both the warring sides are vying to win.

The Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government had collapsed June 29 this year after a revolt by Shinde and 39 other legislators against the Sena leadership. Shinde was sworn in as the chief minister the next day along with BJP's Devendra Fadnis as his deputy.

The acrimony between the Thackeray-led Sena and the BJP has intensified ever since.

Of late, the Shiv Sena has started using the word 'Kamalabai' for the



- 'Kamalabai' is a reference to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) poll symbol - Kamal or lotus, while the term 'Penguin Sena' is used by the opponents to deride the Thackeray-led Sena
- Bringing penguins to Mumbai was a pet project of Aaditya Thackeray, son of Uddhav Thackeray and chief of Yuva Sena, the party's youth wing
- This verbal war is not just limited to the Thackeray-led Sena and the BJP alone as the former has also been passing vitriolic remarks against the party's rebel legislators, who are now part of the state government

BJP. While Kamal is the election symbol of the BJP, 'bai' in Marathi means a woman. It all started after the Shiv Sena referred to the BJP as Kamalabai in its mouthpiece 'Saamana' last month.

However, the Sena continues to address the BJP as Kamalabai and in return the latter addresses the Uddhav faction as 'Penguin Sena'. Addressing party workers in suburban Goregaon last month, Uddhav Thackeray attacked the BJP and said, "What is the relation between Kamalabai and Mumbai. I have used the word Kamalabai for the first time because I want to make them realise that this Shiv Sena is Balasaheb's Shiv

Sena. Kamalabai is not the word I coined, it is (Sena founder) Balasaheb (Thackeray) who did it."

The Uddhav Thackeray faction believes that although 40 MLAs and 12 MPs rebelled against the leadership, it is the BJP that engineered the split.

The term Kamalabai was mostly used by Bal Thackeray in private and was later used in 'Saamana', Congress MP and senior journalist Kumar Ketkar, who has seen the Shiv Sena from close quarters for over five decades, told PTI.

Even though the two parties were ideologically aligned on the issue of Hindutva, Bal Thackeray was never very fond of the BJP, he added. Senior journalist Prakash Akolkar said Bal Thackeray first used the word Kamalabai in 1985.

In his book 'On My Terms', Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar says that when in September 2006, his daughter Supriya Sule's candidature was announced for the Rajya Sabha, Bal Thackeray called him up to offer his support. When Pawar said the Sena was in alliance with the BJP, his instant reply was - "Oh don't worry about Kamalabai (the BJP). She will do what I say."

Akolkar said 'Penguin Sena' is a direct jibe at Aaditya Thackeray, who was instrumental in bringing penguins to the city zoo. The zoo is managed by the cash-rich BMC, which the Sena controlled for over 25 years.

The rule will be followed by all government staff, University, colleges, schools and up to the last level in the state administration as part of the ongoing 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence celebrations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 2: The Maharashtra government Sunday launched a campaign appealing to people to say "Vande Mataram" while receiving phone calls instead of "Hello".

"Vande Mataram means we are bowing before our mother. Hence, it is our appeal to the people to say Vande Mataram instead of Hello," state Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said at a rally held in Wardha district on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

A Government Resolution (GR) issued Saturday had appealed to Maharashtra government employees and officers to greet people by saying "Vande Mataram" instead of "Hello" during official or personal phone calls.

It is not mandatory, but the heads of departments should encourage their staff to do so, the GR said.

It said 'Hello' depicted western culture and the word did not have



any specific meaning. "The word is just a formality which does not arouse any emotion," the GR said.

Greeting people by saying "Vande Mataram" will create a feeling of affection, it said, adding that an awareness campaign should be conducted to promote it.

At the event in Wardha Sunday, Mungantiwar said, "If people want to say 'Jai Bhim' or 'Jai Shri Ram', or even mention their parents' -

Mungantiwar also said the state government will come up with an audiobook on 850 key personalities from Maharashtra who played a major role in the formation of the state.

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Survey suggests bicycle rental system in Kolkata



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 2: A survey, conducted jointly by a university and an environmental NGO, has suggested developing a bicycle rental system in Kolkata for promoting the non-polluting mode of transportation.

The survey, the results of which were recently made available to PTI, found that a sizeable section of people in the eastern metropolis and its surrounding areas cycle to work, and a majority of them are in the 19-50 years age group.

It is also among the favoured modes of transportation of vendors. Most of the cyclists hit the streets between 6 AM and 9 AM and begin their return journey between 6 PM and 9 PM. The survey found that cyclists prefer main thoroughfares instead of bylanes to save time but fines imposed on them for using out-of-bound roads, besides heavy traffic are some of the biggest obstacles faced by them.

The Kolkata Police, in its latest notification, has made around 71 roads, lanes and thoroughfares out of bounds for cyclists. Cycle Samaj, an organisation of cycle enthusiasts, suggested converting on-street parking spaces into bicycle lanes. It said cyclists from poor financial backgrounds are completely dependent on the mode of transport to eke out a living but are penalised due to the existing ban.

The survey was conducted by students of the Kolkata branch of Amity University and NGO SwitchON Foundation, which promotes non-polluting modes of transportation. A total of 307 cyclists were interviewed in July this year and the survey was focused on major stretches of Kolkata including AJC

The survey also advocated for the establishment of docking stations near major transit junctions and the promotion of a bicycle-friendly tourism circuit



A school student dressed as Mahatma Gandhi participates in a programme to mark Gandhi's birth anniversary in Mumbai, Maharashtra

REMEMBERING BAPU

8 decades old paddle steamer restored

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 2: Built eight decades ago by a British company, a paddle steamer started its journey once again as a heritage cruise on the Hooghly river Friday, after it was restored and modernised.

The heritage vessel, 'PS Bhopal', the first of its kind in the Indian subcontinent, was unveiled in its new avatar before the Durga Puja festival by the Kolkata Port, now called Syama Prasad Mookherjee Port (SMP).



"This vessel which faced near death situation is now revived for the next 25 years. The main idea is to offer the ship to a private operator for its proper maintenance which had many challenges," port chairman Vinit Kumar said.

The renovated steamer which houses a marine museum on its lower deck with artefacts from across the country was thrown open for the public from the Man-of-War jetty in central Kolkata.

It also has an AC hall with Burma teak and an open area on the top deck. Jaswant Singhee of Eastern Navigation, the private partner that refurbished the vessel for Rs 6 crore, thanked the port authorities to be part of this unique project to restore the only historic paddle ship in the country.

Baghbazar's Durga: Goddess of freedom movement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



People visit a community Durga Puja pandal during the seventh day of the Durga Puja festival in Kolkata, Sunday

Kolkata, Oct 2: The drums rolled and the colourfully dressed crowds milled as the 28-feet-high Durga idol decked in traditional 'Daker Saaj' towered over a park, dotted with stalls selling everything from Ashirwad atta to Kwality ice-cream, in north Kolkata, at a stone's throw from the Baghbazar jetty.

This is Baghbazar Sarbojanin, the oldest community Durga Puja in the megapolis, known for its carnival-like atmosphere during the five days of worship of the Goddess.

The annual puja festivities were started here in October 1919, and within a decade, Durga worship in the municipal park became a vehicle for spreading the message of 'Swadeshi' by selling 'Made in India' products, with freedom fighters including the redoubtable Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose joining in.

"Earlier big landlords and merchant princes used to organise

99 pandals bag WB govt award

Kolkata: The West Bengal government has decided to felicitate 99 Durga Puja pandals in Kolkata and adjoining areas with Biswa Bangla Sharad Saman - 2022 awards in four categories -- 'best of the best', 'special selection', 'innovative idea' and 'environment-friendly', an official statement said. Chetla Agrani and Suruchi Sangha, patronised by state ministers Firhad Hakim and Arup Biswas respectively, bagged the first and second prize in the 'best of the best' category. Sreebhumi Sporting Club, supported by minister Sujit Bose, bagged the sixth prize in the category. A total of 42 community pujas have been selected by the judges in the 'best of the best' category, 20 for 'innovative idea', 21 for 'special selection' and 16 for being environment-friendly, the statement by the Information and Cultural Affairs Department said.

and 'Swadeshi' activists such as Hem Mukherjee, Durga Charan Banerjee and Chuni Lal Chatterjee joined the puja committee.

The use of the Mother Goddess imagery and worship to gender imagine the motherland and bring in feelings of nationalism among the masses had started with author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and was continued in the 20th century by both armed revolutionaries of the

Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar party as well as non-violent Congress workers.

As the 'dhaaks' (drums) continued playing and more people entered the park to see the Goddess and be part of the carnival of colours, history, tradition and commerce meshed into one single stream of endless heads, under the watchful eyes of the Goddess of Baghbazar and of the freedom movement.

Maha records '1,700 gg of PM10 emission each year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Oct 2: Maharashtra witnesses at least 1,700 giga gram of particulate matter (PM10) emissions per year, with wind-blown road dust being the largest source, a study has revealed.

Emissions from the transport sector were at 10 per cent, while construction activities accounted for 6.5 per cent, followed by municipal solid waste burning at 5.3 per cent, crop residue burning at 5.7 per cent, among other sources, stated the study conducted by Dr Sahu, an assistant professor at Utkal University in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

"Maharashtra is the country's most prosperous state and has excelled in the industrial, agricultural, automotive and tourism sectors. It is also the most urbanised state, with more than 50 per cent population living in urban areas and the second-most industrialised with 37,102 industries as of 2020," Dr Sahu said.

There is a high demand for energy and a corresponding burden of air pollution. At least 26 thermal power plants are spread across the state to consistently meet the energy demand, he said. The Central government has started the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which has set a time-



As per a study from March 2019 to 2020, wind-blown road dust accounts for 29 per cent of PM10, while residential sector contributed to 22 per cent emission in the state

bound goal to improve air quality across 132 'non-attainment' cities (whose air does not meet the national ambient air quality standards), he said. Talking about the emission patterns in three non-attainment cities Nagpur, Chandrapur and Amravati in Vidarbha, Dr Sahu said that though missions in Nagpur appear to be highest as compared to Chandrapur and Amravati, the area of the city is significantly higher as compared to the other two places.

Environmental Researcher Dr Saroj Kumar Sahu in his study claimed that Maharashtra had recorded a PM10 emission of 1,700 gg per year, with wind-blown road dust being the largest contributor at 29 per cent in 2019-2020

Special menu for inmates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 2: For the 2,500 odd prisoners at Presidency Central Correctional Home in south Kolkata, the coming four days from October 2 to October 5 will be somewhat different from the four days of Durga Puja festival.

The prison authorities will be arranging a special menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner for all 2,500 inmates with the sole aim to somewhat spice up their otherwise mundane lives during the four days of the festive season.

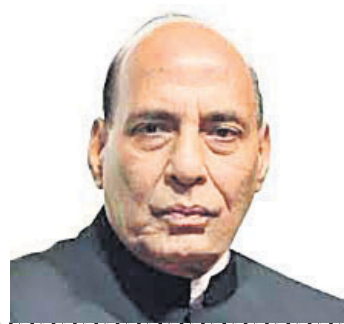
Sources from the state correctional services department said that barring October 3, which is the occasion of "Maha Asthami", there will be sumptuous non-vegetarian meal.

"Bengalis celebrate this special occasion with non-vegetarian food

and hence to keep with the tradition, the inmates will be served with sumptuous vegetarian food like khichuri, polao, luchi, dum aloo, paneer masala and navratan korma as decided as yet," said a correctional services department official.

Now the question automatically arises whether this special Puja-days menu is being planned keeping mind the presence of the heavy-weight inmate, the former West Bengal education and commerce & industries minister Partha Chatterjee, who is under judicial custody there for his alleged involvement in the multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment irregularities scam. The correctional home authorities, however, denied that this special arrangement was made keeping the former minister in mind.





Bolstering national security has been our top priority since the beginning. The allocation of a total budget of Rs 5.25 lakh crore to the Ministry of Defence in 2022-23 is a testament to that unwavering resolve. The Defence Accounts Department is playing a crucial role in this endeavour
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

KEJRIWAL'S PROMISE

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday promised Rs 40 per day for the upkeep of every cow in Gujarat and a shelter home for non-milching cattle in every district of the state if the Aam Aadmi Party is voted to power



of the day quote

The making of an Atmanirbhar Bharat, which is under way, is thus inspired by the vision of the Mahatma and is intended as a true tribute to him. The India of his dreams is a clean India, a healthy India. The initiatives taken in this regard have been bearing fruits now
DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

Wherever Rahul Gandhi visits, BJP's victory is ensured. I request Congress party to invite him to more number of states in the country, which is good for BJP
PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

More than 2.5 lakh people have voluntarily donated blood under the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav
MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

CBI makes social media debut

New Delhi: Social media shy CBI has made a maiden appearance on Twitter and Instagram ahead of the upcoming Interpol General Assembly in which 195 countries are likely to participate, officials said Sunday. The agency created its accounts on both platforms with user ID CBI_CIO for the three-day-long 90th General Assembly starting October 18, they said. Unlike its peers, the Enforcement Directorate and the National Investigation Agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had kept social media at an arm's length, sticking to the age-old practice of issuing press releases.

Four burnt alive

Sitapur: Four persons were burnt alive in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district when a tractor collided with a tanker carrying ethanol and the two vehicles caught fire due to the impact. The incident took place around Saturday midnight near Muratpur village on Biswan Reusa road. The injured have been admitted to the district hospital. According to reports, Pau Sardar, son Baldev Singh of Thangaon police station area, was going to sell paddy in a tractor trolley in Sitapur.

Woman dies

Thane: A 35-year-old woman, who was allegedly burnt alive by her husband at their house in Dombivili in Maharashtra's Thane district, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital, police said Sunday. Preeti Shantaram Patil and her daughters, Sameera (14) and Samiksha (11), had suffered severe burns in the fire at their house in Bopar area Saturday.

Three drown

Guna (MP): Three minor girls drowned in a pit filled with rainwater in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, police said Sunday. The bodies of the three girls of a family were found floating in a water-filled pit at Kadiakala village on Saturday evening, Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shrivastava said.

Kanpur accident: SHO suspended

Kanpur: A day after 26 people died in a tractor-trolley accident here, a station house officer was suspended for alleged "dereliction of duty" while the tractor driver was still absconding. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met the injured at the hospital and the bereaved families at Kortha village. The loss of lives is a matter of grave concern and the government would launch more awareness programmes on road safety, he said.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT POLL

Tharoor insisted on contest: Kharge

Launching his Congress presidential poll campaign with a press conference at his residence here, 80-year-old Kharge said there is no G-23 camp now and all those leaders want to fight unitedly against the RSS-BJP and therefore are supporting him



New Delhi, Oct 2: Nominee for the Congress president post Mallikarjun Kharge Sunday said he told fellow contender Shashi Tharoor that it would be better to have a consensus candidate, but the Lok Sabha MP insisted on a contest for the "sake of democracy".
Kharge said if he becomes the party chief, he will consult the Gandhi family and other senior leaders and implement the good things suggested by them, even as he rejected claims that he was the "official candidate" backed by the Gandhis.

Launching his Congress presidential poll campaign with a press conference at his residence here, 80-year-old Kharge said there is no G-23 camp now and all those leaders want to fight unitedly against the RSS-BJP and therefore are supporting him.
Several dissident leaders such as Bhupinder Hooda, Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari and Prithviraj Chavan of the group of 23, which had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2020 for large scale organisational reform, have put their weight behind Kharge by becoming his proposers instead of back-

ing Tharoor who was a prominent member of the grouping.
Kharge said all senior leaders and youth leaders urged him to contest the polls as no member of the Gandhi family -- Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra -- wanted to become the party chief. "All my colleagues told me to fight the party president poll and on their calling and encouragement, I got inspiration as they extended their cooperation...Because Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi do not want to become president," he said. Kharge

asserted that he had not entered the poll fray to oppose anyone but to strengthen the Congress through his views and to take forward the party ideology.
He said that in line with 'one person, one post' principle of the party, he resigned as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha on the day he filed the nomination. Kharge elaborated on his political journey of struggles and successes, and asserted that working for a party is not a part-time job but a full-time work.
"I have been working full-time. If I sat in Parliament then I would get up only in the evening at the time of shut down. It is my habit that whatever I take up, I work sincerely," he said. Asked about Tharoor's remarks that Kharge is a candidate of continuity and status quo, the Rajya Sabha MP said, "He (Tharoor) may have his views...The status quo and reforms he talks of will be decided by the 9,300-odd delegates, after that a committee will be formed (Congress Working Committee). The committee as a whole will decide all policy matters that will be formulated by consensus and we will implement that."

Campaigning gains momentum in Guj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 2: Campaigning is heating up in Gujarat ahead of announcement of dates for the Assembly elections, with prominent political leaders like Narendra Modi, Arvind Kejriwal and Rahul Gandhi visiting the state.
The elections are crucial for the ruling BJP which aims to retain power in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while the Congress hopes for a win after remaining out of power for 27 years in the key state. For new entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the elections, scheduled to be held in two months, will be an opportunity to emerge as a pan-nation party.
The state will see a three-cornered contest between BJP, Congress and AAP. Gujarat has seen frequent visits of top national leaders ahead of the elections, and parties are firming up their strategies. The roads of cities and villages of Gujarat are filled up with advertisement banners of political parties. "Political parties have started high decibel campaigns for the elections, whose dates may be announced any time this month," political observer Hari Desai said.
Union Home Minister Amit Shah



The state will see a three-cornered contest between BJP, Congress and AAP

was in Gujarat for two days last week and discussed the poll strategy with the local BJP functionaries. He will hold more meetings with them to fine tune the party's strategy. Modi was on a whirlwind tour of Gujarat for two days this week and inaugurated/laid the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 27,000 crore in different parts of the state like Surat, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Ambaji.
He also inaugurated metro train services for Ahmedabad and also flagged off India's third Vande Bharat Express from Gandhinagar to Mumbai. AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann are in Gujarat and are addressing poll rallies in different parts of the state.

Bihar agriculture minister resigns



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 2: Bihar agriculture minister Sudhakar Singh, who often embarrassed the Nitish Kumar government by his outspokenness, tendered his resignation, his father and state RJD president Jagadanand Singh said Sunday.
Though the minister could not be reached for his comments after the drastic step, his father said Sudhakar Singh had lent his voice to the concerns of the farming community "but sometimes, this is not enough. Sacrifices have to be made. Therefore, the agriculture minister has sent his resignation letter to the government".

Sudhakar Singh had been raising his voice against 'af-sarshahi' (bureaucratic high-handedness). This is something that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar cannot tolerate. Hence he has been made to resign

SANJAY JAISWAL | BIHAR BJP PRESIDENT

from the NDA, latched on to the opportunity. "Sudhakar Singh had been raising his voice against 'af-sarshahi' (bureaucratic high-handedness). This is something that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar cannot tolerate. Hence he has been made to resign", said state BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal.
The BJP had raised a hue and cry when Singh was inducted into the cabinet over a case relating to default on payment by a rice mill owned by him. Singh had started his political career as a BJP leader and contested from Ramgarh on a party ticket in 2010 when he ended up losing his deposit.

The multi-party "Mahagathbandhan", which includes RJD, the CM's JD(U), Congress, and the Left, appeared to be in a state of confusion over the sudden move by the minister: "We do not know to whom the resignation has been submitted. Unless there is something official, we cannot comment", said Congress spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari whose party has been an old RJD ally.
RJD sources said Sudhakar Singh is understood to have submitted his resignation not to the chief minister but to Tejashwi Yadav, who is the deputy CM, leaving the ball in the latter's court. JD(U) parliamentary board chief Upendra Kushwaha said "the development is not going to affect the stability of the government. Sudhakar Singh had said in the past that he will resign when being told to do so by Lalu and Tejashwi. Maybe he got the orders".
If the resignation letter gets accepted, Sudhakar Singh will be the second minister to exit the "Mahagathbandhan" cabinet.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary in the Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

6-year-old boy killed; 2 arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Two men allegedly killed a six-year-old boy as "human sacrifice" by slitting his throat and attacking him on the head in South Delhi's Lodhi Colony, police said Sunday.
Accused Vijay Kumar and Amar Kumar are natives of Bihar and they have been arrested, police said, adding they were under the influence of drugs while committing the crime. The accused and the boy's parents were working as construction labourers. Vijay and Amar have confessed to the crime and said they killed the boy to gain "prosperity". All of them were liv-



ing in the same slum, police said.
At around 10:30 pm on Saturday, when the boy was going to his shed, the accused called him to their cooking space and killed him by first attacking on his head and then slitting his throat. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chandan Choudhary said.
Based on the statement of the

boy's father, a case was registered under Sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code, police said. In his complaint, the boy's father said some women were singing bhajans at the construction site after dinner and his son was around. However, when they were about to leave for their respective sheds, the boy went missing.
The complainant said he noticed blood oozing out of their shed and he opened the door only to see his son's body beneath the cot. A crime team along with experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory inspected the spot and the body was shifted to AIIMS Trauma Centre, the DCP said.

Three held for planning attacks

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 2: The Hyderabad police on Sunday busted a conspiracy to create terror and mayhem in the city through bombing attacks and lone-wolf attacks.
Three persons with links to the Pakistan's ISI and LeT were arrested in this connection from Malakpet in the city, Hyderabad police said Sunday. Along with arresting the three persons, identified as Abdul Zahed, Mohd Sameuddin, and Maaz Hasan Farooq, the police seized four hand grenades, a motorbike, and cash. The police said that the three were planning terror attacks in the city.
Abdul Zahed previously involved in several terror related cases in Hyderabad including suicide attack on the attack on the Hyderabad City Police Commissioner's task force office Begumpet in 2005. He was in regular touch with Pakistani ISI-LeT handlers.
Hyderabad police said that, on receiving credible information the police had conducted raids and arrested the three persons. The arrested had received four hand grenades which they planned to use for terror attacks in Hyderabad, he explained. The arrested were allegedly acting under the guidance of three absconding persons from Hyderabad, who are currently taking shelter in Pakistan and working for the ISI-LeT.



Modi likely to reshuffle Cabinet

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to undertake a reshuffle of his 77-member Council of

Ministers sooner than expected. In a way, the Prime Minister will be selecting his 'war-team' before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The BJP has made organizational changes and office-bearers have been given the task to ensure victory of its candidates in 144 Lok Sabha seats which the party could not win in 2019. The ministers are part of this exercise. There are indications that gubernatorial changes may also take place soon. The performance of a couple of ministers handling key infrastructure ministries was not satisfactory and their departments may either be changed or they may be shown the door. The Shiv Sena (Shinde)'s

party is also to be given a representation in the Cabinet.

The importance of being Amit Shah

More than three years as Home Minister in the Modi government, the importance of Amit Shah has grown leaps and bounds. His imprint can be seen here, there and everywhere not only in the government but in the party as well. He is already travelling states after states in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is increasingly leaning on Amit Shah

in the government's decision making process.

BJP has its own problems

If the Congress is facing a full-blown crisis in Rajasthan, the BJP has its own glass full. The BJP is grappling with the problem relating to former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia. She has been inactive in state's affairs and maintaining a low-profile ever since the party's narrow defeat in the Assembly polls in Rajasthan in 2018. Senior BJP leader Gulab Chand Kataria was made the

Leader of Opposition in January 2019 and Satish Poonia was made the state BJP chief. Both are not considered close to her. When "Operation Lotus" began in 2020 with Sachin Pilot walking out with 20-plus Congress MLAs, she was not kept in the loop. It emerged that Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Shekhawat is the BJP high command's choice and not Raje. It's a different matter that the operation ended in a fiasco. Some Congress MLAs slipped out of the control of Sachin Pilot and the mission failed. The BJP is now putting its own house in order as Assembly polls are 15 months away.

international

of the day quote

Our party must be united to lead the people to face major challenges effectively, defend against major risks, overcome major barriers and resolve major contradictions. We must press on with great struggles under new historical characteristics

XI JINPING | CHINESE PRESIDENT

The Secretary-General recalls that attacks against UN peacekeepers may constitute a war crime under international law. He calls on the Congolese authorities to investigate this incident and swiftly bring those responsible to justice

STEPHANE DUAJARRIC | SPOKESMAN FOR GUTERRES

The important point of the (past) protests was that they were reform-seeking and not aimed at overthrowing the system

MOHAMMAD BAGHER QALIBAF | IRAN'S PARLIAMENT SPEAKER

SHORT TAKES

China: Gandhi Jayanti celebration returns

Beijing: After a two-year Covid-induced hiatus, Gandhi Jayanti celebrations returned to China's sprawling Chaoyang Park here as it resonated with the recitation of his famous quotes by Chinese school children and his bhajans by members of the Indian diaspora. Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated every year at the picturesque Chaoyang Park in Beijing ever since the statue of Gandhi, sculpted by acclaimed sculptor Yuan Xikun, was installed in 2005 on the banks of a lake amid serene surroundings to enable his admirers to pay tributes to the Mahatma.

Truss sticks by economic plan

London: British Prime Minister Liz Truss said Sunday that she could have done a better job "laying the ground" for her package of unfunded tax cuts, but insisted she would push on with an economic plan that has caused turmoil on financial markets and weakened the country's public finances.

Venezuela frees 7 jailed Americans

Washington: Venezuela Saturday freed seven Americans, including five oil executives, in exchange for two relatives of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro jailed in the United States on drug convictions, US officials said. The swap included executives of Citgo Petroleum held for years, in addition to US Marine veteran Matthew Heath and another US citizen named Osman Khan.

23 Kurdish ultras killed

Istanbul: Turkish warplanes "neutralised" 23 Kurdish militants in a raid 140 kilometres (90 miles) inside Iraq, the Turkish Defence Ministry said Sunday. The ministry usually refers to killed militants as "neutralised." It said the number of casualties in the mission in the Asos region of northern Iraq, which is controlled by the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, was expected to rise.

Cell phones barred in Pak cabinet meetings

Islamabad: Fears prompted by the all-out national security incident after Pakistan Prime Minister Office audios were mysteriously leaked into the public domain remained in the air at the federal cabinet's meeting as the government barred members from taking their mobile phones inside the meeting, the media reported.



Many elected prime ministers and dictators came but the label of treason only suits Imran Khan
MARYAM NAWAZ | PML-N VICE PRESIDENT

KING CHARLES III WILL NOT ATTEND CLIMATE SUMMIT

King Charles III has decided not to attend the international climate change summit in Egypt next month, fueling speculation that the new monarch will have to rein in his environmental activism now that he has ascended the throne



Ukraine presses counteroffensive

REUTERS

Kyiv, Oct 2: Ukraine Sunday claimed full control of the eastern logistics hub of Lyman, Kyiv's most significant battlefield gain in weeks, providing a potential staging post for further attacks to the east while heaping further pressure on the Kremlin. The stinging setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin came after he proclaimed the annexation of four regions covering nearly a fifth of Ukraine Friday, an area that includes Lyman. Kyiv and the West have condemned the proclamation as an illegitimate farce.

"As of 1230 (0930 GMT), Lyman is fully cleared," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a short video clip on his Telegram channel. "Thank you to our troops... Glory to Ukraine!" Russia's defence ministry said Saturday that it was pulling troops out of the area "in connection with the creation of a threat of encirclement". It did not mention the city in its daily update on fighting in Ukraine Sunday although it said Russian forces had destroyed seven artillery and missile depots in the Ukrainian regions of Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and Donetsk.

Russian forces captured Lyman from Ukraine in May and had used it as a logistics and transport hub for its operations in the north of the Donetsk region. Losing it is Russia's largest battlefield loss since Ukraine's lightning counteroffensive in the north-eastern Kharkiv region last month. Serhiy Gaidai, governor of the Luhansk region that neighbours Donetsk, said control over Lyman could prove a "key factor" in helping Ukraine reclaim lost territory in his region, whose full capture Moscow announced in early July after weeks of grinding advances. Britain's Ministry of Defence de-

- Lyman is key logistics hub in eastern Donetsk region
- Zelenskyy said his forces now control Lyman, after Russia's military announced Saturday its retreat
- Capture could aid attacks on neighbouring Luhansk region
- Loss triggers Russian criticism, call for escalation
- Pope calls for end to 'spiral of violence and death'
- Ukraine's recent gains have embarrassed Putin and prompted rare domestic criticism

scribed Lyman as operationally important as it commanded a key road crossing over the Siverskiy Donets River, behind which Russia has been attempting to consolidate its defences. Russia likely experienced heavy casualties during the withdrawal, the ministry said in a statement. Russia had 5,000 to 5,500 troops in the city before the Ukrainian attack, a spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern forces said Saturday.

RUSSIAN ANGER
The battlefield setbacks have triggered a fresh wave of criticism within Russia of how its military operation is being handled. Britain's defence ministry said that was likely to intensify with further setbacks. Putin ally Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of Russia's southern Chechnya region, Saturday called for a change of strategy "right up to the declaration of martial law in the border areas and the use of low-yield nuclear weapons." Other top officials, including former President Dmitry Medvedev, have suggested Russia may need to resort to nuclear weapons, but Kadyrov's call was the most urgent and explicit.



Ukrainian troops pose for a photo in Lyman



MATTER OF FAITH: A man pierced his tongue as a purification ritual during the annual vegetarian festival observed by Taoist devotees from the Thai-Chinese community in the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, in Phuket, Thailand

BRAZIL HOLDS HISTORIC POLLS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio De Janeiro, Oct 2: Brazilians were voting Sunday in an election that could signal a sharp turn to the left in the world's fourth largest democracy after four years of far-right leadership.

Incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro's administration has been marked by incendiary speech, his testing of democratic institutions and his handling of the disastrous Covid-19 pandemic — though many Brazilians admire his defense of conservative social



values and him presenting himself as protecting the nation from leftist policies. Polls opened at 8 a.m. (1100 GMT; 7 a.m. EDT). Because the vote is conducted electronically, preliminary results are usually out within minutes after voting stations close at 5 p.m. (2000 GMT; 4 p.m. EDT), with the final result available a few hours later.

Recent opinion polls have shown da Silva with a commanding lead. The last Datafolha survey published Saturday found that 50% of respondents who intend to vote for a candidate said they would vote for da Silva, against 36% for Bolsonaro. The polling institute interviewed 12,800 people, with a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points. Like several of their Latin American neighbors, also dealing with high inflation and an oversized informal economy, polls suggest Brazilians were poised to vote for a leftist candidate. There was a chance da Silva, a formal metalworker who ran the country between 2003-2010, could win in the first round, without need for a runoff.

Florida, Carolinas face daunting recovery after Hurricane Ian

REUTERS

Miami, Oct 2: The remnants of Hurricane Ian drifted through Virginia early Sunday, while storm-ravaged residents in Florida and the Carolinas faced a disaster recovery expected to cost tens of billions of dollars.

The storm's toll on human life also was expected to rise as floodwaters receded and search teams pushed farther into areas initially cut off from the outside world, seeking stranded survivors and the remains of anyone who may have perished.

At least 50 storm-related deaths have been confirmed since Ian crashed ashore Florida's Gulf Coast with catastrophic force Wednesday as a Category 4 hurricane, packing maximum sustained winds of 150 miles per hour (240 km per hour).

Florida accounted for the bulk of fatalities, with 35 tallied by the sheriff's office in coastal Lee County, which bore the brunt of the storm



when it made landfall, and 11 other deaths reported by state officials in four neighboring counties.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will see the devastation in Florida firsthand Wednesday, the White House said in a statement late Saturday

WASHED AWAY
As the full scope of devastation came into clearer focus days after Ian struck, officials said some of the heaviest damage

was inflicted by raging wind-driven ocean surf that rushed into seaside communities and washed buildings away.

Satellite images from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) showed beach cottages and a motel that lined the shores of Florida's Sanibel Island had been demolished by storm surges. Although most homes appeared to still be standing, roof damage to all was evident.

Surveys from the ground showed that the barrier island, a popular tourist getaway that was home to some 6,000 residents, was left utterly devastated, from its infrastructure to its famously idyllic aesthetic character.

"It's all just completely gone," Sanibel's city manager, Dana Souza, said. "Our electric system is pretty much destroyed, our sewer system has been damaged badly and our public water supply is under assessment."

US, Oz, Japan vow to work together against China

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 2: The defense ministers of the United States, Australia and Japan agreed Saturday to boost military cooperation in the face of China's growing ambitions "to shape the world around it".

Washington is pressing a diplomatic offensive to counter Chinese influence across the Asia-Pacific.

"We are deeply concerned by China's increasingly aggressive and bullying behavior in the Taiwan Strait, and elsewhere in the region," US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said as he welcomed his counterparts from

Australia and Japan to the US military headquarters for the Pacific region in Hawaii.

"Our interest lies in the upholding of the global rules-based order. But we see that order under pressure in the Indo-Pacific as well, as China is seeking to shape the world around it in a way that we've not seen before," said Richard Marles, the Australian defense minister.

On Thursday, Washington announced an \$810 million aid package for Pacific Island nations where the United States plans to intensify its diplomatic presence.

Vice President Kamala Harris traveled last week to Japan and



South Korea and said the United States would act without fear or hesitation throughout Asia, including the Taiwan Strait.

Beijing considers Taiwan to be part of China and also claims the thin and busy channel of water that separates the two.

Rebel violence in eastern Congo causes hunger to soar

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nyiragongo (Congo), Oct 2: Hunger is soaring across parts of Congo's war-torn North Kivu province where the fighting between M23 rebels and government soldiers has been raging since November, according to aid workers, civilians, and health workers.

At least 26 million people — more than a quarter of the population — acutely face food insecurity in large part because of violence. Economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine are also making things worse.

Only 10 per cent of those targeted by aid groups this year received the full recommended food assistance because of a lack of funds and security concerns restricting access.

Humanitarians warn that if the fighting continues, millions of people could face severe hunger.



"The situation was already dire and this conflict is just adding another layer and making everything worse," said Marc Sekpon, head of Congo's food security coordination body, a group

of international aid agencies focused on food security strategy and intervention.

During trips to three towns in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo in September, where nearly 200,000

people have been displaced, people told the AP how violence had forced them from their farms, leaving recently harvested food behind to rot.

Civilians said they had no land to cultivate, and they couldn't earn enough money in town to buy food. Out of nearly 3,000 displaced families in Nyiragongo, 450 had received help, said Florence Biyoyiki the deputy president of a makeshift displacement site.

Health staff at the main hospital in Nyiragongo said the number of severely malnourished children nearly tripled between April to July — 17 to 49.

The hospital has nothing to feed malnourished children, he says. And when it is able to provide families with nutritional supplements, parents sometimes sell it and use the money to feed the whole family instead of giving it to their children, he said.

Doctors Without Borders said it's seen a 50 per cent increase in the admission of severely malnourished children in the hospital in Rutshuru town between January and July this year compared with the same period last year.

to cultivate, and they couldn't earn enough money in town to buy food. Out of nearly 3,000 displaced families in Nyiragongo, 450 had received help, said Florence Biyoyiki the deputy president of a makeshift displacement site.

Health staff at the main hospital in Nyiragongo said the number of severely malnourished children nearly tripled between April to July — 17 to 49.

The hospital has nothing to feed malnourished children, he says. And when it is able to provide families with nutritional supplements, parents sometimes sell it and use the money to feed the whole family instead of giving it to their children, he said.

Doctors Without Borders said it's seen a 50 per cent increase in the admission of severely malnourished children in the hospital in Rutshuru town between January and July this year compared with the same period last year.

AUDIO LEAKS

Pakistan Cabinet greenlights inquiry against Imran Khan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Oct 2: The Pakistan federal cabinet has decided to formally launch legal action against former prime minister Imran Khan after the latest audio leaks allegedly featuring him and other PTI leaders in a discussion about a US cypher, the media reported.



PTI Chairman Imran Khan, Asad Umar, and then-principal secretary Azam Khan could allegedly be heard discussing the US cypher and how to use it in their interest, in the two audio leaks that surfaced as a shocking revelation, *The News* reported.

In the first audio leak that emerged Wednesday (September 28), Imran Khan was heard directing Azam Khan to "just play" with the cypher, and responding to this, the latter advised the ex-premier that they can fake the minutes of a meeting with Qureshi and foreign secretary Sohail Mehmood to bring the cypher on record, *The News* reported. On September 30, the federal cabinet took notice of the matter and constituted a committee to probe the contents of the audio leaks. The committee recommended legal action over the audio leaks purportedly featuring Imran Khan, Azam Khan and others October 1.

business



We have to be leaders in 6G. That is the goal for which we will work and achieve
ASHWINI VAISHNAW | TELECOM MINISTER

HOUSING SALES UP 87% IN JAN-SEPT

Housing sales rose 87 per cent in January-September across seven cities to 2,72,709 units and breached the transactions clocked in entire 2019 pre-COVID year on strong demand, according to Anarock. Sales stood at 1,45,651 units in the January-September period of 2021.



of the day quote

Tata Motors is actively looking at introducing four wheel drive technology in electric versions of its sports utility vehicles going ahead

Cycle - as a brand is known for agarbathis (incense sticks) but we are into other products also. We want to be known as a prayer-and-fragrance brand and not just an agarbathi brand

Indian telecom operators are ready to install fibre-dense networks for 5G. This will need an integrated and futuristic solution. We have built 5G Cosmos to enable fibre-dense networks for 5G and small cells at scale and achieve the full potential of 5G

SHORT TAKES

7 of top firms lose ₹1.16L cr in mcap

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of seven of the 10 most valued firms eroded by ₹1,16,053.13 crore last week amid an overall bearish trend in equities, with Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit. Last week, the Sensex shed 672 points or 1.15 per cent. While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance and HDFC were the laggards from the top-10 pack, TCS, Hindustan Unilever and Infosys emerged as the gainers. The valuation of Reliance Industries fell by ₹41,706.05 crore to reach ₹16,08,601.05 crore. State Bank of India's valuation diminished by ₹17,313.74 crore to ₹47,941.51 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of ICICI Bank tanked ₹13,806.39 crore to ₹6,01,156.60 crore and that of HDFC Bank eroded by ₹13,423.6 crore to ₹7,92,270.97 crore.

ONDC seeks public comments on issues

New Delhi: ONDC, a government entity to democratise e-commerce in India, has sought public comments on 24 issues pertaining to payments, fulfilment of orders, refunds and cancellations to build trust among network participants. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has floated a consultation paper to seek views on steps it is taking to build trust so that more and more participants (buyer apps, sellers apps, payment gateways and delivery apps) take advantage of the fast-growing e-commerce sector. "This is an open consultation. The last date for submitting responses is 31st October 2022," the 43-page paper titled - Public Consultation: Building Trust in the ONDC Network - said.

Inflation may ease next fiscal on normal rains: RBI report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 2: Persistently high inflation remains a key policy concern for the Reserve Bank, which has raised rates aggressively so far this year, but the pressure might ease next fiscal assuming normal rains and further normalisation of global supply chains without any exogenous shocks, according to an RBI report.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects retail inflation to come under control at 5.2 per cent in the next financial year beginning April, down from 6.7 per cent it has forecast for the current year.

"For 2023-24, assuming a normal monsoon, a progressive normalisation of supply chains, and no further exogenous or policy shocks, structural model estimates indicate that inflation will average 5.2 per cent," RBI said in its Monetary Policy Report September 2022.

The central bank is mandated to keep retail inflation in a range of 2-6 per cent. However, inflation has been above the RBI's upper tolerance level since January 2022 mainly due to adverse supply shocks amid geopolitical tensions arising out of the Russia-Ukraine war since late February.

Both the countries are key suppliers of foodgrains, edible oil, fertilisers and energy resources such as crude oil and natural gas.

Even as inflation has eased from its April peak of 7.8 per cent, it remains at unacceptably high levels, the central bank said in the report.

Friday, the Reserve Bank hiked the key repo rate by 0.50 per cent



to 5.90 per cent to bring inflation under control. During the May-August period of this fiscal, it raised the policy repo rate by 140 basis points or 1.4 per cent.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI met four times during April-September 2022, including an off-cycle meeting in May, in the backdrop of a sharp jump in global commodity prices and uncertainties around the pace of monetary policy normalisation globally.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, while announcing the policy, said the world already witnessed two major shocks of the pandemic and the Ukrainian situation over the last two-and-a-half years and a third shock comes in the form of aggressive monetary policy actions by central banks globally.

The RBI projects the inflation to remain above the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent through the first three quarters of 2022-23 (till December) and expects it to come under control from January 2023 onwards.

For the January-March quarter of 2022-23, it has projected the retail inflation to average 5.8 per cent and further down to 5 per cent in the April-June 2023-24 period.

Even as the forecast for the next fiscal looks soothing, upside risks remain on a host of factors such as further ratcheting up of geopolitical tensions, higher crude and commodity prices, longer than expected supply chain disruptions and escalation in global financial market volatility due to aggressive monetary policy actions.

Shortfall in domestic kharif crop output, unseasonal rains or firming up demand may also add up to the upside risks.

"The downside risks could arise from an early resolution of geopolitical tensions," the RBI report said.

Further correction in global commodity prices due to slowing global demand, and improvement in supply conditions with the ebbing of the pandemic will help in bringing down inflation.

FPIs turn net sellers again

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 2: After infusing funds in the last two months, foreign investors turned sellers again in September and pulled out over ₹7,600 crore from the Indian equity markets amid hawkish stance by the US Fed and sharp depreciation in rupee.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from the Indian equity markets has reached ₹1.68 lakh crore so far in 2022, data with depositories showed. FPI flows are expected to remain volatile in the coming months on slew of global and domestic factors, experts said.

"The UK government's expansionary fiscal policies amid elevated global inflation roiled the global currency markets and resulted in risk-off sentiment in equities," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities. On the domestic front, there is some fuel related concerns, besides marginal drop in GDP estimates, he added.

According to the data, FPIs have sold equities worth a net ₹7,624



crore in September. This came following a net investment of ₹51,200 crore in August and nearly ₹5,000 crore in July.

Prior to that, FPIs were net sellers in Indian equity markets for nine months in a row beginning October 2021. Although FPIs started the month of September on a positive note, the pace of net flows was lower compared to August on the back of enhanced global uncertainty.

Fuel sales surge on festive demand



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 2: Petrol and diesel sales in India jumped in September as economic activity picked up with the nearing festival season and the ending of the monsoon raised the demand, preliminary industry data showed.

Petrol sales soared 13.2 per cent to 2.65 million tonnes in September when compared to 2.34 million tonnes of consumption in the same month last year. Sales were 20.7 per cent higher than Covid-marred September 2020 and 23.3 per cent more than pre-pandemic September 2019. Demand was, however, 1.9 per cent lower than the previous month of August 2022.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, posted a handsome 22.6 per cent rise in sales in September to 5.99 million tonnes when compared to the same month last year. Consumption was up 23.7 per cent over September 2020 and nearly 15 per cent higher than pre-Covid 2019. The fuel, which had seen a near 5 per cent drop in sales in August when compared to the previous month of July, saw demand rise 1.3 per cent month-on-month.

Industry sources said the ending

of monsoon rains in most parts of the country and a pickup in agriculture season led to a rise in diesel demand. Rains usually restrict mobility and demand from the farm sector, which uses diesel in irrigation pumps and trucking.

Also, the approaching festival season led to a pickup in economic activity and a rise in demand.

Auto fuel sales had dipped in July and August owing to the monsoon and reduced demand. This dip had come after a surge in June that was supported by increased summer travel to colder areas of the country to escape from the heat and vacations during annual breaks at educational institutions.

As the aviation sector opened up, India's overall passenger traffic at airports inched closer to pre-Covid-19 levels. Accordingly, jet fuel demand jumped 41.7 per cent to 5.44,700 tonnes during September when compared to the same month last year. It was 81.3 per cent higher than September 2020 but nearly 12 per cent lower than pre-Covid September 2019.

The sources said while domestic air travel is back to pre-Covid levels, international traffic is lagging because of continued restrictions in some countries.

Reliance Jio to launch 4G enabled laptop at ₹15,000

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 2: Reliance Jio will launch a budget laptop priced at \$184 (Rs 15,000) with an embedded 4G sim card, aiming to replicate the success of its low-cost JioPhone in India's highly price-sensitive market, two sources told Reuters.

The Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate has partnered with global giants Qualcomm and Microsoft for the JioBook, with the former powering its computing chips based on technology from Arm Ltd, and the Windows OS maker providing support for some apps.

Jio, India's biggest telecom carrier with more than 420 million customers, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The laptop will be available to enterprise customers such as schools and government institutes from this month, with a consumer launch anticipated within the next three months, sources said. As with the JioPhone, a 5G-enabled version will follow.

"This will be as big as JioPhone," one of the sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Since its launch late last year, the handset has been India's top-selling sub-\$100 smartphone, accounting for a fifth of the market over the last three quarters, according to Counterpoint.



The JioBook will be produced locally by contract manufacturer Flex with Jio aiming to sell "hundreds of thousands" of units by March, one of the sources said.

Overall PC shipments in India stood at 14.8 million units last year, led by HP, Dell and Lenovo, according to research firm IDC.

The launch of the JioBook will extend the total addressable laptop market segment by at least 15%, Counterpoint analyst Tarun Pathak said.

The laptop will run Jio's own JioOS operating system and apps can be downloaded from the JioStore. Jio is also pitching the laptop as an alternative to tablets for out of the office corporate employees.

Jio, which raised around \$22 billion from global investors such as KKR & Co Inc and Silver Lake in 2020, is credited with disrupting the world's no. 2 mobile market when it launched cheap 4G data plans and free voice services in 2016, and later the 4G smartphone at a cost of just \$81.

Power consumption grows 13.31% in Sept

THE DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH HIGHLIGHTS RECOVERY IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC-INDUCED LOCKDOWN

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 2: India's power consumption grew 13.31 per cent on an annual basis to 127.39 billion units (BU) in September 2022 and 11.65 per cent during the first six months of this fiscal, as per government data.

The double-digit growth highlights recovery in economic activities following the pandemic-induced lockdown, experts said.

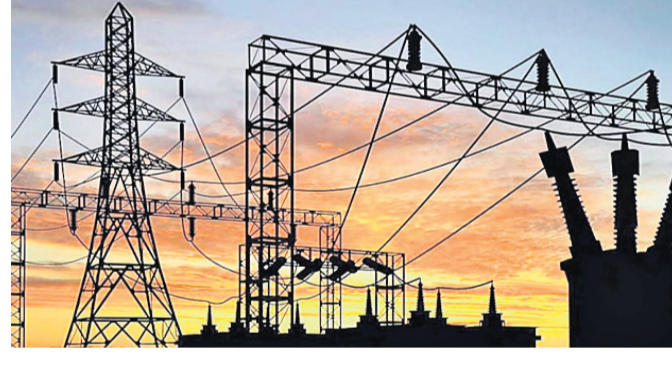
They are also of the view that demand as well as consumption of electricity will increase due to the festive season and improvement

in economic activity.

Power consumption in September last year was recorded at 112.43 BU, higher than 112.24 BU in the same month of 2020, power ministry data showed.

Electricity consumption during April-September 2022 grew by 11.65 per cent to 786.5 BU compared to 740.40 BU in the same period in 2021. It was 625.33 BU in April-September 2020.

The peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, in September 2022 rose to 199.47 gigawatts (GW). The peak power supply stood at 180.73 GW in



September 2021 and 176.41 GW in September 2020.

The peak power demand met was 173.14 GW in September 2019 (pre-pandemic period). Electricity consumption in September 2019 stood at 107.51 BU.

Experts opined that the double-digit growth in power consumption in September ahead of festivities in October indicates considerable surge in industrial and commercial demand for electricity, which points towards economic recovery.

Suzlon founder Tulsi Tanti dies

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 2: Suzlon Energy founder Tulsi Tanti, popularly known as India's 'wind man', died of cardiac arrest at 64, Saturday evening, the company said.

One of the pioneers of the wind energy business in India and a globally renowned expert on clean energy, Tanti envisioned the opportunity in the renewable energy industry back in 1995 when the global wind energy market was



dominated by international players. Under his leadership, Suzlon Energy grew to become the country's

WazirX fires 40% of staff

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: Amid the current global economic slowdown, crypto exchange WazirX has reportedly laid off 40 per cent of its total workforce.

A total of 50 to 70 employees of the 150 workers at the exchange were asked to go, CoinDesk reported, citing sources. The laid-off employees were informed Friday that they would be paid for 45 days and that they would no longer be needed to report for work.

"The crypto market has been in the grip of a bear market because of the current global economic slowdown," WazirX was quoted as saying in a statement.

"The Indian crypto industry has had its unique problems with respect to taxes, regulations and banking access. This has led to a dramatic fall in volumes in all Indian crypto exchanges," it added.

One of the sources said "the workforce has been cut from several departments including customer support, HR, and other departments. Managers, Analysts, Associate Managers/Team leaders were among those laid off."

The entire public policy and communication team was fired, according to another employee who lost his job.

Just top 20% of consumers driving demand: Report

MAJORITY OF CONSUMERS YET TO RECOVER FROM THE PANDEMIC-LED SLUMP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 2: That the rich got richer during the pandemic has become more evident with research data showing just 20 per cent of the population are leading the discretionary consumption wagon as the rest are still recovering.

The pandemic has not impacted affluent consumers' income levels in the country is clear from the fact that the top 20 per cent of the population account for the

bulk of discretionary consumption - 59 per cent in rural areas and 66 per cent in urban areas, Tanvee Gupta-Jain, chief economist at UBS Securities India, said in a report.

Citing an in-house UBS survey (conducted in August among 1,500 higher-income consumers) results, she says more than half of the respondents have bought gold/jewellery as planned or more in the past three months and more than half of them planning to invest in properties and buying cars/two-wheelers over the next two years.

That the rich will continue to drive consumption demand is clear from the UBS survey findings, with more than 70 per cent of respondents anticipating their in-

come will increase in 2023.

Similarly, nearly 70 per cent of the respondents expect festive spending to rise, while 20 per cent expect stable spending on online shopping, healthcare, online entertainment, household consumables like groceries, food, etc. Spending on durables and education is likely to remain largely the same. Only 9 per cent expect a slowdown in their festive spending.

The survey also shows that 55 per cent of respondents want to buy a car and two-wheeler over the next two years. As much as 50 per cent of unique respondents are planning to purchase property over the next two years (33 per cent for primary residence and 32 per cent for secondary/investment property), but



this is lower than 56 per cent in the last survey.

According to a UBS analysis, during the pandemic, the formal sector gained market share at the

cost of the informal economy as the rich continued to increase their spending on branded goods through online shopping, healthcare, online entertainment, and household con-

sumables like groceries, food.

Across age groups, income expectations diverge, with younger age groups (below 44) being more optimistic than their elders (45-54 years) likely on improved labour market conditions in the organised sector, she said, adding that optimism about income growth and a better financial situation is a key metric to track for continued normalisation in household consumption.

The survey further showed that nearly three-quarters of the respondents noted stable or increasing income levels (versus 54 per cent in the August 2021 survey) and only 23 per cent saw a decline in income since last year (versus 42 per cent in the last survey).

