

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm just following govt orders. I'm not picking it. It's invented by the West!

DUSSEHRA GREETINGS

To all our readers, advertisers and well-wishers

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices and press of Orissa POST will remain closed October 4 and 5 on account of Dussehra. Hence there will be no edition of the paper October 5 and 6. However, OP web edition will be available to readers on both the days. —EDITOR

Migrant's palm chopped

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Oct 3: In a barbaric incident, a migrant labourer of Kalaba village in Gajapati district had to lose his limbs when he asked for his wage to the agents who had engaged him at a factory in Uttar Pradesh.

The incident came to the fore Monday Shanka Murmu of Kalaba village under Adaba police limits in Gajapati had gone to Uttar Pradesh September 13 on the assurance of four middlemen of his locality that he would get Rs 20,000 a month by working at a cement factory there.

However, what happened to Murmu after he asked for his wage couldn't have been more brutal.

"When I asked for money after working for almost a week, they (the four middlemen) got infuriated and chopped off my right palm and left foot," said Murmu, adding that they initially admitted him to a private hospital at Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh before abandoning him at his village.

"They also threatened me of dire consequences if I dared to approach police against them," he said.



According to the state government data, 28,570 middlemen, who were registered under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1979, have sent 13,43,972 labourers outside Odisha from 2013 to April 2022. However, Umi Daniel, director, migration & education, Aide et Action International, claimed that at least 25 lakh have migrated from Odisha

When contacted, Gajapati superintendent of police (SP) Jayaram Satapathy said that they have not received any formal complaint in connection with the incident.

District Labour Officer Loknath Panda said Murmu is undergoing treatment at Mohana community health centre. "Let him recover, we'll do the needful," Panda added.

Murmu's case is one among the many. It was sometime in December

When I asked for money after working for almost a week, they (the four middlemen) got infuriated and chopped off my right palm and left foot

SHANKA MURMU | VICTIM

He (Murmu) is undergoing treatment at Mohana community health centre. Let him recover, we'll do the needful

LOKNATH PANDA | GAJAPATI LABOUR OFFICER

2013, when a labour contractor of Andhra Pradesh chopped the right palm of Nilambar Dhangdamajhi, a 22-year-old tribal farmer from Kalahandi district, for not agreeing to his demand.

Umi Daniel, director, migration and education, Aide et Action International, blamed it on the poor implementation of anti-human trafficking laws.

Continued on P4

Dhamnagar bypoll Nov 3

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The Election Commission of India (ECI) Monday announced that the bypoll to Dhamnagar Assembly segment in Bhadrak district, which has been lying vacant following the death of BJP MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi September 19, will be held November 3.

According to the ECI, a gazette notification in this regard will be issued October 7.

"The last date for filing nominations by candidates is October 14. While October 15 has been set as the date for scrutiny of the nominations, the last date for withdrawal of candidatures has been fixed for October 17," as per the ECI.

It said the voting will be conducted November 3. While November 6 has been fixed for the counting of votes and announcement of results, November 8 has been set as the date for the completion of the election process.

With the ECI announcing the date for the bypoll, three major political parties—BJD, Congress and BJP—Monday said that they were fully prepared for the byelection.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of BJP MLA Bishnu Charan

With the Election Commission of India announcing the date for the bypoll, BJD, Congress and BJP said that they were fully prepared for the contest

Sethi September 19 this year.

During his two-day visit to Odisha, BJP president JP Nadra visited Bhadrak district and attended a memorial meeting of Sethi.

Leader of Opposition JN Mishra said the seat was held by the BJP and the saffron party was fully prepared to contest the election.

The BJD, on the other hand, excluded confidence that it will win the bypoll. "Our party leaders have already started working in Dhamnagar. As the BJP has become unpopular in the area, it won't be difficult to defeat it," BJD MLA Byomkesh Ray said.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Sarat Pattnayak also hoped his party will win the byelection as, according to him, people are aware of the 'mock fight' between the BJP and the BJD.

5-time Padampur MLA Bijaya Bariha no more



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Ruling BJD MLA and former minister Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha died at a private hospital here Monday, his family said.

Bariha, a five-time lawmaker from Padampur assembly constituency in Bargarh district, was 65 years old. He was admitted to the hospital with kidney-related ailments and later put on a ventilator as his condition deteriorated, his son Brajraj Singh said.

He breathed his last around 1am and his body was taken to his assembly segment.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and many other dignitaries condole the death of Bariha. Bariha was the sixth legislator to have died after the 2019 elections.

ROW OVER BAPU AS 'MAHISASURA'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 3: A Durga idol in Kolkata in which the 'Mahisasura' was replaced by a crudely-crafted Mahatma Gandhi-like created controversy.

Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM), organisers of the puja near Ruby Crossing in southwest Kolkata, however,



changed the appearance of the idol after a police complaint was lodged.

"The Durga idol here initially had a Mahisasura whose face looked similar to that of Mahatma Gandhi. The similarities are just a coincidence. After its photos went viral, a police team visited the pandal and asked us to change the face. We changed it," said ABHM state working chief Chandrachur Goswami.

Sweden's Svante Paabo wins Nobel in Medicine

AGENCIES

Stockholm, Oct 3: Swedish scientist Svante Paabo won this year's Nobel Prize in Medicine Monday for his discoveries on human evolution that provided key insights into our immune system and what makes us unique compared with our extinct cousins, the award's



panel said.

Paabo has spearheaded the development of new techniques that allowed researchers to compare the genome of modern humans and that of other hominins—the Neanderthals and Denisovans.

While Neanderthal bones were first discovered in the mid-19th century, only by unlocking their

DNA—often referred to as the code of life—have scientists been able to fully understand the links between species.

This included the time when modern humans and Neanderthals diverged as a species, determined to be around 800,000 years ago, said Anna Wedell, chair of the Nobel Committee. Continued on P4

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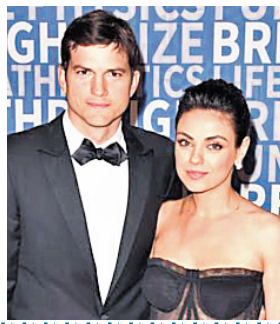
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ASHTON KUTCHER CONFESSED HIS LOVE FOR MILA KUNIS IN DRUNKEN STATE

Actress Mila Kunis recently revealed that her husband Ashton Kutcher confessed his love for her in a drunken state. The pair appeared together at the start of their career on hit sitcom *That 70s Show* before forging their successful careers, according to reports.

FBI SPENT 40 YEARS WATCHING FRANKLIN

The FBI had a 270-page file on the late music icon, Aretha Franklin, after spying on her for 40 years, an investigation from *Rolling Stone* has found. *The Queen of Soul* was reportedly the target of surveillance, and had her inner circle infiltrated by spies.



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ARIES

Today you will feel like a winner. All your goals will appear to you to be within reach. Any stress that you experience will soon be relieved. Ganesh says you will understand that even if you don't succeed, you have the affection and support of your near and dear ones.

TAURUS

The three Es will rule your mood throughout the day: energy, exuberance and excitement. Such enthusiasm is always contagious and near and dear ones will be charmed by it. Things will get better as the day progresses. Take a break from work to relax and recharge if you feel weary, says Ganesh.

GEMINI

You will feel all warm and fuzzy owing to the love, care and concern bestowed upon you by your near and dear ones. This is all owing to the good karma you have gathered in the past. You will be busy with finances in the evening, however, do not let money be a factor when it comes to family and relatives, says Ganesh.

CANCER

A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesh. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

LEO

At home or in the office, some important events will occur which will bring about a change in your daily routine and make this a special day for you. It is a good day to change your residence or office. You will work with dedication to finish your tasks, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Ganesh says that if your authority is questioned today, you will probably take to wielding your stick. A risky financial venture is a distinct possibility. Something unexpected and unpleasant in the evening will give you cause for some worry.

LIBRA

Ganesh says there may be issues with your competitors playing around with your emotions and questioning your competency today, but you will be able to defeat them. In your professional field when you may have to face difficult times then these people will come forth to help you.

SCORPIO

A no-profit no-loss day in store for you, foresees Ganesh. There are chances that family may suffer from basic requirements at home front. Keep your dinner jacket or evening gown ready as your beloved is all set to invite you for a romantic, candle lit dinner.

SAGITTARIUS

A good Samaritan, today you think good not only for yourself, but also for people around you. You are heading towards a bright future and this will boost your confidence, says Ganesh. Household affairs will remain calm and quiet. An easy-going day for you at work.

CAPRICORN

Generally, you are not conscious about your outer appearance. But, today is an exceptional day as you pay attention to your clothes, hair, shoes, and overall presentation of yourself. You are not making all the efforts just for the sake of it. You are getting ready for an important meeting, may be personal or professional, predicts Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

The first half of the day will be somewhat unfavourable. At work, the bosses may shout at you and colleagues may not support you enough, feels Ganesh. In the evening, spend some time with your friends and family to unwind from a taxing day at work.

PISCES

You might experience emotional stress this morning and so you will feel low today. But in the afternoon you will feel strong and invigorated. Prevent your emotions from going in the wrong direction.

Great time for women in Indian cinema: Shraddha

Mumbai: Shraddha Kapoor, who made her Hindi film debut with *Teen Patti* in 2010, says a lot of things have changed for women in the industry since the time she started her film journey. Talking about the same, Shraddha told a news portal "Now we see films made from a female gaze, with the actress being the driving point of the story. Not only are women headlining many films and stories but they are also written in a deeply layered manner, which can create an impact. The actress also felt that this is a great time for women in Indian cinema."

Despite this, Shraddha stated that there is nothing that she would like to change about her career so far. When asked about her biggest take away, she added that one lesson that she holds close to herself is that change is the only constant. According to her, as an actor, one has to always keep changing, evolving, learning and unlearning.

On the work front, Shraddha will next be seen in Luv Ranjan's untitled next where she will be sharing the screen space with Ranbir Kapoor for the first time. The film will also feature Boney Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia in key roles.

AGENCIES



Big B's Goodbye adopts reduced pricing policy



Mumbai: The ticket price of the upcoming family drama *Goodbye* has been capped at ₹150 on its release day, the makers said Monday. The film that stars Amitabh Bachchan, Neena Gupta and Rashmika Mandanna, is slated to hit the theatres on Friday. A short video was shared on the film's official Twitter page in which Bachchan is seen making the announcement. "Our film Goodbye is arriving at a cinema hall near you October 7. We have decided that October 7 the ticket of Goodbye will be special. The ticket will be avail-

able at ₹150. So, please go and watch the film at a nearby theatre with your family. See you there!" the megastar said in the clip. This decision comes after Ayan Mukerji's *Brahmastra Part One: Shiva* offered the film's tickets at ₹100 during the Navratri festival, after the smashing box office collections on National Cinema Day. Tickets for movies were available at a 'celebratory admission price' of ₹75 at over 4,000 screens across the country, prompting a boost in collections and filmmakers to reconsider their ticket pricing.

PS-1 grosses whopping ₹200 crore in 3 days

The movie is among the most expensive projects ever undertaken in the country and is based on the Tamil classic 'Ponniyin Selvan' by eminent writer Kalki

Chennai: Director Mani Ratnam's magnum opus *Ponniyin Selvan 1*, which is based on eminent writer Kalki's literary classic by the same name, has grossed a whopping sum of ₹200 crore worldwide so far, its makers announced Monday.



Lyca Productions, which has jointly produced the critically acclaimed superhit film along with director Mani Ratnam's Madras Talkies, Monday, along with a poster that said the film had grossed ₹200 crore worldwide, tweeted: "Marching on and making history! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the audience who've been showering us with love! Catch #PS1 in theatres near you!" The film has managed to rake in this huge amount in just three days. The film has already entered history books by becoming the film with the biggest ever opening in Tamil cinema. The film grossed a worldwide sum of over ₹80 crore on its very first day.

Several senior citizens who had given up the practice of going to theatres are now making an exception in the case of this film as they are eager to watch the classic on screen. *Ponniyin Selvan*, the first part of which released on Friday, is a story based on the early life of prince Arun Mozhi Varman, who later went on to be known as the great Raja Chozhan. Called by Mani Ratnam as his dream project, the film features a host of top stars including actors Vikram, Aishwarya Rai, Trisha, Karthi, Jayam Ravi, Jayaram, Parthiban, Lal, Vikram Prabhu, Prabhu and Prakash Raj.

ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ କିଛି ଉପାଦେୟ ଶୁଭକାରୀ ମୋର ଅନେକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା । ବିଂହବାହିନୀ ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗା ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଚଳାପଥକୁ ଉତ୍ତୁରିବ କରିବା ସହ ପୁଣ୍ୟ, ଶାନ୍ତି, ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ପ୍ରଦାନ କରନ୍ତୁ, ଏବିଚି ମୋ କାମନା ।

ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀକାନ୍ତ ପ୍ରଧାନ

ଆନା ଅଧିକାରୀ, ସେକ୍ଟର-୩, ରାଉରକେଲା

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PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

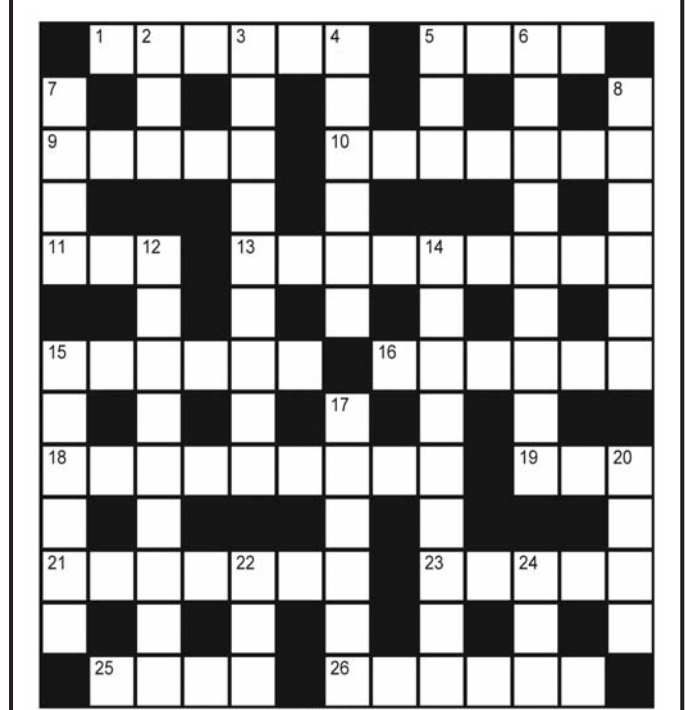


BREVITY



FUN post

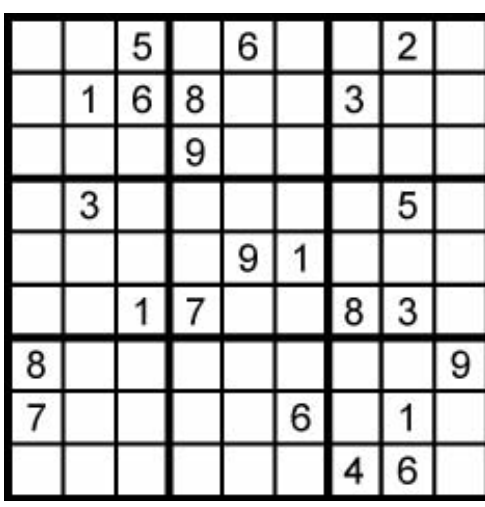
CROSSWORD



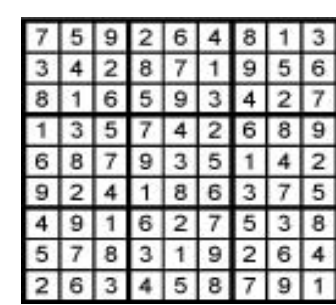
- Across**
- 1 It's found on a nose
 - 5 London district
 - 9 Detached
 - 10 Kismet
 - 11 Moray, e.g.
 - 13 Peace officer
 - 15 Fling
 - 16 Attack as false
 - 18 Put in a trance
 - 19 Pelvic arch
 - 21 Ancient stone tool
 - 23 Traffic director
 - 25 Anthem
 - 26 Catnap
 - Down**
 - 2 Aussie hopper, for short
 - 3 Faulty
 - 4 Novelist's need
 - 5 Plea at sea
 - 6 Grooming aid
 - 7 Flower holder
 - 8 Fire-breathing dragon
 - 12 Biography (4,5)
 - 14 Type of zone
 - 15 Stone fruit
 - 17 Leotards
 - 20 First to move in chess, usually
 - 22 Roadhouse
 - 24 Decay

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.



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ITMS on mishap-prone stretches soon State logs 67 fresh Cov cases, 2 deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK

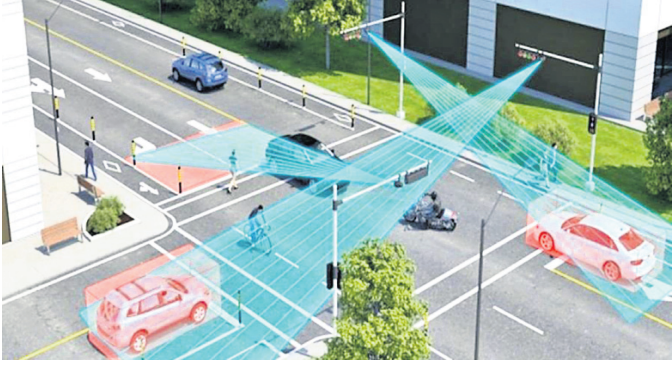
Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The state government, in bid to check mishaps on major roads, is planning to implement Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) in all the accident-prone stretches.

This was revealed during the State Road Safety Council meeting held recently under the chairmanship of Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu.

At present, ITMS named as Deesha is being implemented on 140 km stretch of National Highway 16 – from Rameswar to Panikoili. The Finance department has allocated Rs 175 crore for expansion of this scheme to other stretches, sources said.

It was decided at the meeting to request the Finance department to allocate funds every year for implementation of ITMS in all the vulnerable road stretches and near all the black spots, said sources.

To detect traffic violators and provide emergency services to



■ ITMS named as Deesha is being implemented on 140 km stretch of National Highway 16 – from Rameswar to Panikoili

■ The Finance department has allocated ₹175 crore for expansion of this scheme to other stretches

the needy, highway patrol has already been rolled out in all the 36 mini stretches of the state. On an average 57 cases of traffic rule violations per month have been detected by each patrol team during January to June 2022.

The team found that all these 36 mini stretches are highly vulnerable to mishaps. The Police department has been asked to ensure improvement in the enforcement activities, the sources said.

On the proposal of Commissioner of Police, it was de-

cid to relocate one or two highway patrol vehicles to Manguli-Malipada stretch.

Similarly, in order to stop unplanned growth on NH, the government is planning to relocate the commercial clusters or amenities like dhabas, shops and other roadside vendors to a safer distance on the back side of NH with approach roads.

Further, godowns of many business houses are located inside the cities for which heavy vehicles enter the cities for loading/un-

loading of goods, causing traffic jams.

In this context, it was decided to examine shifting of the godowns from cities to the outskirts in future. Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare and Housing & Urban Development departments have been requested to take action in this regard.

It was known from the meeting that though 5,21,449 number of traffic violations were detected by the police during January to June 2022, only 23,294 driving li-

cences (DLs) were forwarded to RTOs for suspension which is only 4.46 per cent of the cases detected. Crime Branch has been asked to ensure that DLs of all the offenders are suspended.

During the same period, though RTOs have issued 1,29,794 e-challans for various road safety violations only 24,692 DLs of the offending drivers have been suspended, which is only 19.02 per cent of the cases detected. The road safety council emphasised on improvement in the cases.

During winter, the number of accidents rises during night hours due to dense fog. To avoid such type of accidents, stringent action will be taken against the owner of the vehicles that do not use/fit backlight and reflective tapes, the sources said.

This drive will commence from October itself. The State Truck and Bus Owner's Associations have been directed to persuade the vehicle owners to put backlight and reflective stickers and not to park the vehicles on roads.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,34,434 Monday as 67 more people, including seven children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

The death toll rose to 9,197 as two more persons from Puri and Mayurbhanj districts succumbed to the disease, it said.

Besides, 53 other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, the bulletin said.

The state had recorded 131 infections and a fatality Sunday.

Odisha now has 1,148 active cases, while 13,24,036 patients have recovered from the disease, including 193 in the last 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was at 1.06 per cent as the new cases were detected from 6,351 samples tests. Meanwhile, India logged 3,011 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases

to 4,45,97,498, while the active cases dipped to 36,126, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Monday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,701 with 28 fatalities which includes 20 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.08 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate increased to 98.73 per cent, the ministry said. A decline of 1,318 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 2020, 30 lakh August 23, 40 lakh September 5 and 50 lakh September 16. It went past 60 lakh September 28, 70 lakh October 11, crossed 80 lakh October 29, 90 lakh November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore May 4 and three crore June 23 last year.



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EDUCATION

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Set up a centralised midday meal kitchen in Keonjhar district in partnership with the Odisha Government. Midday meals given to 30,000 children every day.

Solar Lamps given to 1 lakh school children.

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Kitchen Gardens empowered 500 families.

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More than 155 SHGs formed, empowering 2000 women.

Worked in collaboration with the NABARD on project Wadi for tribal farmers in 424 acres and 68 goat rearing units for landless families.

Introduced Lemon grass cultivation project (with aromatic and medicinal value) in 165 acres of 131 farmers in 16 villages.

30 SHGs are engaged in Project Saksham, a sustainable livelihood initiative at Utkal Alumina.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Constructed a 50,000 kilo liter overhead tank to supply drinking water to residents of Champua subdivision in Keonjhar district.

Constructing and maintaining approach roads and internal concrete roads, drains, check dams, borewells, water harvesting structures and river steps.

Maintaining bathing ghats, culverts, playgrounds, health centres and community halls.

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ED attaches couple's assets over ₹1cr in fraud case

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The Enforcement Directorate has attached movable and immovable properties to the tune of ₹1,05,68,381 belonging to Bedabyas Barik and his wife Sarmila Panda who are accused of duping a Delhi-based lady of around ₹5 crore. The ED launched an investigation following the registration of a case in this regard by the anti corruption branch of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) here to ascertain the illegal monetary trail of the accused couple.

"Investigation was initiated under PMLA, 2002 on the basis of FIR No. RC-06(A)/2019-BBS (RC0152019A0006) registered by ACB, CBI, Bhubaneswar under Section 120-B r/w Section 409, 420, 465, 467, 468 & 471 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 13(2) r/w



13(1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended)," informed ED in a press note Monday.

Investigation under PMLA revealed that Bedabyas during his tenure as the head cashier at the Cuttack Branch of Bank of Maharashtra between 2008-2012 persuaded the victim, Sukanti Barik to deposit money in various schemes like Recurring Deposit (RD) and Fixed Deposits (FD) of

Bank of Maharashtra promising high returns against her investment. Subsequently, she deposited huge amount of money in the above schemes.

However, the accused did not invest the money in the victim's account and misled her by giving fake RD receipts / FDRs in lieu of the money received from her. He misappropriated the whole amount to the tune of ₹4.78 crore including interest against the deposit.

The ED sleuths also found that the accused had invested the amount fetched through illegal means for acquiring different assets in his and relative's name.

"Accordingly, the properties as acquired by the accused using the proceeds of crime, as identified during investigation, have been attached under Section 5(1) of PMLA, 2002," added ED.



TRADE UNIONS' DEMANDS: Members of World Federation of Trade Unions staging a protest at Master Canteen in Bhubaneswar seeking fulfillment of their various demands, Monday

CONTINUED FROM P1 Migrant's palm chopped

The state government has announced an action plan to stop distressed migration from 11 migration-prone districts, including Gajapati, a few years back. However, a precious little has been done in this regard, said Daniel.

"It's high time for the government to ensure enforcement of anti-human trafficking laws like Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1979, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956 and Bonded Labour Abolition Act. Human trafficking is rampant in Odisha and the state government should strengthen as well as activate the existing 36 Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units across the state to stop trafficking of the hapless," said Daniel.

Government statistics claim that around 28,570 middlemen, who are registered under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1979, have sent 13,43,972 labourers outside the state between 2013 till April 2022.

Sweden's Svante...

"Paabo and his team also surprisingly found that gene flow had occurred from Neanderthals to Homo sapiens, demonstrating that they had children together during periods of co-existence," she said.

This transfer of genes between hominin species affects how the immune system of modern humans reacts to infections, such as the coronavirus. About 1-2% of people outside Africa have Neanderthal genes.

Paabo, 67, performed his prizewinning studies in Germany at the University of Munich and at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. Paabo is the son of Sune Bergstrom, who won the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1982.

The announcement continues Tuesday with the physics prize, with chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on Friday and the economics award on Oct. 10.

Union law min honours JSPL's Kharbanda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Advisor (Legal) of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) Manish Kharbanda has been honoured by Minister of Law & Justice Kiren Rijiju in the grand finale of Forbes India Legal Powerlist 2021 organised by Forbes India magazine held on October 1 at New Delhi.

Kharbanda was named as one of the one of the top 50 general counsels in India in the Forbes Legal Powerlist 2021, in appreciation of his accomplishments and leadership in the field of legal advisory services.

"Thanks to JSPL for giving the opportunity, grateful to God for showing me the way to success and the exemplary work done by my team," said Kharbanda after receiving the honour.

Kharbanda is a seasoned pro-

fessional with long experience working in some of the top companies in India. Presently, he serves as an advisor for Jindal Steel and Power (Legal). In his previous role as Executive Director - Group Head (Raw Material Sourcing) and Head of Odisha Affairs, he successfully led the Mines and Minerals Business of JSP. As Executive Director - Global Ventures, Kharbanda was managing the complete global business portfolio - identifying and canvassing organic and inorganic growth opportunities and managing operations.

He has a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Lucknow and an MBA with specialization in Finance and Human Resources from ICFAI. He also holds a degree in Advanced Management from Harvard Business School.

NISER dir Panda to receive Biju Patnaik Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Sudhakar Panda, director of National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) will receive "Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence" for the year 2021. It was announced by Odisha Bigyan Academy here Monday.

The Academy also announced winners of Samanta Chandrasekhar Award for their achievements in scientific education, research and promotion.

They are Luna Samanta, Scientist Danda Srinivas Rao, Anup Kumar Panda and Scientist Saroj Kant Barik. Sashank Sekhar Swain, Nibedita Dash, Gyana Ranjan Senapati and Satya Prasad Sena Nayak will get Odisha Young Scientist Awards.

WILDLIFE WEEK OBSERVED

'People's participation must for wildlife protection'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: As human civilization is progressing forward, conflicts between human beings and other creatures existing in natural ecosystems are increasing by the day. Consequent to such conflicts, these creatures are getting reduced in numbers and their habitats are getting shrunk by the detrimental impacts of human activities.

In the context of elephants, the conflict is reaching greater heights bringing about casualties at both ends. At present, the elephant population of the world, including Asian and African species, has shrunk greatly to a meager number of four lakhs only.

Though India has nearly 27,000 elephants left in the wild and Odisha's share is 1,976, around 500 people and 100 jumbos get killed annually across the country.

The environment and wildlife experts participating in a webinar organized by the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) on the occasion of the wildlife week observation expressed dismay at such occurrence. They expect that human wisdom will prevail in making a revolutionary change in our behaviour towards other living organisms.

The webinar was held on the theme 'human-elephant conflicts - issues and challenges'. The chief guest of the programme was



Though India has nearly 27,000 elephants left in the wild and Odisha's share is 1,976, around 500 people and 100 jumbos get killed annually across the country

Arun Kumar Mishra, Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Rourkela. He shed light on elephant movements across the state and various causes of their unnatural death. He narrated why these mammals are attracted towards human habitation that culminates in confrontation with people and loss of life as well as property. He emphasized on establishment of more rescue centres for treatment of injured and diseased wild animals, and enhanced people's participation in

wildlife protection. Chairing the programme, president of OES, Sundar Narayan Patro opined that conservation of forests is crucial to enhance the quality of wildlife habitats.

The secretary Jaya Krushna Panigrahi, while presenting the welcome address, explained how multiple causative factors are contributing to the steady depletion of wildlife, which is ominous for the mankind. Lala AK Singh, wildlife scientist emphasized on undertaking of research programmes on various issues confronting the wildlife, more specifically on species which are threatened.

Bijay Ketan Patnaik, former PCCF suggested for substituting the word 'conflict' with 'interface' as humans should not intend to have incompatible relation with wild species living in natural habitats.

Singer Murali dies while performing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Popular Odia singer Murali Mohapatra collapsed and died while performing at a Durga Puja cultural event in Odisha's Koraput district, his family said.

Mohapatra, who was reportedly unwell, suddenly sat down on a chair on the stage after singing four songs in Jeyore town. When taken to a hospital, he was declared dead on arrival.

He died of heart attack late Sunday night, his brother Bibhuti Prasad Mohapatra said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik consoled the death of Mohapatra. "Saddened to know about the



demise of popular singer Murali Mohapatra. His sweet voice will always ignite the hearts of listeners. May his soul rest in peace. My condolence to his family," Patnaik said in a Twitter post in Odia.

The incident reminded people of singer KK's death at a hotel after a concert in Kolkata earlier this year.

Mohapatra was also a government employee working at the office of the Jeypore sub-collector. He was set to retire from service nine months later.

The singer's friend Prasant Kumar Mishra said Mohapatra had informed the audience that he was unwell and requested all to cooperate if there was any mistake.

Mohapatra used to follow the singing style of legendary Odia singer, songwriter and composer Akshaya Mohanty. People used to describe him as "Akshaya Mohanty of Jeypore".

After 2 years of gloom, puja brings fresh hope for 'dhakis'

DHAK BEATS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF DURGA PUJA. THE ENCHANTING BEATS OF DRUMS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR FEET TAP AND MAKE THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND DURGA PUJA PANDALS ELECTRIFYING

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The festival of Durga Puja does not reach the ultimate glory without beats of the 'dhak', the large drum that people hang around their necks and play with two thin sticks to infuse the frenzied rhythm into listeners. This enchanting beats of drums are more than enough to make your feet tap and make the environment around durga puja pandals electrifying.

Dhak beats are an integral part of Durga Puja and this year when the festivities are back with a bang after two years of Covid curbs, the dhakis (drummers) from various districts of Odisha mostly from Puri and Cuttack districts have turned up here in large numbers with the hope to earn something substantial.

Covid has hit the livelihood of dhakis hard as they had not been able to earn a single penny during the festival for the past two

years. Some of them were doing some odd jobs to eke out a living while some others went for farming in their village.

Kashinath Nayak of Bilasuni, Niali in Cuttack district said that he and his family were coming to Bhubaneswar durga puja for the last 40 years but they had to suffer a lot due to Covid-19. "Since puja had stopped completely, we had to do farming to run the family. We used to earn around ₹30,000 by beating drums at puja pandals in Capital city," he added.

All the dhakis come from far away villages of the state. They look forward to the festival which comes only once a year with huge expectations. The Durga festival provides an alternative opportunity for these dhakis, said Sachinandan Nayak of Saheed Nagar Durga Puja Committee.

Nayak said Durga Puja festival is incomplete without the dhakis. "We offer them money and take care of their lodging and board-



ing expenses for full five days of festival. Most of the dhakis are generally farmers or daily wage earners and by playing at the puja they are able to earn some good money," he said.

Some others also come to the city for their sheer love for the deity.

Ramakanta Nayak, another dhaki, said, "Performing for Durga Maa is a traditional occupation for us, our forefathers used to come for puja and our future generation will also come after me."

Subhash Mullick of Astaranga

said, "When we beat the drums, we think we are connecting with Durga Maa and that is what makes it so pure."

Narendra Nayak of Sailo Govindpur in Cuttack district who came with five people said that he is coming to attend the puja pandals for the last 30 years. He said, "People love to see us playing and offer money which helps us. Durga Puja is an inseparable part of our lives."

Likewise, shehnai player Sanjay Nayak, a resident of Konark in Puri who had been performing at several pandals for five years, said, "We are small artistes and we depend on these festivities for earning."

Nayak said that the festival provides an alternative opportunity for the dhakis who are mostly engaged in some other form of works like farming and labour work. This is seasonal occupation for us but it helps us in a big way.

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INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	56788.81 ↓ 638.11
NIFTY	16887.30 ↓ 207.00
DOLLAR	82.0525 ↑ ₹0.33
EURO	80.2525 ↑ ₹0.40
GOLD	₹50,130 ↑ ₹36
SILVER	₹60,131 ↑ ₹327

WEATHER	
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Ailing tusker dies in Mayurbhanj forest

THIS IS THE THIRD ELEPHANT DEATH IN THE DISTRICT WITHIN A FORTNIGHT



Gouda of Similipal Tiger Conservation Project, ACF Rabi Narayan Mohanty, Ranger Ghanshyam Singh, Gaja Sathis, forest officials and members of green brigade were present.

Environmentalists and animal lovers have alleged that the animal died of septicemia after infection from its wound spread to its whole body.

The veterinarians have conducted a post-mortem of the carcass and sent the samples collected from the carcass for laboratory examination to ascertain the actual reason of its death.

Reports said that the tusker was found roaming alone at Dumapada, Khadishola, Kanchannagar, Mashinakhata and Tungadhua areas under Betanoti forest range after getting separated from its herd.

A thick plastic rope laid as a trap to ensnare wild animals for poach-

ing was coiled around its front left leg when the animal was wandering aimlessly in the forests. A deep wound developed on its leg after it failed to free itself from the rope.

The pachyderm failed to walk properly as the wound spread further and became septic giving out stink. Moreover, blood continued to ooze out from the wound.

Betanoti forest officials noticed the animal during patrolling and informed their higher-ups. A team of doctors Brajaraj, Rudranarayan Mohapatra from Wildlife Trust of India, Indramani Nath from OUAT, Piyush Soren from Similipal Tiger Reserve huddled together and conducted a surgery, Sunday morning. However, the animal failed to recover and died.

Former honorary wildlife warden

Jumbo tramples farmer to death

Rasol: A farmer was trampled to death by an elephant when he had been to his farmland near Rasol, Mundia Sahi village under Hindol forest limits in Dhenkanal district, Monday. The deceased was identified as Panchanan Behera, 52, of the village. He had gone to his farmland to water his crops when the pachyderm caught him and trampled him to death. Police sent the body for post mortem. Hindol MLA Seemaran Nayak also met the bereaved family and gave away ₹2,000 for completion of his last rites. Rasol sarpanch Dibakar Nayak also gave away ₹2,000 to the deceased's family under Harishchandra Yojana. Forest officials met the bereaved family and promised of ₹4 lakh compensation after completion of formalities and submission of necessary documents.

Bhanumitra Acharya alleged that the animal was alive sans treatment but died within a few hours of surgery. He alleged that it died due to high dose of anesthesia saying it is essential to examine the age, weight, health condition and the climatic condition before administration of anesthesia.

Gambling den busted; ₹4.25L seized, 10 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 3: Gambling has picked up in Ganjam district with the onset of festive season as police busted a gambling den at Kharavelanagar under Sadar police limits and arrested 10 persons, late Sunday night.

A case was registered in this connection and all the 10



accused were produced in court, Monday. The raid took

place after intelligence inputs alerted police about a gambling den operating from a house at Kharavelanagar.

A police team soon raided the house and seized ₹4,25,270 cash, 11 mobile phones and three bikes from the spot. Police arrested 10 gamblers while some others managed to escape under the cover of darkness.

Happy Durga Puja

May the divine power of Ma Durga empower you & your loved ones on this auspicious day.

#AtmanirbharBharat
#DeshKiZarooratonKeLiye

DELAY IN LAND TRANSFER

Berhampur truck terminal remains a non-starter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 3: Construction of a proposed truck terminal on Berhampur outskirts has remained a non-starter as the land identified for the project is yet to be handed over to the state Commerce and Transport department.

Reports said that Berhampur city and its outskirts witness regular traffic snarls as hundreds of trucks carrying cargo from various parts enter Berhampur town daily for delivery at

their destinations.

Moreover, hundreds of trucks also visit the godown of Food Corporation of India at Jagannathpur on the city outskirts for loading and unloading of cargo. Similarly, goods train carrying fertilizer and wheat also arrives at Jagannathpur railway station. The goods are loaded in trucks from here and transported to various blocks in Ganjam. Trucks traveling to Berhampur city, Jagannathpur FCI godown and railway station ply on the National Highway-16 connecting the city. As a re-

sult, hundreds of trucks can be seen parked on the highway. This leads to regular traffic snarls and accidents.

Realising the situation, the department decided to construct a truck terminal on Berhampur outskirts. The state government also gave its approval to the project. Around 14.661 acre land was identified as Girisola mouza under Chikiti tehsil for establishment of the truck terminal.

The department also informed the Chikiti tehsildar on the development in a letter-2824, dated April 30. However,

no steps were taken to handover the land to the department.

Later, the department again wrote a letter-2861, May 11 to the Berhampur sub-collector and urged him to direct the Chikiti tehsildar to handover the land.

Sources said that the land identified at Chikiti tehsil is held in the name of Finance department. Later, the district administration wrote a letter to the Principal Secretary, Finance department and urged him for transfer of the land in the name of state Commerce and Transport department.

Huge crowd, animal sacrifice as Chhatar Jatra held post 2-yr lull



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Oct 3: The roads of Bhawanipatna acquired a tinge of red as thousands of animals were sacrificed at the famous annual Chhatar Jatra of Goddess Manikeswari, the presiding deity of Kalahandi district with over two lakh devotees participating in the annual festival after a gap of two years.

The event was held without public participation during last two years due to the Covid-19 restrictions in force. However, over two lakh devotees par-

ticipated in the festival this year.

The procession of 'chhatar' representing Goddess Manikeswari was taken out to Jenakhala on the outskirts of Bhawanipatna from the temple after completion of late night secret rituals. The ceremonial 'chhatar' later, returned to the temple in a procession.

Thousands of animals were sacrificed during this period on a three-km stretch of road starting from the temple to Jenakhala. The devotees who had promised for animal sacrifice on the fulfillment of their wishes were seen participating in the gory ritual. The district had

Thousands of animals were sacrificed during the procession on a three-km stretch of road starting from the temple to Jenakhala despite the dist admin's bid to discourage people from the practice

organised awareness programme to discourage people from animal sacrifice but that had little impact on people indicating a victory of faith over reason.

The district admin had made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order during the festival. Over 20 platoons of police force led by an ASP, eight DSPs, 18 IICs, 32 SIs and 50 ASIs were deployed during the festival to control the madding crowd. However, police were seen struggling to control the crowd. Serious traffic problem was witnessed on half-km stretch of road in the town. Over 22 cultural outfits participated in this festival and performed during the event.

Notably, the Supreme Court had stayed the Orissa High Court's order of banning animal sacrifice during Chhatar Jatra.

Couple nabbed for murdering hexagenarian

Berhampur: A couple was arrested in Ganjam district for allegedly killing an old woman by stabbing her with a broken glass bottle, police said Monday. The incident took place in Chirikipada Sasan in Polasara area Sunday. 32-year-old Basant Sahu and his 26-year-old wife Kuni were arrested for stabbing 62-year-old Jambu Sahu with a broken glass bottle due to previous enmity. Polasara Police Station in-charge Jeetendra Mallick said, adding that she died on the spot. A case was registered against the duo based on a complaint lodged by the deceased's son, Kalu Sahu, and the body was sent for post-mortem examination, he said.

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FOCUS ECONOMY

THE COST OF FREE FOOD



India is also thinking of going in for universal basic income, which will add to the fiscal burden. Walking the tightrope between free food and other government priorities will be tough

PMGKAY has cost ₹4.5 lakh crore to the exchequer which amounts to 2% of India's annual GDP. Owing to rising oil prices the fertiliser subsidy is likely to go up to ₹2 lakh crore this year, although only ₹1 lakh crore has been budgeted. The Finance Secretary was sanguine and confident of meeting the fiscal deficit target this year, since tax collections have been very good. But his statement was made before the cabinet decision to extend PMGKAY. Also, the high advance taxes paid under income tax could lead to a big amount of refunds, which we will know only next year. The question then is to accommodate PMGKAY, will we be sacrificing something else? It was under fiscal pressure that the government had to launch Agnipath, the short-term military service scheme for non-commissioned personnel. Increase in support of free food means cutting back on maybe health, education, infrastructure, military or pension benefits. The government cannot escape these difficult fiscal tradeoffs.

If growth slows down, and tax collection is not as buoyant as expected, and if subsidy and welfare spending commitments increase, then how is the circle to be squared? Remember that interest rates are rising, so the cost of borrowing for the government too will go up. The debt to GDP ratio could rise to 95%. Interest burden alone could top ₹7 lakh crore or even higher. At the same time schemes such as free of subsidised food, free mid-day meals for school children, nutrition programme for pregnant mothers all have a human right and fundamental right element. The beneficiaries have a "claim" on these. India is also thinking of going in for universal basic income, which will add to the fiscal burden. Walking the tightrope between free food and other government priorities will be tough.

The writer is a noted economist.
@THEBILLIONPRESS

Is the right to food a statutory right, a fundamental right or a human right? India is a signatory to the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from which the right to food is derived. So, this right has elements of being a human right, beyond sovereign borders. India's own National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has held it to be a fundamental right, linking it to Article 21 of the Constitution (right to life with dignity) along with Articles 39 (a) and 47. These latter both part of Directive Principles, require the State to provide a right to adequate means of livelihood (Article 39 (a)) and a duty to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living (Article 47). The Commission has said that starvation is tantamount to denial of fundamental rights. It also said that proof of starvation need not mean starvation deaths. The crisis has to be recognised much earlier. The NHRC called for a paradigm shift in public policy, and to ensure adequate food and nutrition to all citizens as paramount objective. The prevalence of hunger and distress is to be interpreted as injury and requires that the State be penalised for such a state of affairs. In short, even if it costs a lot to the exchequer, removal of hunger should be a top policy priority.

This view of the NHRC is important in light of the government's recent decision to extend the free food grain programme for another three months. That extra cost will be ₹44,000 crore. The Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) would be the longest running and largest free food distribution scheme in the world, running for 33 months and more if extended beyond December.

The right to food as recognised by India's international obligation, since it is a signatory to the International Covenant does not mean that the food should be given free. But a situation of grave distress manifested through starva-

tion deaths implies that free food is an imperative. Twenty years ago, the right to food campaign started in India as an offshoot of a PIL in the Supreme Court. That PIL was prompted due to the fact that State granaries then had gigantic stocks of food grain while there was evidence of starvation and malnutrition around the country.

One of the consequences of the sustained national campaign was that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) was passed in 2013. There were a lot of objections especially from fiscal hawks who were worried about the huge financial burden. There were objections from cabinet level ministers as well. The NFSA entitles each household 5 kilo per person per month of rice, wheat or jowar/bajra at 3, 2 or 1 rupees per kilo. One minister had quipped, that since it costs ₹20 to produce a kilo of rice, and ₹3 to get it under this Act as a right, why would any farmer bother to produce rice at all? This was not ridiculous, but pointed to the heavy fiscal cost. The NFSA covers three fourth of the rural and half the urban population, i.e. nearly 81 crore persons. The poorest are given 35 kilo of food grain

per family per month under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. With a steep subsidy there is always the possibility that recipients sell the food in the secondary market. What the PMGKAY did was to extend the food grain completely free. If there was leakage under NFSA surely the possibility exists under PMGKAY too. How is that leakage to be prevented?

The PMGKAY was started in April 2020 because of COVID. India did not want a livelihood crisis to become a full-blown food crisis. It has served us well, and at a time of food inflation it protects families from food price rise. A direct cash subsidy of a fixed amount does not protect the recipient from food inflation. But the scheme has been extended six times. The latest extension to December 2022 was given because of the upcoming elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. There is now ample evidence that PMGKAY has given electoral benefits to the incumbent political party.

Interestingly, the current extension was opposed by the Finance Ministry, owing to the higher fiscal burden. The extension alone will cost ₹44,000 crore. Cumulatively



Ajit Ranade

A DIRECT CASH SUBSIDY OF A FIXED AMOUNT DOES NOT PROTECT THE RECIPIENT FROM FOOD INFLATION

Now Brazil

Polarisation is fast becoming the order of the day across the globe and now it is Brazil's turn to experience it in the ongoing bitterly fought and scurrilous Presidential election. With the high stakes, campaigning rose to such an acrimonious pitch that the Far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro called his arch rival, Left-wing candidate and former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva "a thief," while the latter dubbed him a "mad man." But the results, after over 99 per cent of the votes cast were counted, show there is no clear winner, though Lula's vote share is 48.4% against Bolsonaro's 43.2%. According to Brazil's electoral system, if the winning candidate fails to get over 50 per cent of the ballot, there will be a second run-off. Hence, the decisive battle for the Presidency will be fought on 30 October when the electorate will give their final verdict on who will be their next President.

Exuding confidence, Lula has used a football metaphor to strike a chord in the hearts of the soccer-crazy nation. Soon after the results were announced he said the run-off "is simply extra time" when two soccer teams are made to play for 15 more minutes to score the winning goal. "We will rest for 15 minutes and then get back out on to the pitch to score the goals we did not score in normal time," he said. His task is now to convince the voters to give him 2 per cent more votes than he has secured.

At this stage the battle is delicately poised. Winning outright in the first round was always going to be difficult for any candidate. The last time it happened was 24 years ago. Incumbent President Bolsonaro and Lula had tried to convince the electorate that they would not need the run-off election. For the 76-year-old Lula surging ahead of Bolsonaro is indeed a remarkable comeback. He could not run in the 2018 election because he was in prison after being convicted of corruption charges. But the ruling was later annulled. Lula was pronounced not guilty and the judge, who had ordered prison term for him, was slammed for showing animus against him.

The current results have shown the pollsters were wrong in writing off Bolsonaro who has got back his confidence to clinch the issue in his favour. He became so nervous before the polls that he made wild allegations about possible manipulation of the electronic voting machines and even threatened that if he lost the race there would be frightful consequences. This was a hint that he would try to hang on to power the way his favourite, former US President Donald Trump, had attempted through violence by his supporters at the Capitol Hill. The fact that he is now silent on his fears of possible electoral fraud and threat not to accept the verdict shows he is highly encouraged by the poll outcome. This is because Brazilian society seems to be nearly vertically split between Left and Far-right supporters.

One major reason for Lula bouncing back is the ruthless exploitation of the Amazon rainforest during the tenure of Bolsonaro. The latter is for opening up the rainforest for economic exploitation. There are allegations that his government allowed illegal trade in timber. Deforestation and forest fires have soared during Bolsonaro's term in office. Climate activists have warned that if he is re-elected, the area could reach a tipping point. Voters in Brazil have many other pressing concerns such as rising food prices, which have contributed to an increase in poverty and hunger. Bolsonaro acknowledged these concerns in a statement after the results were out. "I understand that a lot of the vote was down to the situation the Brazilian people are in. I do understand that there is a desire for change but some change can be for the worse," he warned.

Bolsonaro's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic has been so bad that over 700,000 lives were lost. He called it "a little flu" and relied on quacks. This antagonised a sizable number of the electorate.

Though Lula has an edge over Bolsonaro, the final outcome may go either way, given the sharp polarisation evident from Donald Trump's exhortation of the voters to choose Bolsonaro.

WISDOM CORNER

- Being entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise. **SIGMUND FREUD**
- It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see. **HENRY DAVID THOREAU**
- As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do. **ANDREW CARNEGIE**

WORDSWORTH

Cacography

We should use this word for bad handwriting or bad spelling more often, it's too useful and relevant to let it fade away. It derives from the Greek graphos, "writing", prefixed with kakos, "bad". We're more familiar with this as the beginning of cacophony, "bad noises" (despite the association of ideas, it has nothing to do with our cack-handed, which derives from Old English cack, "excrement"). When cacography began to appear in English at the end of the sixteenth century it did so with the sense of "bad spelling". It was beginning to be thought that the old way of spelling words by personal preference ought to give way to a standardised system; the introduction of printing had a lot to do with this. So cacography was seen as the opposite of orthography, "correct spelling". In the following century cacography was used to mean bad handwriting as well, as the opposite of yet a third Greek word, calligraphy, "fine writing". The word is marked as archaic in my dictionaries, though it still turns up from time to time. A typical usage was that by the horror writer H P Lovecraft, who described the manuscript of his novel Quebeck as "136 pages of crabbed cacography" (in reference presumably to the handwriting rather than the spelling). Someone who exhibits either failing is a cacographer.

Cad

If ever any person justified this epithet for a man who behaves dishonourably, especially towards a woman, it was Major-General Sir Harry Paget Flashman, VC, KCB, KCIE. George MacDonald Fraser, who died in January 2008, borrowed the fictional bully of Tom Brown's Schooldays and made him the hero of a series of novels. Their conceit was that Flashman ended his life as a famous and highly decorated soldier, though by his own admission he had throughout been a scoundrel, cheat, lecher, poltroon and cad. Cad is the classic British contemptuous epithet of the nineteenth century. It appears, for example, in Jerome K Jerome's Passing of the Third Floor Back: "That you and your wife lead a cat and dog existence is a disgrace to both of you. At least you might have the decency to try and hide it from the world — not make a jest of your shame to every passing stranger. You are a cad, sir, a cad!" Its history is as weird as one might like. The word started life as cadet, either a military trainee or a member of a younger branch of a family. That developed into caddie, now solely a golfer's bag carrier, but in the eighteenth century any lad or man who hung about in the hope of getting casual work as an errand-boy, messenger or odd-job man. Both cadet and caddie were shortened to cad. Early on — for reasons unknown — it had the sense of an unbooked passenger who had been picked up by the driver of a horse-drawn coach for personal profit. By the early 1830s, it had come to mean the conductor of one of those new-fangled London omnibuses, the man who rode inside to take the fares. Might the job have been one that was taken as casual employment by caddies? In 1895, George Augustus Sala commented in London Up to Date: "An omnibus conductor, nowadays, would, I suppose, wear the epithet of 'cad' applied to him, resent the appellation as a scandalous insult; and, indeed, 'cad' has come to be considered a term of contempt, now extended to any mean, vulgar fellow of whatever social rank he may be." The shift seems to have happened at the university of Oxford. Lads from the town who hung about colleges in the hope of casual work of the caddie type were called cads by the undergraduates.

SPECTRUM NATION

How to weed out political corruption



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE REAL WEAPON TO TACKLE CORRUPTION HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF A QUID PRO QUO BETWEEN INDUSTRIALISTS, BUREAUCRATS, POLICE AND POLITICIANS

The rise in political corruption in the country is a daunting challenge. Though corruption in the body politic is nothing new in the country, developments in the past two decades or so easily prove that political parties have lost all sense of ethics and morality. This has been so due to the close nexus between corporate houses and politicians, not just at the Centre but in states as well.

Recently, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his party AAP functionaries alleged that the BJP through 'Operation Lotus' was trying to poach Delhi and Punjab legislators by offering each of them ₹20-25 crore. Kejriwal alleged that the saffron party had so far poached 286 MLAs in different states and spent ₹7000-8000 crore on horse trading. "From where did they get this money? . . . this is the most corrupt (Central) government in the history of Independent India," he alleged. This does not necessarily mean that other political parties in the country are not entangled in grave corruption cases. The recent disclosures of cash, jewellery and land parcels involving around ₹110 crore and subsequent arrest of West Bengal's industry minister as also chairperson of School Service Commission is testimony to the fact of the gross irregulari-

ties in appointment of school teachers, some of whom have not qualified in written examinations whereas some have not even sat in written test.

Elections have been directly linked with a slew of illegal activities in various regions of the country. Revenues from corrupt practices eventually find their way into the coffers of political parties. It may be mentioned here that way back in 2000 the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution observed that electoral compulsions for funding had formed the cornerstone of the whole corruption system.

There is no general explanation for political corruption, the extent and the forms it takes vary consistently with the political environment. The degree and nature of corruption vary depending on the sort of regime under which it occurs. As is generally agreed by social scientists, the major cause of political corruption in India can be associated with elections.

The lack of active use of the Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI) by the Indian public encourages politicians to engage in blatant corruption. All anti-corruption units are directly controlled by the government, which may explain why ministers and lawmakers often obtain a free pass by pressuring

the anti-corruption units. Keeping in view this matter and also the close nexus between elections and political parties, the Election Commission has recently written to the Union Law and Justice Ministry proposing mandatory disclosures of all contributions received by political parties in excess of ₹2000, instead of the current threshold of ₹20,000, besides seeking the capping of cash donations to a party at 20% of total contributions received by it or ₹20 crore, whichever is less.

The Chief Election Commissioner, seeking to carry forward the EC's ongoing action against alleged financial improprieties by Registered Unrecognised Political Parties, recently wrote to the Law Minister mooting amendments in the election law and rules that require all parties, including recognised national and regional parties to maintain a higher level of transparency to curb the use of black money in elections.

Tackling corruption requires strong political will and dedication as well as good governance, administrative accountability, procedural facilitation and public engagement through public audit committees acting as watchdogs. But these are all on paper and the real weapon to tackle corruption has not been active due to the presence

of a quid pro quo between industrialists, bureaucrats, police and politicians. The Indian government has made a few initiatives to tackle corruption at the federal level. Citizens can seek access to any public information under the RTI and they are bound to receive information within thirty days.

It has to be agreed that it is the judiciary that has played a significant role in dealing with corruption and exposing political and business leaders. There are landmark judgements in certain cases, which set a barometer. There is need to strengthen the judiciary through prompt settlement of cases and building judicial infrastructure.

It is also necessary that civil society organisations should come forward and organise sustained movements against corrupt political leaders so that their image is tarnished in the public eye. Unless resistance is organised from grassroots levels, it would be very difficult to bring down corruption. Over and above this, educated and sincere persons should enter political parties and bring about the much-needed change. It goes without saying that increasing corruption affects the process of development and those who are marginalised and impoverished tend to suffer the most. Sooner the loopholes are plugged, the better it is. **INFA**

Milestone in defence

Sir, This refers to "IAF to induct LCH today," Orissa POST, October 3. In a big boost to the Indian Air Force's combat prowess, light combat helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' was inducted into the Indian Air Force at Jodhpur airbase Monday. For a long time, there was a need for attack helicopters and during the 1999 Kargil war, the need was felt seriously. The LCH is a result of research and development for two decades. And its induction into the IAF is an important milestone in defence production. LCH is capable of dodging the enemy, carrying a variety of ammunition, and delivering it to the site quickly, perfect in meeting the needs of our armed forces in various terrains. Add to this, the LCH is a dedicated combat helicopter designed and developed indigenously in India, manufactured by state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It is touted to be the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 metres with a considerable load of weapons and fuel, meeting the specific requirements of the IAF. Also, the helicopter is equipped with the requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high altitude performance and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability. It would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF and Indian Army. It is a proud full moment for domestic defence production units.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Boost for Congress

Sir, When rival Shashi Tharoor called Mallikarjun Kharge to congratulate him on his Congress presidential candidature, the latter is said to have advised Tharoor for 'consensus'. However, Tharoor was not ready to withdraw; he wanted to strengthen the internal democracy of the party. And, that's how it should be. Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi has already sent a message or two by deciding to hold an election for the party president. Organisational cadres are enthused by the election for the top Congress post because there at least is an impression that some type of accountability is in vogue in the party. Representational politics is good for the party leaders. Whether it is Kharge or Tharoor, it is impossible to expect that the personality cult around the Gandhis would alter. But it is possible that an experienced Kharge or a dynamic Tharoor can open up fresh possibilities for party cadres.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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, opinions and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
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national

of the day quote

BJP's mother-root, RSS' general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale's statement that economic inequality, poverty and unemployment are very dangerous holds mirror to the present condition in India. Now, there are big questions on the claims of Acche Din

H D KUMARASWAMY | JD(S) LEADER

Look at the impact of Bharat Jodo Yatra. Even those who break the country and spread poison in the society are raising the issues of poverty, unemployment and inequality

JAIRAM RAMESH | AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

Fall in the prices of food items in the time of festivals, celebration at home, relief in budget

PIYUSH GOVAL | CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Teary farewell to Balakrishnan

Kannur (Kerala): The mortal remains of CPI(M) stalwart Kodiyeri Balakrishnan were consigned to flames Monday at Payyambalam beach here in the presence of tens of thousands of party workers and senior leaders, who arrived to bid farewell to their dearest comrade. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Marxist party General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, along with other leaders carried the body of Balakrishnan to the pyre readied at Payyambalam beach.

Minor held for raping 6-yr-old

Badaun (UP): In a shocking incident, a ten-year-old boy has been taken into custody in Uttar Pradesh's Badaun for allegedly raping a six-year-old girl, police said. The victim has been sent to the District Women's Hospital for medical treatment. According to police reports, the incident took place in a village under the Ughaiti police station area in the district.

Two dead as building collapses

Gurugram: An old factory collapsed while it was being demolished here on Monday morning, leaving two labourers dead and as many injured, police said. The deceased were identified as Gudu (35) and Pratap (24), the injured are Ramakant (27) and Naresh (26), all residents of Fatehpur Chaurasi in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh, they said.

Sena camps gear up for Dussehra rallies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: Principles are important irrespective of venue, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Monday in a dig at his rival and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, and asserted his faction's Dussehra rally will be a grand success.

Shinde also visited the MMRDA ground at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), the venue of the rally in suburban Mumbai, and took stock of the preparations for the October 5 event.

He said the preparations for the rally are on in full swing at the sprawling ground, located close to "Matoshree", the private residence of the Thackeray family in suburban Bandra.

Both Uddhav Thackeray and Shinde-led camps claim their faction to be the "real" Shiv Sena and the former CM will address his faction's own rally on the same day at the iconic Shivaji Park in central Mumbai.

The Shinde camp, too, had applied for allotment of the Shivaji Park for its rally, but the Bombay High Court allowed the Thackeray faction to hold its annual programme at the venue when the matter landed in the HC. The annual

Dussehra rally is a Shiv Sena tradition since its inception in 1966. "I have visited the venue (in BKC) and the preparations are in full swing. Lakhs of people from across the state will come to the rally and all departments are working to ensure they don't face any problem. Our preparations will get over tomorrow (Tuesday) and this rally will be a success," Shinde told news channel NDTV. The chief minister said his faction of the Shiv Sena is taking forward the ideals propounded by party founder late Bal Thackeray. "Principles are important irrespective of venue. We are taking forward the ideas of Balasaheb Thackeray. Looking



The families of those who died in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence last year are yet to get justice

RAKESH TIKAIT | BKU LEADER

CEC LAUNCHES VOTER AWARENESS RADIO SERIES

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey Monday launched a voter awareness radio series in collaboration with All India Radio



No online betting ads: Centre

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Central government Monday advised the online news websites and OTT platforms to refrain from broadcasting advertisements of online betting platforms.

The government has noted that betting is an illegal activity and its advertisements can't be shown on digital news platforms in India.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting observed that promotional content and advertisements of betting platforms are still visible on certain news platforms and OTT platforms.

"It has also come to the notice of this Ministry that some online offshore betting platforms have started using news websites as a surrogate product to advertise betting platforms on digital media," said the ministry in an advisory to the digital media platforms.

The online advertisement intermediaries are also advised not to target such advertisements towards the Indian audience, said the Ministry.

"It has been observed that since betting and gambling are illegal, advertisements of online offshore



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

betting and gambling platforms are prohibited. In this regard, it may be noted that in accordance with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, advertisements of betting platforms, being an illegal activity, can't be shown on digital media," said the Ministry.

In respect of the advertisements of the surrogate news websites operated by the online betting plat-

forms, it may be mentioned that the logos of the concerned news websites are strikingly similar to the betting platform.

The concerned betting platforms and the corresponding news websites are also not registered with any legal authority under Indian laws, noted the Ministry.

Accordingly, the online and offshore betting platforms appear to be promoting betting and gambling under the garb of news as sur-

The government has noted that betting is an illegal activity and its advertisements can't be shown on digital news platforms in India

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting observed that promotional content and advertisements of betting platforms are still visible on certain news platforms and OTT platforms

rogate advertising.

In this regard, the Department of Consumer Affairs has also said that online betting platforms have been advertising themselves as professional sports blogs, sports news websites, etc., while providing an indicative list of online betting platforms which are using news for surrogate advertising, said the Ministry. The advisory said that the Department of Consumer Affairs has also informed that online betting platforms have been advertising themselves as professional sports blogs and sports news websites.

The advisory said relevant laws have declared the advertisement of betting platforms an illegal activity and such ads cannot be shown on digital media or TV channels.

IAF inducts Made-In-India helicopter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jodhpur, Oct 3: The Indian Air Force (IAF) Monday inducted the first fleet of indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), which has been developed primarily for mountain warfare after a requirement for it was felt during the Kargil war in 1999.

Developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), the 5.8-tonne twin-engine gunship chopper is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20 mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons.

The fleet comprising four helicopters was inducted into the IAF at a ceremony at the Jodhpur Air Force Station in presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other senior military officials.

The LCH would be an effective platform in hitting enemy targets, tanks, bunkers, drones and other as-



sets in high-altitude regions, military officials said.

In his address, Singh described the induction of the indigenously-built LCH into the IAF as a "momentous occasion" for India's defence production. "The IAF has been playing an important role in protecting India's sovereignty and I am confident that its overall capability will enhance further following induction of LCH," Singh said in his address.

"We have been focusing on boosting the country's defence produc-

tion following certain developments... Security of the country has been our foremost priority and it will remain so," he said.

The defence minister also complimented the IAF for reposing confidence in indigenously developed platforms. Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the capabilities of LCH are on a par with the helicopters of its class globally.

The helicopters were given a traditional water-canon salute that followed a multi-religious prayer cer-

emony. The need for developing a light combat helicopter for mountain warfare was felt during the Kargil War in 1999.

In February 2020, the LCH was declared ready for production. In March, the 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 induction of the chopper comes at a time India and China are locked in a military stand-off in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh. 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.

7 Assembly by-polls in 6 states Nov 3: EC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Election Commission Monday announced by-elections to seven vacant Assembly seats in six states to be held in November.

The Commission said that polling will be held November 3 and counting of votes will take place November 6.

Bypolls will be held in Andheri East in Maharashtra; Mokama and Gopalganj in Bihar; Adampur in Haryana; Munogode in Telangana; Gola Gokranath in Uttar Pradesh and Dhamnagar in Odisha.

The notification for the bypolls would be issued on Friday and the last date for nominations would be October 14. The date of scrutiny of nominations and last date for withdrawal of candidature would be October 15



and October 17 respectively, said the poll panel Monday.

The electoral rolls with respect to January 1, 2022 will be used for the bypolls.

The Election Commission said that an adequate number of EVMs and VVPAT machines have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the polls are conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.

at the response, the people have accepted our decision (to part ways with the Thackerays for aligning with the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress)," he said, referring to his rebellion in June that led to the collapse of the three-party Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

Sheetal Mhatre, a spokesperson for the Shinde camp, said the preparations at the ground are almost 80 per cent over and 4,000-5,000 buses have been booked by MLAs and MPs to ferry their supporters to the rally site.

At the Shivaji Park too, the Uddhav Thackeray camp is making its own preparations for the rally -- building the stage and making seating arrangements for Shiv Sainiks loyal to the Sena president.

The top leadership of the Uddhav Thackeray faction met at Shiv Sena Bhavan, the party headquarters in Dadar, to take stock of the on-going preparations.

Some Shiv Sainiks from Beed district in central Maharashtra owing allegiance to the Thackeray camp are travelling on foot to attend the rally at the Shivaji Park. Meanwhile, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) said the faction headed by Uddhav Thackeray is the "real" Shiv Sena.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HANDLOOMS

Applications are invited from Handloom Awardees/Clusters for selection of their participation in the various Crafts Mela-2022-23 and Dilli Haat during the year 2022-23 enabling them to exhibit and sell handloom products as per details given below:-

Craft Melas			
Sl. No.	Name of Crafts Mela	Location	Period of Crafts Mela
1	Surajkund Crafts Mela	Faridabad (Haryana)	01st to 15th February, 2023
Eligibility:- Sant Kabir Award/National Award/National Merit Certificate Holder/India handloom Brand (IHB) registered holder/State Awardees are eligible to participate. The National Awardees, National Merit Certificate holder and State Awardees and IHB holder who have participated in Suraj Kund Mela in 2021 & 22 are not eligible to apply. However, Santkabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year, Individual Weavers are not eligible to apply.			
2	Toshali National Crafts mela	Bhubaneswar (Odisha)	15th to 27th December, 2022
3	Shilaparamam	Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	15th to 31st December, 2022
4	Shilpgram	Udaipur (Rajasthan)	21st to 30th December, 2022
5	Shilpgramam	Madhapur, Hyderabad (Telangana)	15th to 30th December, 2022
6	Taj Mahotsav	Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	18th to 27th February, 2023
Eligibility:- All handloom Awardees/Cluster which include Co-operative Societies/Producer companies, SHG and Federations are eligible to participate. Awardees/Clusters which include Co-operative Societies/Producer companies, Self Help Group (SHG) and Federations, who have participated in the year 2021, are not eligible. However Sant Kabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year. Individual Weavers are not eligible to apply.			
7	Master Creation Programme	Dillahaat, INA Market, New Delhi	01st to 15th December, 2022
Eligibility:- Only Sant Kabir Awardees, National Awardees and National Merit Certificate holders can apply. Those National Awardees, National Merit Certificate holders participated during 2021 are not eligible to apply. However, Sant Kabir Awardees can apply irrespective of previous participation in every year.			

Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi			
Sl. No.	Slots	Sl. No.	Slots
1.	1st to 15th December, 2022	6.	16th to 28th February, 2023
2.	16th to 31st December, 2022	7.	1st to 15th March, 2023
3.	1st to 15th January, 2023	8.	16th to 31st March, 2023
4.	16th to 31st January, 2023	9.	01st to 15th April, 2023
5.	1st to 15th February, 2023	10.	16th to 30th April, 2023

Eligibility

- All Handloom Clusters which include Co-operative Societies/Producer companies, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations are eligible to participate.
- Agency will be considered for participation after gap of one year from previous allotment to ensure adequate rotation. All Eligible Handloom Clusters may fill only one application for all the above slots of Dilli Haat in the prescribed format and submit to their nearest Weavers Service Centre (WSC). The last date for submission of application for Crafts Melas and Dilli Haat will be fifteen days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspapers. All eligible cluster/participants may also apply online through the link provided on the website of office of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) www.handlooms.nic.in. For more details, one can contact the nearest Weavers Service Centre

Development Commissioner (Handlooms)
Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi - 110011
CBC 41102/11/0012/2223

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Sr.DMM/SBP/Stores/Tender Publication/08, Date: 30.09.2022

TENDER NO. 4022542 Description of Item: BATTERY OPERATED MOTOR TROLLEY FOR TRACK INSPECTION-6 PASSENGER SEATING CAPACITY + 1 DRIVER SEAT.

Tender Value: ₹31,86,540/- EMD @ 2%: ₹63,731/-

Tender Closing Date & Time: 01.11.2022 at 1500 hrs.

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

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PR-578/N/22-23

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SALE

Mann govt wins confidence motion

The Assembly had taken up discussion on confidence motion, with AAP MLAs hitting out at the BJP over 'Operation Lotus', alleging a bid to topple the six-month-old government

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Oct 3 The Punjab Assembly Monday "unanimously" passed the confidence motion moved by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann September 27, even as Congress members staged a walk-out.

The BJP members have already announced to boycott the assembly session.

After a lengthy discussion on the confidence motion, Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan put it to vote. He asked MLAs to raise hands who were in support, and then asked those who were against the motion of confidence.

Announcing the results, Sandhwan said 91 AAP MLAs supported the motion.

He also said one of the three SAD MLAs who was present in the House and a lone BSP MLA did not oppose the motion.

No Congress, BJP or lone Independent MLA was present in the House at the time of voting.

AAP has 92 MLAs, including



the Speaker, in the House.

"So, 93 MLAs have supported the motion and none is against it. Thus, the motion is unanimously passed," the Speaker said.

In the 117-member Punjab Assembly, the AAP has 92 members, Congress 18, SAD 3, BJP 2, BSP 1 while 1 is an Independent.

The assembly had taken up discussion on confidence motion, with AAP MLAs hitting out at the BJP over 'Operation Lotus', alleging a bid to topple the six-month-old government.

The AAP had earlier claimed that at least 10 of its MLAs were ap-

proached by the BJP with an offer of Rs 25 crore to each of them in a bid to topple the Mann government under its 'Operation Lotus'. However, as the discussion began, Congress MLAs staged a walkout, as they were demanding that the Speaker should allot them time to speak and raise issues during the Zero Hour.

The two BJP MLAs — Ashwani Sharma and Jangi Lal Mahajan — have been boycotting the session as they accused the AAP government of violating the Constitution by bringing the confidence motion in the assembly.

Punjab debates stubble burning issue

What is giving hope to affected citizens across the region is that instead of the annual inter-state political blame game, the Aam Aadmi Party-led governments in Punjab and Delhi can offer a coordinated solution to effectively tackle this problem

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 3: With the onset of paddy harvest and crop residue burning season in Punjab and Haryana, the debate on air pollution is again strife in the northwestern region, comprising the national capital.

However, what is different this winter and giving hope to affected citizens across the region is that instead of the annual inter-state political blame game, the Aam Aadmi Party-led governments, in the saddle in both Punjab and Delhi, can offer a coordinated solution to effectively tackle this problem, said climate and farm experts.

At a workshop organised in Chandigarh by Delhi-based Climate Trends Monday, experts from Panjab University and PGIMER Chandigarh and representatives from respective pollution control boards and farmers discussed the ground solutions.

Krunesh Garg, Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board, said: "Crop diversification is not the long-term solution, because it does not mean that biomass will not be produced by other crops." "It'll just be another kind of biomass waste, like from cotton and mustard coming from Rajasthan to Punjab. The issue with respect to the burning of this



waste will always remain. So we need to find solutions, both in situ and ex-situ. A combination of these can only be effective."

"It's not that the problem is not being addressed, we are mapping it down to the block and village level, but it'll take 4-5 years for proper problem resolution," he added. Explaining that counting the number of farm fires is an inaccurate measure of understanding stubble burning, he said the acreage of land being put on fire is the parameter to be measured.

During the kharif season of 2022, paddy has been grown in approximately 31.13 lakh hectares, an increase from 29.61 lakh hectares

in 2021, resulting in 19.76 million ton paddy straw generation this year, vs 18.74 mn ton last year.

Adarsh Pal Vig, Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board, said: "There was a time when it was recommended to burn biomass waste. As we have mechanised more in the last few decades, the problem has increased." "The solutions will eventually have to be adopted by farmers because it is a social and a psychological problem where behaviour and attitude of farmers also needs to be addressed. We must highlight the stories of those farmers who have succeeded in not burning stubble and make sure they interface with

other farmers and encourage and motivate them." He noted that ambient air pollution is normally considered a problem only in cities even though the burning is being done in villages, as the National Clean Air Programme and the Air Quality Index are all focussed on cities.

"Urbanisation and the exploding density of population in cities are beyond carrying capacity and causing a problem. Due to other contributing factors, big cities like Delhi are already sitting on a tipping point and stubble becomes that straw every season."

This year, the monsoon's weak onset and delayed progress in northwestern India and deficit pre-monsoon rains depleted the soil moisture and delayed the sowing of the kharif crop. This already meant a delayed harvest which was further postponed by widespread and prolonged spells of rain during the end of September in many parts of northwestern India.

Nataraj Subash, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, said: "We must focus on integrated farming which includes about three to four crops and livestock. We have 64 prototype models that are currently being tried out with a few farmers and the successful models have been sent to the government."

Prez hails Guj's culture of entrepreneurship

AGENCIES

Gandhinagar, Oct 3: President Droupadi Murmu Monday inaugurated as well as laid the foundation stones for projects worth Rs 1,330 crore in Gujarat as she hailed the entrepreneurial spirit of its people.

Praising the enterprise and innovation displayed by the people of the state, Murmu, visiting Gujarat for the first time after assuming the office of President in July, said they have made a special identity for the country in the world.

"Progressive entrepreneurs of Gujarat have made a special identity of Gujarat and India all over the world. Gujarat is one of the leading states in the country in terms of development. The people of Gujarat have a culture of enterprise and innovation," she said at an event here.

The President expressed happiness the projects being inaugurated or whose foundation stones were being laid pertained to key sectors like health, medical education, irrigation, road infrastructure, shipping and waterways, all of which would lead to the state's further development.

"These projects will create new opportunities for employment and help farmers. Small and big en-



trepreneurs will get more business opportunities," she said at

the event held in the auditorium of GMERS medical college and gen-

Progressive entrepreneurs of Gujarat have made a special identity of Gujarat and India all over the world. Gujarat is one of the leading states in the country in terms of development. The people of Gujarat have a culture of enterprise and innovation

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

eral hospital, which was also attended by Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

President Murmu laid the foundation stones for a super speciality hospital at GMERS (Gujarat Medical Education & Research Society) Gandhinagar and a new GMERS medical college and hospital in tribal-dominated Narmada district.

The 540-bed ultra-modern hospital will offer huge convenience to the people of Narmada district, where 85 per cent of the population is from the tribal community, in availing medical facilities, she said.

She said the World Health Organisation's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, coming up at Gujarat's Jamnagar city, will help spread India's long-established medicine knowledge across the globe.

Farmers protest on Lakhimpur Kheri incident's anniversary

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Oct 3: Farmers under the aegis of Kisan Mazdur Sangarash Committee (KMSC) held protest and rail roko programme at 17 different places in Punjab Monday to mark the anniversary of Lakhimpur Kheri incident.

It may be noted that eight persons including four farmers had died during a protest in Lakhimpur Kheri October 3, 2021.

In Amritsar, farmers also blocked the Amritsar-Delhi rail track at Vallah, demanding stern action against the person responsible for the incident.

Addressing the gathering, General Secretary, KMSC, Sarwan Singh Pandher alleged: "The conspirator of the Lakhimpur Kheri massacre is still enjoying prime post while the innocent farmers present at the site of the incident have been sent to jail after registration of cases against them."

Another farmer leader Gurbachan Singh Chaba said the success of the Delhi farmer's agitation was due to the sacrifice of 750 protesters and Lakhimpur Kheri 'martyrdom' was one of the most



significant among them.

"Through today's rail roko agitation we demand that farmers should be released and killers of farmers should be hanged and appropriate action should be taken against those responsible for the Lakhimpur Kheri," said Chaba.

Bharati Kisan Union (Doaba) members staged a protest in Phagwara and demanded the sacking of Union Minister Ajay Mishra and withdrawal of "cooked up" cases registered against farmers during their stir against now-repealed agri laws.

They attacked the BJP-led government at the Centre over the continuation of Ajay Mishra 'Teni' as a minister citing the alleged involvement of his son in mowing down of farmers protesting against the three farm laws that have now been repealed.

Led by BKU(D) vice president Kirpal Singh Moosapur and general secretary Satnam Singh Sahni, the protesters staged demonstration at Sugar mill crossing on national highway here, raised slogans against central government and Misra.

Communal clash in Guj town over displaying religious flag

AGENCIES

Vadodara, Oct 3: Two groups clashed and hurled stones at each other over putting up a religious flag in Savi town in Gujarat's Vadodara district, a police official said Monday, adding 36 people have been arrested.

The incident occurred on Saturday night after a group of people objected to members of another community trying to put up a religious flag alongside their flag on an electricity pole in Dhamiji ka Dera locality, a local police official said.

"The matter escalated and both the communities started hurling

stones at each other. Nobody was injured but a vehicle and a shop were damaged by rioters," said sub-inspector AR Mahida.

Cross First Information Reports (FIRs) were lodged by both the groups late Saturday night, following which a case was registered for rioting, unlawful assembly, rash act endangering human life etc of the Indian Penal Code against 43 people, Mahida said.

A total of 36 people from both communities have been arrested so far, he said.

Police security has been beefed up in the communally sensitive area and the situation is under control, he added.

'Accountability of state in targeted violence rare'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 3: Social activist Teesta Setalvad has said the country had rarely seen accountability of the state as far as targeted violence is concerned, and added that survivors and citizens supporting them are among the "fallout" of such violence.

Delivering the Girish Patel Smarnanjali Lecture here Sunday, Setalvad said the story of targeted violence begins with the build-up that is created with hate speeches and hate writings.

The survivors of such violence have to face difficulties in ensuring punishment for the perpetrators, she added.

"What is fallout? State accountability happens rarely in our country. How many people have been punished in (the riots of) 1984, 1992 and 2002? These are the questions before us. And the difficulties that survivors have to face to ensure punishment and citizens for supporting them are the issues that come up," she said.

Setalvad was recently arrested by Gujarat police in a case of the alleged fabrication of evidence to frame innocent people in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases in which a large number of people, especially those from the minority community, were killed. She was recently granted interim bail by the Supreme Court.

Setalvad said working on a deeply polarising issue among the public is not an easy one and added that



the impact of social media on polarization is also overwhelming.

"The people in power who are controlling social media are the same that have spent 70-80 years in the society, on the roads, among doctors, lawyers, and cultural organisations to capture them. Power is degenerative, but they have worked hard," she said.

The process being witnessed in the country is that of people perpetrating the violence and the party in power lending its support, and this has an old history, she said.

What happened after the demolition of Babri Masjid December 6,

1992, appears to repeat itself, she claimed.

"We saw a harking back to an earlier period. We need to understand the phenomenon as to what was happening in the country between 1986 and 1992, and what are we looking at now and what happened in between. Today, one also has to grapple with the media, which are carrying out a set agenda of targeting individuals and movements who have in any way threatened it," the rights activist said.

She said the buffer against polarisation and hate politics will build on its own if one is success-

What is fallout? State accountability happens rarely in our country. How many people have been punished in (the riots of) 1984, 1992 and 2002? These are the questions before us. And the difficulties that survivors have to face to ensure punishment and citizens for supporting them are the issues that come up

TEESTA SETALVAD | SOCIAL ACTIVIST

ful in holding on to social, political, constitutional and human rights engagements.

"The stamina we require for sustained, rigorous action sometimes fails us because everything is overwhelming...Somehow we need to get back to this language where we actually talk about how we can build this buffer zone to make sure the Constitution stays alive among our people," said the former journalist.

She said people know of the promises made to them in the Indian Constitution, but are getting overwhelmed by the divisive propaganda coming from different directions.

The big challenge in this situation is to get back to an agenda of constitutionalism and make sure the battle for the Constitution is fought in a real sense, Setalvad said and called for the need for collective risk-taking rather than individual risk-taking.

BSF SEIZES PAK FISHING BOAT

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, Oct 3: A Border Security Force (BSF) patrol party Monday seized a Pakistani fishing boat from the general area of 'Harami Nalla' creek in Gujarat's Kutch district along the maritime boundary between the two nations, an official said.

The boat was apprehended in the morning when the BSF Bhuj party was patrolling the area and observed movement of vessels and fishermen, a release from the force said.

"When the BSF party reached the spot, some fishermen left the boat and escaped towards Pakistan. An engine-fitted Pakistani fishing boat was seized from 'Harami Nalla' close to the international border after it entered Indian territory," it said.

Nothing suspicious was found on board during a thorough search except fishing related material, the release added.

'Harami Nalla' near the Sir Creek area, close to Bhuj in Kutch district, is a tidal estuary that is navigable most of the time. While Indian fishermen are barred from entering the creek area, Pakistani fishermen enter the Indian side to catch fish.

They usually flee towards the Pakistan side after abandoning their boats once they spot BSF patrol vessels.

of the day quote

When a Chief Minister is changed, 80-90 percent (MLAs) leave him and switch sides. They turn to the new candidate. I too don't consider it wrong. But it was a new case in Rajasthan where the MLAs got agitated just in the name of the new Chief Minister

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

The God will provide what a person deserves. Home ministers will come and go, the BJP is there today, but won't be tomorrow

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

The entire party (Congress) is on bail. He (Rahul) himself is on bail, the previous Congress president, honourable Sonia Gandhi is on bail. Our president (state Congress president D K Shivakumar) is also on bail. The entire party is bail party. Everyone (in Congress) is facing corruption charges

BASAVARAJU BOOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

SHORT TAKES

NRI bizman from Kerala dies in Dubai

Thiruvananthapuram: A well-known NRI businessman from Kerala who once ran a chain of jewellery stores in Kerala and abroad, died due to age-related ailments in Dubai, UAE, Sunday. The demise of Atlas Group chairman M M Ramachandran, popularly known as 'Atlas' Ramachandran, was conduced by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and other political leaders, including BJP state president K Surendran.

ED raids Chinese app firms in B'lore

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday said that they recently conducted search operations on 12 entities in Bengaluru having Chinese links and seized around Rs 5.85 crore. These firms were cheating innocent youths on the pretext of providing them part-time jobs through the Chinese app 'Keepsare' and collecting money from them. The money thus collected was used to buy crypto currencies.

Delhi Police provides Z+ security to CDS

New Delhi: Delhi Police has provided Z+ security to Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on the directions of Ministry of Home Affairs, an official said Monday. Chauhan Friday became India's new Chief of Defence Staff with a mandate to implement the ambitious theaterisation plan that aims to ensure tri-services synergy and prepare the armed forces for future security challenges facing the nation.

Six swept away in Kollidam river

Chennai: Six persons were swept away by strong undercurrents when they entered the Kollidam river near Poondi for a bath Monday, police said. While two bodies have been retrieved, search for the rest is on. The deceased -- D. Charles (38), D. Prithviraj (39), T. Issac (19), D. David (32), S. Kermel (19), and S. Praveen Raj (19) -- were part of a 40-member group who was on a pilgrimage to Poondi Madha Basilica.

Soldier found dead

Srinagar: A soldier was found dead Monday with a gunshot wound in J&K's Baramulla district. Police sources said that an army soldier, identified as Rahul Bhagat, son of Anand Bhagat of Maharashtra, was found dead in a pool of blood with gunshot wound in his chest inside a camp in the Bonyar area of Uri tehsil.



No government should grant any donation to Durga Puja committees as it is a religious function

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

LOVE FOR ANIMALS Community dog feeders, veterinarians and citizens in Delhi and NCR will hold a vaccination drive for the stray canines on the occasion of World Animal Day Tuesday



Bomb scare on Iranian flight in Indian airspace

INDIAN SECURITIES AUTHORITIES WERE ON ALERT FOLLOWING A BOMB THREAT ON BOARD AN IRANIAN PASSENGER FLIGHT WHEN IT WAS APPROACHING DELHI



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Indian Air Force Monday said it scrambled its fighter jets after receiving information of a bomb scare on a China-bound Iranian civilian plane that was flying over the Indian airspace.

An intimation was received of the bomb scare on an airline bearing Iranian registration, when it was transiting through Indian airspace, the IAF said, adding the plane was offered the option to land at Jaipur or Chandigarh but the pilots refused to divert.

According to ATC sources, the Mahan Air flight W581 was on its way from Tehran to Guangzhou in China when an alert was triggered. "IAF fighter aircraft were

scrambled, which followed the aircraft at a safe distance. The aircraft was offered the option to land at Jaipur and then, at Chandigarh. However, the pilot declared his unwillingness to divert to either of the two airports."

"After a while, intimation was received from Tehran to disregard the bomb scare, following which, the aircraft continued on its journey towards its final destination," it said. Sources said the IAF was informed about the bomb scare by the Delhi ATC and then, Sukhoi aircraft were scrambled by the IAF. It is learnt that the IAF scrambled Sukhoi aircraft from its bases in Punjab and Rajasthan. Later, Iranian news agency IRNA, quoting a statement from Mahan Air, reported that the flight landed safely. The news agency said the statement was released in reaction to the news regarding

the bomb threat. "As soon as the pilot was alerted about the possibility of a bomb attack, he informed the control tower and requested an emergency landing in India," it said and added that such reports seem to be aimed at disturbing security and mental peace. Meanwhile, a senior Delhi Police officer said they received a call about the bomb scare on an Iran-China flight from the Air Traffic Control but soon they were informed by the ATC that the flight was not landing in Delhi.

The IAF also said that all actions were taken by the force as per the laid down procedure, jointly with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

It is learnt that the ATC at Delhi airport remained in contact with the IAF when the aircraft was in Indian airspace.

Mulayam in critical care unit: Hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, Oct 3: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav is admitted to the "critical care unit" of Medanta Hospital here and is being treated by a "comprehensive team of specialists", the hospital said Monday.

The announcement from the hospital comes a day after the Samajwadi Party Sunday said its 82-year-old patriarch's health had deteriorated.

Mulayam Singh Yadav has been under treatment at the hospital since August 22. He was admitted to the hospital in July as well, sources said.



"Sh Mulayam Singh is currently admitted in Critical Care Unit of Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon, and is being treated by a comprehensive team of specialists," the hospital said in a statement.

His son Akhilesh Yadav, daughter-in-law Dimple Yadav and brother Shivpal Singh Yadav had visited the hospital Sunday. Some party workers, too, reached the hospital premises to enquire about his condition, sources said, adding they have been advised not to visit the health facility.



FESTIVE PREPAREDNESS: An artisan prepares an effigy of Ravana ahead of the Dussehra festival in Nagpur, Maharashtra

COMBATING AIR POLLUTION

Delhi govt launches 'Green War Room'

Gopal Rai said the war room will also be linked with Green Delhi App through which residents can send their complaints regarding pollution, such as garbage burning, to the war room



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai Monday launched an advanced 'Green War Room' here to monitor air pollution and ensure effective implementation of the winter action plan to curb it.

The war room will work from the seventh floor of the Delhi Secretariat where a 12-member team comprising environment scientists and other officials will be deployed, the minister said while addressing a press conference here.

He said environment scientist Dr BMS Reddy will be in-charge of the war room while environment engineer NK Joshi has been ap-

pointed as assistant in-charge. "We have launched an advanced 'Green War Room' from today and it will work round the clock."

"It will monitor air pollution levels 24x7 and ensure that all necessary measures are taken to curb pollution in accordance with the amended GRAP. The war room will also analyse pollution data of the city," Rai said.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had Friday announced a 15-point winter action plan to combat pollution in the city. Under the plan, the GRAP has been enforced in Delhi from October 1.

Five dead, 64 injured as fire engulfs Durga Puja pandal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadoli (UP), Oct 3: Three children were among five people killed and 64 injured after a fire broke out in a Durga Puja pandal here due to overheating of a halogen light, officials said Monday.

District Magistrate (DM) Gaurang Rathi said the fire broke out around 9.30 pm Sunday when a halogen light at the pandal overheated, causing an electric wire to catch fire. Soon the fire engulfed the wooden scaffolding and the tent, he said.

The cause of the fire was ascertained by a special probe team constituted by Additional Director General Ram Kumar, he added.

A total of 67 people were injured in the fire and three of them -- Ankush Soni (12), Jaya Devi (45) and Naveen (10) -- died. Later, Arti Chaubey (48) and Harshvardhan (8) died during treatment, a senior official said. Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar said an FIR has been lodged at Aurai police station against members of the concerned puja samiti as negligence was found in organising the event.

The FIR has been lodged under sections 304A (causing death by negligence), 337 (whoever causes hurt to any person by doing any act



A digital show was going on at the pandal in Nathua village when the fire broke out Sunday night, reducing the structure to ashes

MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE WERE IN THE PANDAL WHEN THE BLAZE ERUPTED AND A MAJORITY OF THEM WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

so rashly or negligently as to endanger

human life etc) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 135

200 rly stations to be revamped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, Oct 3: As many as 200 railway stations across the country will get a facelift with modern amenities, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here Monday. He attended the foundation stone laying ceremony for a coach maintenance factory at the Aurangabad railway station in Maharashtra.

"Tendering process for 47 railway stations is completed while physical work has started at 32 stations," he said.

He said the railways is being transformed. "The government has prepared a master plan to revamp 200 railway stations. Overhead spaces will be created on the stations which will have world-class facilities including waiting lounges and food courts, besides amusement facilities for children," the minister said.

Vaishnaw also said that railway stations will act as the "platform" for the sale of regional products.

Speaking on the contribution of the Marathwada region in Maharashtra in the making of Vande Bharat trains, the minister said, "the country will have 400 'Vande Bharat' trains in future and 100 of these trains will be manufactured in the coach factory at Latur in Marathwada. The necessary changes in the factory are already being made".

SKELETONS MUST BE PULLED OUT TO PAY FOR SIN

The dead tell no tales but the skeletons of a bygone era must nevertheless be pulled out and bashed to pay for the sin of standing up to the rulers of the time.

The Supreme Court may have closed all pending petitions arising out of the 2002 Gujarat riots on the ground that the cases have become infructuous with the passage of time, but the political leadership of the period - now firmly ensconced in the Centre - continues to rummage the cupboard for revenge-wreaking relics.

After using an apex court ruling as justification, the Gujarat government had moved with lightning speed to set-up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in June to arrest activist Teesta Setalvad, former Director General of Police RB Sreekumar and former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt for "conspiring to abuse the process of law by fabricating false evidence". Bhatt who is already in jail was brought out and re-arrested. Another ex-IPS officer Rahul Sharma was also summoned to record his statement though for the time being he has not been arrested.

The latest to face the axe is Gujarat cadre, IPS officer, Satish Chandra Verma. The officer who was part of the investigation team in the Ishrat Jahan fake encounter has been dismissed from service, the Union Home Ministry informed the Delhi High Court. He had petitioned the Delhi High Court against his charge-sheeting and allied matters in September 2021 which had directed the union home ministry against taking any 'precipitative steps'. Verma moved the Supreme Court which refused to stay the government order but told the Delhi High Court to hear his request November 22 and decide the case within three months.

When Narendra Modi took over as Chief Minister in Gujarat in 2001 he had summarily transferred five IAS officers for the perceived sin of being close to his predecessor and patriarch Keshubhai Patel. Three of them subsequently quit service. The tone was set. Those who dared to oppose him, even differed, were beset with problems. Take the case of DGPs (now retired), Kuldip Sharma and RB Sreekumar. Sharma, then additional director general of police,

CID, had August 1, 2005 sent a three page report to then state Chief Secretary, Sudhir Mankad, recommending CBI inquiry against his own minister,



in this case Amit Shah in a cooperative bank scam. Sharma was immediately shunted out from the premier state investigation agency to the non-descript post of Managing Director, Gujarat Sheep and Wool Development Corporation (GSWDC). Sreekumar was sidelined and superseded for opposing Gujarat Assembly elections after the 2002 riots in his report to the then chief election commissioner, JM Lyngdoh. As chief of the state intelligence bureau he had reported Modi's speeches during his 2002 statewide "Gaurav yatra" as inflammatory. Sreekumar was charge-sheeted

and accused of leaking information to the media, all of which he challenged and won in courts. Sreekumar had filed detailed affidavits before the Nanavati-Shah judicial inquiry commission probing the riots. Sreekumar was arrested along with activist Teesta Setalvad in June this year and charged with criminal conspiracy and forgery regarding 2002 riots cases. While Teesta has been granted provisional bail by the Supreme Court, Sreekumar was provided temporary bail by the High Court September 29.

Shamima Kauser's efforts for justice for her daughter Ishrat Jahan who was killed along with three others in a fake encounter near Ahmedabad in 2004, fell by the wayside. College girl Ishrat and the three others, the police claimed then, were part of a lashkar-e-toiba terror module, out to assassinate Chief Minister Modi. The proceedings in the case were dropped in 2019 after the government declined permission to prosecute police officers DG Vanzara and NK Amin. Earlier in 2018 former Gujarat DGP PP Pandey was discharged from the case. The last

three police officers, GL Singhal, Tarun Barot and Anajui Chaudhary were discharged in April last year. Apparently with the change in government at the Centre, the CBI decided against appealing the denial.

However the same administration that refused to sanction prosecution of some, has the knives out for Verma. He was a member of the High Court appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) which concluded that the Ishrat Jahan encounter was fake, after which the CBI registered a case against the police officers involved.

Within days of Modi becoming Prime Minister, Satish Verma and another Gujarat cadre IPS officer, Rajnish Rai were transferred out of the state. If Verma was shunted out as Chief Vigilance Officer of in North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd, Shillong, Meghalaya, Rai was sent as CVO in the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) at Jaduguda, Jharkhand.

If Verma's has been an ordeal by fire, Rai has been hounded mercilessly as well. Verma's 1100 page petition before the Guwahati bench of CAT, states, among other things,

that his services as CVO of NEEPCO were curtailed as he had red-flagged a Rs 450 crore transportation scam which also involved a relative of then minister of state (Home) Kiran Rijji and for investigating a fraudulent land deal in Gujarat.

A bright IPS officer of the 1992 batch with a scintillating record of service, Rajnish Rai fell foul of the Modi establishment in Gujarat when he investigated the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case and arrested fellow DIG DG Vanzara and IPS officers Rajkumar Pandian and Dinesh MN of Rajasthan cadre. It was his investigation that led to the arrest of former Gujarat Minister of state for Home, Amit Shah who is now the Union Home Minister. After Modi came to power at the Centre, not only were all the cases against officers arrested by him dropped, but these officers were rewarded with plum postings while Rai was put in the dock. Rai has taken voluntary retirement and joined the IIM, Ahmedabad as associate professor but the centre refuses to relent and he continues to battle it in courts.

international

of the day quote

The abolition of the 45pc rate had become a huge distraction from our mission to get Britain moving. Our focus now is on building a high growth economy that funds world-class public services, boosts wages, and creates opportunities across the country

No other country practices terrorism in the manner in which Pakistan has done. You show me anywhere in the world what Pakistan has done for so many years against India. After the 26/11 Mumbai attack, it is important for us to be clear to ourselves that this kind of behaviour and action is unacceptable and there will be consequences

S JAISHANKAR | INDIA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Imran Khan has proven, time and again, that he is a misogynist who has no respect for women and that he considers them to be nothing more than objects to be abused and harassed

MARRIYUM AURANGZEB | PAKISTAN MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Imran dodges contempt charges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 3: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan dodged contempt charges Monday after a court here accepted his written response and withdrew the show cause notice issued to him in a case pertaining to 'threatening' a female judge.

The 69-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief appeared before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday, where the case was heard by a larger bench, headed by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah and comprising Justices Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and Babar Sattar.

During the hearing, Khan's lawyer told the court that his client had submitted his third reply to the show cause notice after the first two replies were termed as unsatisfactory. Chief Justice Minallah, who was presiding over the proceedings, said that the bench had read the affidavit provided by Khan and it was wrapping up the case.

"We take a lot of care in contempt of court cases," Justice Minallah said, adding that the court was "dismissing" the notice issued to Khan. "This is the unanimous decision of the larger bench," he remarked.



IRAN PROTESTS

Khamenei breaks silence, blames US



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reviews armed forces during a graduation ceremony for armed Forces Officers' Universities at the police academy in Tehran, Iran

The unrest, ignited by the death of a young woman in the custody of Iran's morality police, is flaring up across the country for a third week despite government efforts to crack down

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Oct 3: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei responded publicly Monday to the biggest protests in Iran in years, breaking weeks of silence to condemn what he called "rioting" and accuse the United States and Israel of planning the protests.

The unrest, ignited by the death of a young woman in the custody of Iran's morality police, is flaring up across the country for a third week despite government efforts to crack down.

On Monday, Iran shuttered its top technology university following an hours-long standoff between students and the police, that turned the prestigious institution into the latest flashpoint of protests and ended with hundreds of young people arrested.

Speaking to a cadre of police students in Tehran, Khamenei said he was "heartbroken" by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody, calling it a "sad incident". However, he sharply condemned the protests as a foreign plot to destabilise Iran, echoing authorities' previous comments.

"This rioting was planned," he told a cadre of police students in Tehran. "These riots and insecurities were designed by America and the Zionist regime, and their employees."

Meanwhile Sharif University of Technology in Tehran announced that only doctoral students would be allowed on campus until further notice following hours of turmoil on Sunday evening, when witnesses said antigovernment protesters clashed with hardline pro-establishment students.

The witnesses, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said the police kept hundreds of students holed up on campus and fired rounds of tear gas to disperse the demonstrations. The university's student association said that police and plainclothes officers surrounded the school from all sides and detained at least 300 students as protests rocked the campus after nightfall.

Iran's latest protest movement, which has produced some of the nation's most widespread unrest in years, emerged as a response to Amini's death after her arrest for allegedly violating the country's strict Islamic dress code. However, it has grown into an open challenge to the Iranian leadership, with chants of "Death to the dictator" echoing from the streets and balconies after dark. The demonstrations have tapped into a deep well of grievances in Iran, including the country's social restrictions, political repression and ailing economy long strangled by American sanctions.

BRACING FOR CRISIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, Oct 3: More than 2,500 US and Philippine marines joined combat exercises on Monday to be able to respond to any sudden crisis in a region long on tenuous ties over South China Sea territorial disputes and increasing tensions over Taiwan.

The annual military drills are some of the largest so far between the longtime treaty allies under newly elected Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. His predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, was an outspoken critic of US security policies and frowned on military exercises with American forces he said could offend China.

Called Kamandag, the Tagalog acronym for "Cooperation of the Warriors of the Sea," the drills involve 1,900 US Marines and more than 600 mostly Philippine counterparts in mock amphibious assaults and special operations, US and Philippine military officials said. America's HIMARS missile launchers and supersonic fighter jets will take part in live-fire maneuvers that will end on October 14, they said.

The venues include the western island province of Palawan, which faces the South China Sea, and the northern Philippines, across the Luzon Strait from Taiwan.

Philippine Rear Admiral Caesar Bernard Valencia said the exercises will focus on enhancing coastal defenses and are not directed against any country. Japanese and South Korean forces will participate

Ukrainian troops claim new gains

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Oct 3: Ukrainian troops continued to push forward Monday with their offensive that has embarrassed Moscow, with Kyiv officials and foreign observers hinting at new gains in the strategic southern region of Kherson that the Kremlin wants to annex.

Kherson has been one of the toughest battlefields for the Ukrainians, with slower progress when compared with Ukraine's breakout offensive around the country's second largest city of Kharkiv, in the northeast, that began last month.

Kherson is one of the four regions illegally annexed by Moscow last week after a "referendum" orchestrated by the Kremlin. The lower house of the Kremlin-controlled parliament is set to ratify the treaties Monday, and the upper house will follow the next day.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that two of those regions, Donetsk and Luhansk, are joining Russia with their administrative borders that existed before a conflict erupted there in 2014 between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces.

He noted that the issue of the borders of the two other regions — Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — remains open.

"We will continue to discuss that with residents of those regions," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. He did not provide additional details.

Ukrainian media outlets on Monday highlighted an image of Ukrainian troops displaying flags at a marker for the village of Khreshchenivka, which is in the same area of Kherson where troops apparently have broken through Russian lines.

Ukraine has pressed its counteroffensive in the Kherson region since the summer, relentlessly



Ukrainian service member dismantles a cannon from a captured Russian armoured personnel carrier, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near the town of Izium in Kharkiv region, Ukraine

REUTERS

pummeling Russian supply lines and making inroads into the areas west of the Dnieper River held by the Russians.

The Ukrainian military has successfully used U.S.-supplied HIMARS multiple rocket launchers to repeatedly hit the main bridge across the Dnieper in the city of Kherson and a dam that served as a second main crossing.

It also has struck pontoon bridges that Russia has used to supply its troops on the western bank of the river after the main crossings were made inoperable.

Despite the successful strikes on supply lines, Ukrainian offensive operations in the south so far have been slower and less successful compared with the northeast, as the open terrain easily exposed the attacking force to Russian artillery fire and airstrikes.

Russian military bloggers close to Moscow have increasingly acknowledged that Ukraine has superior manpower, backed by tank units, in the area.

A Russian-installed official in the Kherson region, Kirill Stremousov, admitted in a video statement on Monday morning that the Ukrainian forces "have broken through a little deeper."

However, he insisted that "everything is under control" and that Russia's "defense system is working" in the region.



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Kherson is one of the four regions illegally annexed by Moscow last week after a "referendum" orchestrated by the Kremlin

KIM SETTLES SEC CRYPTO CHARGE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Oct 3: Kim Kardashian has agreed to pay USD 1.26 million to settle Securities and Exchange Commission charges that she promoted a cryptocurrency on Instagram without disclosing she'd been paid USD 250,000 to do so.

The SEC said Monday that the reality TV star and entrepreneur has agreed to cooperate with its ongoing investigation. The SEC said Kardashian failed to disclose that she was paid to publish a post on her Instagram account about EMAX tokens, a crypto asset security being offered by EthereumMax.

Kardashian's post contained a link to the EthereumMax website, which provided instructions for potential investors to purchase EMAX tokens. "The federal securities laws are clear that any celebrity or other individual who promotes a crypto asset security must disclose the nature, source, and amount of compensation they received in exchange for the promotion," Gurbir Grewal, director of the SEC's division of enforcement, said in a prepared statement.

Kardashian has agreed to not promote any crypto asset securities for three years. "Ms. Kardashian is pleased to have resolved this matter with the SEC. Kardashian fully cooperated with the SEC from the very beginning and she remains willing to do whatever she can to assist the SEC in this matter. She wanted to get this matter behind her to avoid a protracted dispute. The agreement she reached with the SEC allows her to do that so that she can move forward with her many different business pursuits," a lawyer for Kardashian said in a statement.

While Kardashian is well known for reality TV, currently appearing on "The Kardashians" on Hulu, she is also a successful businesswoman. Her brands include SKIMS, which has shapewear, loungewear and other products, and a skincare line called SKKN.

Cryptocurrency is facing increasing attention from Congress. The latest bipartisan proposal came in August from Sens. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and John Boozman, R-Ark. It would hand the regulatory authority over Bitcoin and Ether to the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.



BURNING ISSUE: Tyres set on fire by Palestinians at the site where two Palestinians were shot and killed by the Israeli army in the Jalazone refugee camp near the city of Ramallah, West Bank

AP/PTI PHOTO

US, Philippine forces hold combat drills



AP PHOTO

as observers but may join in disaster-response drills, he said. The military maneuvers are being held simultaneously with

combat exercises between US Marines and Japanese army forces on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido that involve about 3,000 military personnel from the two sides, US military officials said.

US Maj. Gen. Jay Bargeron of the Japan-based 3rd Marine Division said the simultaneous exercises are aimed at bolstering the defensive capabilities of the US alliances with the Philippines and Japan "through realistic combined training."

"These exercises will allow our forces to strengthen interoperability and readiness to ensure we are prepared to rapidly respond to crisis throughout the Indo-Pacific," Bargeron said in a statement.

Yom Kippur: What is the Day of Atonement, the holiest Jewish holiday?

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day in Judaism and is a 25-hour long day of fasting and praying. The Jewish holiday has a rich history, with its rules and traditions being among the most extensive in the Jewish tradition. It comes with its own unique prayers that distinctly set it apart from other holidays.

History The fast of Yom Kippur is explained in the Bible, described in the Book of Leviticus as a day of cleansing, where the Jewish people atone for their sins, become pure, and pray that they are inscribed in the Book of Life.

However, its cultural significance goes far beyond its biblical roots. This is to the extent that many otherwise non-observant Jews will still go out of their way to observe the holiday in at least some capacity - most notably by attending synagogue services. For others, especially in Israel, the holiday is known as the day when nearly the entire country shuts down, with all businesses closed and roads quiet.

What happens on Yom Kippur? Yom Kippur is marked as one of the two major fasts, alongside Tisha Be'av, and lasts 25 hours. Like Shabbat, creative labor and the use of electronics are for-



An ultra-Orthodox Jewish man holds a chicken as another man performs the Kaparot ritual in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim neighbourhood

REUTERS

bidden. However, it does not stop there. Also forbidden are showering and fully washing one's hands, applying deodorant, wearing leather and jewellery and having marital relations. Jews traditionally wear white on the holiday, with Ashkenazi Jews wearing a white coat known as a kittel throughout the lengthy prayers. Other customs also exist, such as the practice of Kaparot (atonement) where people swing a chicken over their head to transfer their sins to it before it is slaughtered, though many use money instead of chickens.

Who has to fast? Regarding the fast, one must

completely refrain from food and water. While other fasts have cases where, if one feels sick, they are not obligated to fast, the rules are much stricter with Yom Kippur. Although eating and drinking are prohibited, there are some who are allowed to eat as much as 30 grams of food, and drink as much as four centiliters of water at a time. According to the recommendations, those who should eat "less than usual" should separate between eating and drinking these amounts by at least nine minutes. This year, Yom Kippur starts on the evening of October 4 and ends in the evening of October 5.

AGENCIES

of the day quote

The auto-industry has registered a strong demand in the second quarter and the momentum continued with the on-going festival season. All our dealerships are witnessing a visible rise in physical walk-ins as well as customer enquiries

ATSUSHI OGATA | MD, PRESIDENT & CEO, HMSI

EESL has taken IoT services from BSNL, Jio and Vodafone Idea for the network connectivity in DISCOMs. We are also working in association with Larsen & Toubro Ltd, Robert Bosch and EDF energy, which provide unique system integration solutions

ARUN KUMAR MISHRA | CEO, EESL

Our 5G core and 5G radios are completely indigenously developed which makes India among a few countries that have their own 5G technology

RAJKUMAR UPADHYAY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, C-DOT

SHORT TAKES

Coal production rises 12% in Sept

New Delhi: The country's coal output rose a 12 per cent to 57.93 million tonne in September. India's coal output stood at 51.72 MT in the year-ago period. Of the top 37 mines, the output of 25 blocks has been more than 100 per cent and another five mines' production stood between 80 and 100 per cent in the last month. The dispatch of coal also went up marginally by 1.95 per cent to 61.18 MT in September, over 60.02 MT in the corresponding period last year.

Exports drop by 3.52% to \$32.62bn

New Delhi: India's exports contracted by 3.52 per cent to \$32.62 billion in September against \$33.81 billion in the same month last year, while the trade deficit widened to \$26.72 billion, according to government data. Imports during the month, however, grew by 5.44 per cent to \$59.35 billion as against \$56.29 billion in September 2021, the data showed. The exports during April-September 2022-23 rose by 15.54 per cent to \$229.05 billion. Imports during the period increased by 37.89 per cent to \$378.53 billion. The trade deficit during the first six months of the fiscal has widened to \$149.47 billion as against \$76.25 billion during April-September 2021-22.

Vodafone in talks for UK merger

London: Vodafone is in talks with CK Hutchison about merging their businesses in Britain to create a market leading mobile network that could accelerate the roll-out of 5G services and expand broadband availability. Vodafone said Monday it would own 51% and Hutchison 49% under the deal being discussed, with the stakes achieved by adjusting ownership of debt rather than exchanging any cash. Combining Vodafone UK and Hutchison's Three, Britain's third and fourth largest networks respectively, would create a business with about 27 million customers - more than current leaders BT's EE and Virgin Media O2.

Ashok Leyland sales jump 84%

New Delhi: Commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland Monday reported an 84 per cent rise in total sales to 17,549 units in September 2022. The company had sold a total of 9,533 units in the same month last year, Ashok Leyland said in a statement.



The funding (Rs 400 crore from MUFG Bank) will enable the company to meet its goal of 25 million tonne per annum capacity by FY25 and also forms part of its environmental, social, and governance objectives

PARTH JINDAL | MD, JSW CEMENT

BSNL TO ROLL OUT 4G FROM NOV

State-owned telecom firm BSNL will start rolling out 4G network from November onwards and gradually upgrade it to 5G by August next year. The company has plans to roll out almost 1.25 lakh 4G mobile sites in 18 months, BSNL chairman and managing director PK Purwar told PTI at India Mobile Congress



DEMAND SOFTENED

Factory activities ease to 3-month low in September



THE PMI AT 55.1 IN SEPT CONTINUED TO BE IN EXPANSION MODE FOR THE 15TH CONSECUTIVE MONTH BUT WAS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN 56.2 RECORDED IN AUGUST

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 3: Manufacturing activities in India eased marginally in September but remained in good shape amid companies hiring more workers and cooling price pressures, according to a monthly survey released Monday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) indicated a strong improvement in the health of the Indian manufacturing industry, as companies stepped up production in tandem with a sustained increase in new work intakes.

The factory growth dipped to a three-month low in September due to a moderation in demand and output, despite easing inflationary pressures and strong business confidence, the survey showed.

The PMI at 55.1 in September continued to be in expansion mode for the 15th consecutive month but was slightly lower than 56.2 recorded in August.

"Rates of expansion remained historically high, despite easing from August. To accommodate

higher sales and greater output needs, firms hired extra workers and acquired more inputs. The upturn in input buying was aided by cooling price pressures. Purchasing costs rose at the slowest pace in just under two years, while output charge inflation receded to a seven-month low," the survey said.

A PMI score above 50 indicates expansion and a print below that level reflects contraction in manufacturing activities. Input costs rose at the slowest pace since October 2020 and most firms reported no change in purchasing prices.

Indian manufacturing industry remains in good shape, despite considerable global headwinds and recession fears elsewhere

POLLYANNA DE LIMA | ECONOMICS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, S&P GLOBAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence said input costs rose at the slowest rate in almost two years as suppliers' stocks improved in line with subdued global demand for raw materials and recession risks.

"Subsequently, Indian companies sought to restrict selling price hikes and overall charge inflation eased to a seven-month low".

The Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP.

SBI report warns of freebies time-bomb

THE REPORT URGES THE APEX COURT TO CAP SUCH SPENDS AT 1% OF STATE GDP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: With states after states competing to offer freebies, a report suggested that the Supreme Court-led panel could cap such welfare schemes at 1 per cent of the state's GDP or 1 per cent of its own tax collection.

Citing the examples of just three states, a report penned by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser to State Bank of India, said annual pension liabilities of the poor states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan are estimated at Rs 3 lakh crore.

When looked in relation to these states own tax revenue, pension liabilities are quite high for Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh at 217, 190 and 207 per cent respectively.

While for states contemplating the change, it would be as high as 450 per cent of own tax revenue in case of Himachal Pradesh, 138 per



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

cent of own tax revenue in case of Gujarat and 242 per cent of own tax revenue for Punjab, which is also planning to revert to the old pension system wherein the beneficiaries pay nothing.

Such guarantee amount is significant at 11.7 per cent of GDP for Telangana, 10.8 per cent for Sikkim, 9.8 per cent for Andhra, 7.1 per cent for Rajasthan, and 6.3 per cent for UP. While the power sector accounts for almost 40 per cent of

Off-budget borrowings of states, which are loans raised by state-owned entities and guaranteed by the states, have reached around 4.5% of GDP in 2022

A recent RBI paper noted that states in their latest budgets, estimate expenditure on freebies range from 0.1-2.7% of GSDP

The freebies have exceeded 2% of GSDP for states such as Andhra, Punjab

The combined liabilities of the states which have reverted to the old pension scheme or have promised to do so stood at Rs 3,45,505 crore in FY20 and the same will go up as percentage of GSDP of Chattisgarh to 1.9 and incremental burden of 60,000 crore from Rs 6,638 crore in FY20.

For Jharkhand it was Rs 6,005 crore and will be 1.7 per cent of GSDP and will increase by Rs 54,000 crore; Rajasthan Rs 20,761 crore, 6 per cent and will jump by Rs 1.87 lakh crore; Punjab — Rs 10,294 crore, 3 per cent and will rise by Rs 92,000 crore, Himachal—Rs 5,490 crore, 1.6 per cent of GSDP and will rise by Rs 49,000 crore and for Gujarat the pension burden was Rs 17,663 crore in FY20 and will jump to 5.1 per cent of GDP and will rise by 1.59 lakh crore.

When the freebies announced by the states in FY23 are compared to percentage of the each of the state's GDP and revenue receipts and own tax revenue, they are more staggering.

Prosus NV calls off \$4.7bn acquisition deal of BillDesk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Prosus NV, which owns PayU, has terminated a \$4.7 billion (about Rs 38,400 crore) deal to acquire Indian payments firm BillDesk after conditions on the deal weren't met.

In a statement, Prosus said certain conditions precedent weren't met by the deadline at the end of September. Approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which was one of the conditions precedent, was received September 5 but Prosus did not specify which other conditions were not met.

A condition precedent is a stipulation that defines certain conditions that must either occur or be met by either party to ensure progress or execution of a contract.

The amalgamation of BillDesk with PayU of Prosus would have created a digital payments giant with an annual total payment volume (TPV) of \$147 billion.

Its closest rivals in India such as Razorpay and CCAvenue, which is owned by Infibeam, are estimated to have an annual TPV of over \$50 billion and \$18-20 billion, respectively.

This would have been the largest acquisition of Prosus, a Dutch e-commerce company.

Sensex, Nifty fall more than 1%

Bulls found it tough to hold on to Friday's gain, which left investors poorer by ₹4.5 lakh crore

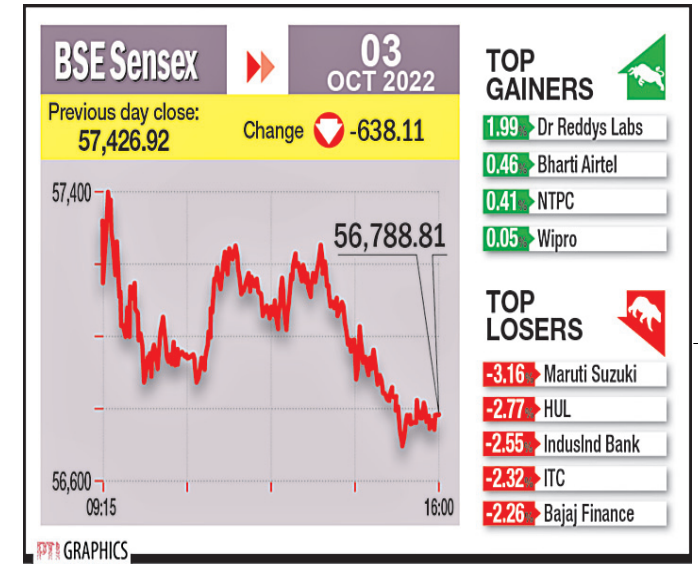
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: Key stock indices Sensex and Nifty declined over 1 per cent at close Monday due to heavy selling in banking, auto and FMCG shares amid weak global market trends and continued foreign fund outflows.

Reversing its previous session's gains, benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled 638.11 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 56,788.81. During the day, it tanked 743.52 points or 1.29 per cent to 56,683.40. The broader NSE Nifty fell by 207 points or 1.21 per cent to end at 16,887.35 as 42 of its constituents declined.

Among Sensex stocks, Maruti fell the most by 3.16 per cent, Hindustan Unilever by 2.77 per cent, IndusInd Bank by 2.55 per cent, ITC by 2.32 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 2.26 per cent, State Bank of India by 2.15 per cent and Kotak Mahindra Bank by 2.03 per cent.

Dr Reddy's, NTPC, Bharti Airtel and Wipro were the winners. Sensex had surged by 016.96 points or 1.80 per cent to settle at 57,426.92 Friday. The Nifty climbed 276.25 points or 1.64 per cent to end at 17,094.35.



RUPEE FELL BY 42 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 81.82 AGAINST THE DOLLAR

In the broader market, the BSE mid-cap gauge declined 1.24 per cent and smallcap index fell by 0.54 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, power fell by 3.24 per cent, utilities by 3.14 per cent, auto (2.11 per cent), FMCG (2.05 per cent), commodities (2.01 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.26 per cent) and realty (1.24 per cent). Healthcare and telecom communication ended in the green.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude futures jumped 3.90 per cent to \$88.46 per barrel.

The rupee fell by 42 paise to close at 81.82 against the US dollar, snapping its two-session gaining streak as heavy selling in domestic equities and a spike in crude oil prices weighed on the local unit.

Foreign institutional investors became net buyers as they purchased shares worth Rs 500.58 crore Monday, according to data available with BSE. Foreign investors turned sellers in September, pulling out Rs 7,600 crore from Indian equity markets.

Platinum imports at record high

As per reports some bullion importers are importing refined gold disguised as platinum alloy

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 3: India's platinum imports in September jumped multifold to a record high as refiners imported a large amount of gold containing small amounts of platinum but registered the purchases with customs as platinum alloy to avoid paying higher duties, government and industry officials said.

Such masking was possible due to what a tax official said was a loophole created by a change in policy in July whereby differential import duties were levied on gold, silver



and platinum, distinct from previous policy of having the same taxes for all the three precious metals.

"The duty change allowed importers to explore loophole in the system. They initially in August imported small quantity with 3% platinum and got cleared from Delhi customs as platinum alloy," said a senior industry official, who declined to be named.

As their imports were cleared, they brought in more gold as platinum and soon other refiners and trade houses joined them, which lifted India's platinum imports to

around 27 tonne in September from 1.14 tonne a year ago, trade and government sources said.

In entire 2021 India had imported 10.59 tonne of platinum, according to data compiled by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

A Mumbai-based bullion dealer said refiners were taking advantage of government rule that says, "An alloy containing 2% or more, by weight, of platinum is to be treated as an alloy of platinum." "The rule was framed when platinum prices were higher than gold. In recent years platinum prices crashed. But still traders couldn't use the rule as the import duty on both the commodities was same. After July's duty hike, refiners started using this loophole," the dealer said.

Dubai-based gold refiners were mixing 2% to 5% platinum in to gold

IMPORT DUTY HIKED

Import duty on platinum has been increased to a total of 15.4 per cent with effect from Monday through a notification by the Finance Ministry. It is being presumed that the increase in duty on platinum is to plug a loophole which is helping bullion importers to make record profits. Gold attracts 15 per cent import duty, as opposed to platinum alloy that invites a duty of 10.75 per cent which observers say is a case of misdeclaration and duty violation.

bars exclusively for Indian buyers, said Dubai-based bullion dealer. India is the world's second biggest consumer of gold and relies on the imports to fulfill most of its requirement.

BOI holds Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Zone organised a Swachh Bharat Abhiyan October 2. S Malaydas, Zonal Manager and Ashok Kumar Jena, Deputy Zonal Manager along with other staffers of the zone participated in the event. The staff members cleaned the nearby areas of the zonal office premises and later participated in a motorcycle rally for creating awareness (Swachhata Hi Suraksha) in the nearby areas.

The Zonal Manager and the Deputy Zonal Manager distributed food packets and t-shirts to the cleaning staff of the BMC. The zonal authorities also appreciated the efforts of cleaning staff for maintaining hygiene in the workplace.



India Inc's credit quality continues to improve in H1: Crisil

For the financial sector, the ratings agency gave a 'stable' outlook and added that while the gross non-performing assets ratio may moderate on an overall basis, exposures to small businesses face a risk of higher NPAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: India Inc's credit quality showed further improvement in April-September period with the ratio of upgrades to downgrades inching higher.

The credit ratio's improvement to 5.52 in H1FY23 as compared to 5.04 in H2FY22 was driven by leaner balance sheets led by healthy cash flows and muted investments, Crisil Ratings, which rates 6,800 companies, said. However, the agency clarified that

the data may not be fully representative as many small businesses with outstanding ratings have turned non-cooperative in sharing data on a continued basis which can be driven by adverse financial health.

"India Inc has emerged stronger post-pandemic," its managing director Gurpreet Chhatwal said, exuding confidence that the corporate India can weather the current storm caused by global events like high inflation and monetary tightening which will hurt India's exports



The six months saw 569 upgrades and 103 downgrades, while ratings on 80 per cent of the companies being reaffirmed

Crisil's senior director Somasekar Vemuri said there can, however, be a moderation in the credit ratio going ahead due to some of the challenges faced by firms.

During the first half of the fiscal year, the credit ratio moved ahead majorly driven by the in-

frastructure sector, which contributed a third of the upgrades, the agency said, attributing the same to higher project work being undertaken and improvement in project clearances and payments.

The ongoing interest rate tightening may result in some of the

companies going slow on investments, and the higher interest costs will have an adverse impact on the renewables sector the most with the project viability itself coming under pressure, its chief ratings officer Subodh Rai said.

He said there have been investment announcements by steel and cement players, along with those getting benefits under the production linked incentive initiative of the government, but a broader capex cycle like the one seen in 2012-13 is some time away.

Its deputy chief ratings officer Krishnan Sitaraman said Crisil expects a fourth of the restructured advances to micro, small and medium enterprises to slip into NPA, but added that there are pos-

itives for the overall sector in form of higher credit growth at up to 15 per cent, stronger capital buffers and improved profitability.

The agency's corporate credit outlook based on 43 sectors accounting for 70 per cent of outstanding debt classified 13 sectors having 18 per cent as the most buoyant while the remaining were classified as neutral to positive.

Export-oriented sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals and information technology will see some moderation in cash flows owing to slow down in end-user markets, it said, adding that agrochemicals, dairy, education services would also see a moderation in their performance due to elevated costs and inability to fully pass them on.

Winning start for eves

Kohli, Rahul rested for 3rd T20I

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Oct 3: It may be an inconsequential game on paper but Indian bowlers await another tough test against South Africa ahead of the T20 World Cup when the two teams meet in the final game of the three-match series here Tuesday.

Having sealed their first-ever series against South Africa at home, Indian team management has decided to rest its premier batter Virat Kohli and vice-captain KL Rahul for the final game.

After the final game against the Proteas, Kohli and Rahul will link up with the squad in Mumbai from where the team is scheduled to leave for Australia October 6 for the T20 World Cup.

It is expected that standby batter Shreyas Iyer will replace Kohli for the final game in the playing XI. With Rahul also rested, either Suryakumar Yadav or Rishabh Pant will open alongside with Rohit Sharma.

With no second reserve batter in the squad, Shahbaz Ahmed or one among Mohammed Siraj or Umesh Yadav could get a look-in.

Since their early exit from the T20 World Cup 12 months ago, the Indian batting has come a long way and looks formidable ahead of the next edition beginning later this month. Majority of the batters remain the same from the UAE edition but it is the drastic change in approach which has made the difference.

Heading into the ICC event, India's high-profile top-three have hit top form including Rahul who allayed concerns about his strike rate with a sublime effort Sunday.

Kohli has batted a 140 plus strike rate since the Asia Cup that includes three 50s and a much-awaited hundred. Skipper Rohit has come up with impactful innings over the course of the six games at home against Australia and South Africa.

Number four Suryakumar Yadav is in a league of his own and seems to be batting at a much higher level



Virat Kohli congratulates David Miller, who scored an unbeaten century, after the second T20I, Sunday

than his teammates, so much so that Rohit is contemplating to play him straight in the team's World Cup opener against Pakistan October 23.

Pant is yet to bat in the series and though Dinesh Karthik got seven balls in the second T20, he too would be hoping to get a hit in the middle.

Jasprit Bumrah's absence has compounded India's bowling woes, especially in the death overs, but the team needs to find a way if the star pacer doesn't get fit in time for the ICC event.

Deepak Chahar, who is among World Cup reserves, has been impressive with the new ball but question marks remain over his efficacy towards the back end of the innings.

Arshdeep Singh has made an impact both with new and old ball but was unusually expensive on Sunday. Having bowled as many as three no balls, it was a forgettable night for the left-arm pacer who would be eager to bounce back.

The variations that Harshal Patel relies on to keep the batters in check have not been producing the desired results since his return from injury. Red ball great R Ashwin is yet to get a wicket in the series and India will be looking to him for wickets in the middle overs.

Drafted into the squad in Bumrah's absence, Siraj could also get to play at Holkar Stadium but India might continue with the out of rhythm Harshal Patel as he would need more game time post injury.



STAR OF THE DAY: Sabhineni Meghana guides one away on the off-side during her innings against Malaysia, Monday

smashed a couple of sixes but failed to carry on the momentum once Meghana was out.

Richa Ghosh was elevated to the number three spot and the young wicketkeeper played a fluent 33-run (19b, 5x4, 1x6) knock, finding the gaps beautifully. But Shafali struggled to accelerate as Malaysia tightened their bowling and fielding while also triggering a mini-bat-

ting collapse.

In the eventful penultimate over, Shafali was bowled by 17-year-old Nur Dania Syuhada (2/9) off the first delivery before the spinner got rid of Kiran Navgire (0) in the next ball. It would have been three-wicket haul for the teenager had Richa not been dropped at deep mid-wicket on 31.

Defending 181, spinners Deepti

Sharma (1/10) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (1/6) got rid of openers Winifred Duraisingam (0) and Wan Julia (1) before rain stopped play.

BRIEF SCORES: India Women 181/4 (Sabhineni Meghana 69, Shafali Verma 46, Richa Ghosh 33 n o; Nur Dania Syuhada 2/9, Winifred Duraisingam 2/36) beat Malaysia Women 16/2 in 5.2 overs by 30 runs (D/L method).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sylhet, Oct 3: Opener Sabhineni Meghana batted with authority to record her maiden T20I half century as India defeated Malaysia by 30 runs via the Duckworth-Lewis method in the rain-curtailed Asia Cup match here Monday.

Replacing vice-captain Smriti Mandhana at the top, Meghana hit a career-best 69 (53b, 11x4, 1x6) to help India post 181/4. In reply, Malaysia were tottering at 16/2 in 5.2 overs when rain stopped play, far behind the 46-run mark which was the D/L par score when the match was called off.

With the win, India moved to the second spot on the points table - with four points - behind Pakistan.

Meghana took the Malaysian bowling attack to the sword as she brought up her career-best score in the format after India were asked to bat. The big-hitting Shafali Verma, who is struggling for form, also pitched in but the teenager looked scratchy for the most part of her 46-run (39b, 1x4, 3x6) knock.

Meghana made most of the opportunity provided to her as she donned the role of the aggressor from the very first ball. She milked boundaries every over, hitting the ball all across the ground in the powerplay as India fetched 47/0 in the first six overs.

She was dropped on 14 by skipper Winifred Duraisingam (2/36) in the third over and the right-hander made the Malaysian's pay for the error as she raced to fifty with a boundary. Poor fielding only added to Malaysia's woes as the Indian women looked on course for a 200-plus score.

However, Duraisingam got the big-wicket of Meghana. The Indian looked to drive only to chip the ball straight into the hands of extra cover, sending the entire Malaysian team into frenzy.

Shafali, who had played the second second fiddle to perfection,

WOMEN PADDLERS REACH LAST 16

Men keep knockout hope alive at Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chengdu, Oct 3: The Indian men's team, led by seasoned campaigner G Sathiyam, kept their hopes alive for a knockout stage berth, beating Kazakhstan 3-2 in a closely fought group league tie of the World Table Tennis Championship here Monday.

For the women's team, after a heartbreaking close defeat against Germany, Sreeja Akula and company prevailed over Egypt 3-1 to qualify for the pre-quarterfinals. The men's team now need to beat France in the final group league match to finish on top of group 2 table.

In case the Indian team lose to France and Germany happens to beat Kazakhstan, then there will be a three-way tie between India, Germany and France. After the high of beating Germany, Sathiyam started the new tie in earnest, making short work of Denis Zholudev in straight games. Sathiyam won 11-1, 11-9, 11-5.

However, Harmeet Desai had a poor outing against Kirill Gerassimenko to lose 6-11 8-11 9-11 in quick time. But, young Manav Thakkar beat Alan Kurmangaliyev 12-10, 11-1, 11-8.

With 2-1 lead, Sathiyam was expected to close the tie in the fourth rubber but Kirill pipped the Indian ace 6-11, 11-5, 12-14, 11-9, 11-6 to re-



G Sathiyam in action against Kazakhstan's Kirill Gerassimenko (not in pic) PIC: TWITTER

store parity. However, Harmeet was in his element against Kazakhstan's weakest link Jholudev whom he beat 12-10, 11-9, 11-6.

In the women's event, the Commonwealth Games mixed doubles gold medalist Sreeja Akula won the first and fourth rubbers to clinch a place for India in the knockout stages. After a poor outing against Germany, Manika Batra won the second rubber while Diya Chitale ended second best against her opponent.

Sreeja beat Goda Han 11-6 11-4, 11-1 and Dina Mishref 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6 while Manika struggled past Dina 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, 2-11, 11-8 in five games to help India win the match.

Saurashtra delay inevitable vs RoI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, Oct 3: Saurashtra's middle and lower-order showed a lot of stomach for fight, adding 281 runs by No.6 to 8 batters, but Rest of India remained firm favourites to win the Irani Cup match here Monday.

At stumps on third day, Saurashtra reached to 368/8, riding on half centuries from the quartet comprising Sheldon Jackson (71, 117b, 8x4, 3x6), Arpit Vasavada (55, 127b, 7x4, 1x6), Prerak Mankad (72, 83b, 9x4) and skipper Jaydev Unadkat (78 batting, 116b, 8x4, 2x6).

The overall lead is 92 runs now and Saurashtra will like to stretch it to at least 175 in order to set the cat among the pigeons. With 276 runs in arrears, Saurashtra were literally staring at a humiliating innings defeat after being reduced to 87/5 before lunch.

However, Jackson and Vasavada, who have bailed Saurashtra out many-a-times in the past, added 117 runs for the sixth wicket to steady the ship. But, it was the 144-run eighth wicket stand between Unadkat and all-rounder Mankad that raised visions - however improbable it may look at the moment - of pulling off a heist.

The duo not only had a century stand but also scored the runs at a quick clip - in only 29.3 overs - to keep the contest alive.

If it was Jackson who took the attack back to the opposition by repeatedly stepping out to left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar (3/80) to disturb his length, the pair of Unadkat and Mankad used the extra pace of Kuldeep Sen (3/85) and Umran



JAYDEV UNADKAT

Malik (0/59) to their advantage.

Pujara fails again

Cheteshwar Pujara (1) would like to forget this Irani Cup match in a hurry as a rookie pacer like Kuldeep made life difficult for him with his extra pace and bounce.

On this ground, Pujara has hardly failed but his lack of feet movement and late reaction to deliveries with that extra kick will surely not go unnoticed as far as selectors Chetan Sharma and Sunil Joshi are concerned.

The problems that has been his undoing at the Test level is now resurfacing at the domestic level

where he earlier used to rule. Bowlers with extra pace at the domestic level are also asking Pujara probing questions.

Kuldeep got one to rear up from length on the off-stump and Pujara just dangled his bat with KS Bharat taking an easy catch.

BRIEF SCORES

Saurashtra 98 and 368/8 (Jaydev Unadkat 78 batting, Prerak Mankad 72, Sheldon Jackson 71, Arpit Vasavada 55; Saurabh Kumar 3/80, Kuldeep Sen 3/85; Rest of India 374. Saurashtra ahead by 92 runs. Match to continue.

BENZEMA MISSES PENALTY KICK

10-man Osasuna end Madrid's winning run

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Oct 3: It was not the return to action that Karim Benzema had hoped for. Back in Real Madrid's squad after a long injury layoff, the France striker missed a second-half penalty kick that helped to end the team's perfect start to the season.

Madrid's streak of nine straight victories in all competitions was halted after a 1-1 home draw against 10-man Osasuna in the Spanish league Sunday. The result also cost Madrid the league lead, as they were surpassed by Barcelona following their 1-0 win at Mallorca Saturday. Both teams are tied on 19 points but the Catalans are ahead on goal difference.

Benzema, who had missed three straight matches because of a right leg injury sustained before the international break, had a chance to give Madrid the lead in the 79th minute, but his shot from the spot was saved by Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera.

It was the third straight penalty miss by Benzema against the Osasuna goalkeeper. He had two penalties saved by Herrera in April when Madrid won. And things were clearly not going Benzema's way as shortly after the striker had a goal disallowed for offside.

Vincius Junior had opened the scoring in the 42nd after finding the



Karim Benzema reacts after missing the spot-kick, Sunday

far corner with what appeared to be a cross attempt into the area, but the visitors equalised with a header by Kike Garcia in the 50th.

Osasuna went a man down when David Garcia was sent off for the foul on Benzema that prompted the penalty. It was Osasuna's first draw after four wins and two losses this season, keeping the Pamplona club in sixth place. It got the point at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium despite playing without the suspended Chimy Avila, one of its best players.

Bumrah out of T20 World Cup: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the ICC T20 World Cup due to a back injury, the BCCI announced Monday. That Bumrah is ruled out of the big-ticket event due to a stress fracture was first reported by this agency September 29.

Bumrah's absence will certainly affect India's chances in the marquee event in Australia as death bowling still remains a grey area. The BCCI was awaiting medical reports while the pacer did his rehab at the National Cricket Academy but it was a foregone conclusion that he would be out for months.

"The BCCI Medical team has ruled out Team India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup squad. The decision was taken following a detailed assessment and in consultation with the specialists," BCCI secre-



tary Jay Shah said in a statement.

While the BCCI will be naming a replacement for Bumrah in the squad for the marquee tournament soon, one among Mohammed Shami and Deepak Chahar will make it to the main squad.

Bumrah has had a history of back problem due to his slinging unorthodox front-on action which puts a lot of load on his back. He was ruled out for three months in 2019 also with a minor stress fracture but this

time, it could well be a case of at least four to six months of no show.

This year, Bumrah has played only 5 games each in three formats apart from 14 games for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League. The question that is now being asked is whether Bumrah was rushed too quickly and could have been kept under wraps till the start of the T20 World Cup.

"That would have been a double edged sword. Here you are talking about World T20. How can Bumrah, coming back from back injury, be directly fielded in a high stakes game like Pakistan? What if he broke down there?" a BCCI source, who was aware about the development, told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Rahul bhai had to take a chance and play him in these two series and allow him to get overs under his belt. We shouldn't blame the team management."

India women to open campaign against Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 3: India will open their campaign in the 2023 women's T20 World Cup against arch-rivals Pakistan February 12 in Cape Town, according to the fixture announced by the ICC Monday.

India have been placed in Group 2 along with England, West Indies, Pakistan and qualifiers Ireland in the February 10-26 tournament to be held in South Africa.

India's second match will be against the West Indies February 15 before they take on England and Ireland February 18 and 20 in Geberha. The final will be played February 26 in Cape Town, with a reserve day available on the next day in case of major interruptions in play on the designated date.

Caputi 1st woman ref in Serie A

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, Oct 3: Atalanta moved joint top in Italy with a 1-0 win over Fiorentina while, at Sassuolo, Maria Sole Ferrieri Caputi became the first woman to referee a Serie A match.

Atalanta's Ademola Lookman scored the only goal of the game in the 59th minute, although it was all about the assist by Luis Muriel. Atalanta moved level with Napoli, which beat Torino 3-1 on Saturday. They are three points above defending champion AC Milan and Lazio.

There was a moment of controversy shortly before halftime when Fiorentina forward Christian Kouame was shown a straight red card after contact with Atalanta midfielder Marten de Roon but it was revoked after the referee reviewed the incident



on the pitchside monitor.

Atalanta finally broke the deadlock 14 minutes into the second half when Muriel gathered a throw-in with his back to goal, turned and skipped past two players before pulling it back for Lookman to tap in from close range.

Caputi became the first woman to referee a Serie A game when she

took charge of Sassuolo's 5-0 win over Salernitana. There was little controversy in a dominant performance by the home side, although Ferrieri Caputi did award a penalty for Sassuolo's second goal.

Juventus rebounded from a disappointing defeat to promoted Monza with a 3-0 win over Bologna. Filip Kostic netted his first goal for the club in the first half and Dusan Vlahovic and Arkadiusz Krystian Milik scored after the break. Milik also sent a header onto the post late on. It was only a third win in eight league matches for Juventus and sent it to seventh in the standings.

After beating Juventus before the international break for their first-ever Serie A win, Silvio Berlusconi's Monza made it two wins out of two with a 3-0 victory at bottom club Sampdoria.