



SWARA'S WARNING

Actor Swara Bhasker says the more an atmosphere of fear is built, the more the culture and entertainment will suffer

LEISURE P2



HISTORIC MOVE

The UN Human Rights Council agrees to monitor the rights situation in Russia

INTERNATIONAL P10



DENNERBY CONFIDENT

Head coach Thomas Dennerby confident that Indian eyes can reach quarters of U-17 Women's World Cup

SPORTS P12

Women bag top 3 ranks in OCS



TEJASWINI BEHERA

RANK 1



SUBHANKARI SUDESHNA DAS

RANK 2



ANANYA SHRUSTI SATPATHY

RANK 3

The top 10 places were secured by seven women and three male candidates

third positions respectively.

The fourth position was secured by Debabrata Kar, while Debabrata Maharana became the fifth topper in the OCS examination.

Abhismita Tiwari secured the sixth position, while Subhashree Rath secured the seventh position. The top ten places were secured by seven women and three male candidates.

The personality tests for the OCS examination-2020 were held from September 19 to September 30, 2022. The advertisement for these posts was made in 2020 and the preliminary examinations were conducted in 2021.

My priorities will be education, health and women empowerment
TEJASWINI BEHERA



POMP & GAITY: Women dressed in traditional attire dance to celebrate the week-long Kullu Dussehra festival, in Himachal Pradesh, Friday.

PTI PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Women bagged the top three positions in the Odisha Civil Services (OCS) 2020 examination, the results of which were announced by the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) Friday.

The OPSC announced the names of 392 candidates, including 148 women, for appointment to the posts coming under Group A and Group B of the OCS.

Tejaswini Behera secured the top rank, while Subhankari Sudeshna Das and Ananya Shrusti Satpathy secured the second and

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Not a cause for worry. We can always rewrite history!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VAR.	CHANGE
SENSEX	58191.29	↓	30.81
NIFTY	17314.65	↓	17.15
DOLLAR	81.53	↓	₹0.11
EURO	80.74	↑	₹0.39
GOLD	₹51,839	↓	₹133
SILVER	₹60,868	↓	₹478

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.4°C	32.0°C
MIN	23.6°C	23.5°C
Humidity	91%	92%
Rainfall	0.5mm	5.6mm

Forecast: Light rain likely

US envoy's PoK visit riles India

Throughout his visit, US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, repeatedly mentioned the PoK region as AJK (Azad Jammu and Kashmir)

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: India has conveyed its objections to the US over the recent visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) by the American Ambassador to Islamabad, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday.

India also took objections to the US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome holding some meetings in PoK. "We have conveyed our objections to the visit," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

Blome throughout his visit repeatedly mentioned the PoK region as AJK (Azad Jammu and Kashmir), which New Delhi says was forcibly occupied by Pakistan in 1947.

"The Quaid-e-Azam Memorial Dak Bungalow symbolizes the cultural and historical richness of

ARE INDO-US TIES STRAINED?



The relations between the 'natural allies' - India and the USA -- have been put under severe stress in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. India has on multiple occasions abstained from voting against Russia in the United Nations Security Council

Weeks ago, the US State Department had approved a Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Pakistan for the sustainability of the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet and equipment at the cost of USD 450 million, drawing strong reactions from India

'Exercise caution while visiting India'

Washington: The US Friday asked its citizens to exercise 'increased caution' while travelling to India due to 'crime and terrorism' and advised them not to travel to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In a new travel advisory issued Friday, the US State Department reduced the India Travel Advisory Level to 2 on a scale of one to 4 with the latter being the highest.

More on P10

Pakistan and was famously visited by Jinnah in 1944. I'm honored to visit during my first trip to A.J.K.," Blome's official Twitter handle tweeted. This is the second visit by a US official to PoK in recent times. In April, the MEA had not taken kindly the PoK visit of US

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, describing her as a practitioner of "narrow-minded politics."

The latest PoK visit of the US diplomat adds to the country's attempt to mend fences with Pakistan, which had been kept at an arm's length by the Trump administration.

Nobel Peace to rights activists on Putin's b'day

Jailed Belarus rights activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and the Ukrainian organisation Center for Civil Liberties get the coveted prize

AGENCIES

Oslo, Oct 7: This year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to jailed Belarus rights activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and the Ukrainian organisation Center for Civil Liberties, a strong rebuke to Russia's President Vladimir Putin on his 70th birthday.

Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the panel wanted to honour "three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peaceful co-existence in the neighbour countries Belarus, Russia and Ukraine."

"Through their consistent efforts in favour of human values and anti-militarism and principles of law, this year's laureates have re-visualised and honoured Alfred Nobel's vision of peace and fraternity between nations, a vision most needed in the world today," she told reporters in Oslo.

Bialiatski was one of the leaders of the democracy movement in



File pic of jailed activist Ales Bialiatski

Belarus in the mid 1980s and has continued to campaign for human rights and civil liberties in the authoritarian country. He founded the non-governmental organization Human Rights Center Viasna and won the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes referred to as the "Alternative Nobel," in 2020.

Bialiatski was detained following anti-government protests that year and remains in jail without trial.

Despite personal hardship, Bialiatski has not yielded one inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus," Reiss-Andersen said, adding the Nobel panel was calling on Belarusian authorities to release him. She said the Nobel Committee was aware of the possibility that by awarding him the prize Bialiatski might face additional scrutiny from authorities in Belarus.

Contd...4

Class VII student dies after giving birth to stillborn

POST NEWS NETWORK

G. Udayagiri, Oct 7: In a shocking incident, a minor girl died 24 hours after giving birth to a stillborn at G Udayagiri community health centre (CHC) in Kandhamal district late Thursday night.

A case has been registered at G. Udayagiri police station in this regard, while an investigation is on. Locals have sought to know why members of the district child protection committee and the district administration did not admit the minor to the district headquarters hospital. They have alleged that the girl died due to medical negligence.

The girl was a Class VII student of a government-run residential girls' high school at Rangaparuru under Belghar police limits. The school authorities found that she was pregnant September 24 and filed a complaint at Belghar police station.

Police came to know that the girl was raped by a minor. The accused was sent to a rehabilitation centre. The district child welfare committee kept the girl at a child-care unit. October 5, she delivered a stillborn baby.

Thursday night, the girl's condition deteriorated and doctors immediately referred her to the district headquarters hospital at Phulbani. But before an ambulance could be arranged, she breathed her last.

State approves ₹1,923cr investment in 10 projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The Odisha government Friday accorded in-principle approval for setting up of 10 industrial projects with an investment of ₹1,923.60 crore in different sectors.

The approval was given at the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) meeting held here under the chairpersonship of Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra.

The committee approved 10 projects worth ₹1,923.60 crore that would generate employment opportunities for over 5,170 people

in the state, said Industry secretary Hemant Sharma.

The approved projects will be set up across Odisha with four projects being set up in Khurda district, and one each in Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Balasore, Keonjhar and Angul districts.

A proposal of Luminous Power Technologies Private Limited to set up a manufacturing unit of new technology eco-friendly Batteries Fuel Cell, Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC batteries), and Power storage and Solar batteries in the Angul Aluminium Park got the approval. **Contd...4**

None of Ravana's heads burns; clerk suspended

AGENCIES

Dhantari, Oct 7: An employee of Dhantari civic body in Chhattisgarh was suspended and show-cause notices were issued to four officials after all ten heads of the effigy of Ravana remained unburnt during the Dussehra celebrations here.

The pictures of the effigy-burning event held October 5 in Ramleela Maidan in Dhantari show the heads of the demon king remained intact, while the torso was reduced to ashes.

Dussehra or Vijaydashami marks the end of the annual Durga Puja festival, wherein the effigies

of Ravana are burnt across the country to symbolise the victory of good over evil.

In Dhantari, the Ravana effigy-burning event was organised by the local civic body.

After the Dussehra celebration, the Dhantari Municipal Corporation (DMC) ordered suspension of clerk Rajendra Yadav for his alleged negligence in making the effigy of Ravana.

The order states, Yadav, assistant grade-3, has committed grave negligence in making effigy of Ravana for Dussehra celebration 2022 that maligned the image of the DMC.



After the suspension of Yadav, another employee, Samarth Ransingh, was given his charge, said Rajesh Padamwar, executive engineer of the DMC.

Besides, four officials - assistant

engineer Vijay Mehra and sub-engineers Lomas Dewangan, Kamlesh Thakur and Kamta Nagendra - have been issued show-cause notices by the DMC, which has sought their replies in this connection, he said.

Padamwar is currently handling the charge as the civic body chief since DMC commissioner Vinay Kumar Poyam is on leave.

Dhantari Mayor Vijay Devangan said the action has been taken against those who were given the responsibility of making the effigy and now payment of the work will be withheld.

According to the corporation of officials, the artisans engaged in making the effigy allegedly were involved in setting it up at the ground ahead of the function.

Ten heads of the effigy remained unburnt which indicates that it was not made properly, they said.

leisure



SHARNA BURGESS BECOMES US CITIZEN

Dancing With the Stars pro Sharna Burgess is celebrating after becoming a US citizen - declaring she has finally found her home almost two decades after leaving her native Australia. Sharna left Australia at the age of 18 to pursue her career as a dancer.

BRAD PITT TO RESPOND IN COURT TO ANGELINA JOLIE'S ALLEGATIONS

Brad Pitt's lawyer says the actor will respond in court to Angelina Jolie's claims he was violent towards their kids. The *Maleficent* actress claimed in legal documents earlier this week that her ex-husband had 'choked' one of their children and 'struck another in the face' during a flight from France to California in September 2016.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

Today, you may look around and feel grateful for the wonderful blessings bestowed on you - your family, home, job, friends. This may prompt you to organise a little thanksgiving kind of get-together with your family and friends. Ganesh gives a thumbs up.

TAURUS

You are hard working by nature but get highly frustrated when things do not end the way you had imagined, feels Ganesh. This may lead to anger against the system or the order in which things work. You will vent your frustration on your routine by longing for an alternate lifestyle, wishing and hoping for more relaxation and perhaps a spontaneous vacation.

GEMINI

Today, you are likely to over-react during a minor argument, and the tiff may blow out of proportion. Ganesh advises you to get a grip on your temper. You are a brave person and you'll need a lot of it today, mostly for accepting your own mistakes. If you are into retail business, it's a profitable day for you.

CANCER

You must get ready yourself to handle a few usual situations in an unusual way, foretells Ganesh. You will probably learn a few lessons in public psychology during the afternoon. Before arriving at any crucial decision, weigh the pros and cons with an unbiased mind, says Ganesh.

LEO

Making new friends is like having cookies: one is never enough. Ganesh sees that you take this idea quite seriously, and will make all the efforts to swell your circle of friends today. It is a good thing, since your new friends may prove to be useful to you in times of need. On a more personal front, Ganesh says your feelings need a free expression in the evening.

VIRGO

Don't blow up on trivial matters, says Ganesh, lest it may damage close relationships. An out-of-court settlement will terminate all legal hassles. In the evenings, swipe that credit card freely and indulge yourself.

LIBRA

It's an early day for a successful start to a new joint business venture, so do not lose any time and get going. Carry on in the same enthusiasm, and you will generate magnificent results at work later in the day. Remember, it is the loved ones who shall prove to be very valuable for you today.

SCORPIO

A day to get those feet up and enjoy the luxuries of life with your spouse, predicts Ganesh. At work, your table is the best table to get jobs done. Unknown benefactors will support your cause and help you progress, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Goldfinger might just be your nickname today. Whatever you take up to do will yield results much more than expected. You would not shy away from showering praise on others for their contribution. Beloved ones will be the cynosure of your attention. Ganesh, however, advises you to be prudent when spending on them.

CAPRICORN

It takes years of hard work, optimism and unceasing support of loved ones to reach the pinnacle of success. But you will only have to be tactful, says Ganesh. You will take matters more seriously today and will treat your subordinates as equals for achieving your targets. At home, you will spend some quality time with family members and realise that they need you more than anything else.

AQUARIUS

It's time to have a riot with friends! You don't always have to be goody two-shoes. Do something you've never done before and break a few of those self-made rules. Watch how you suddenly become irresistible to one and all, says Ganesh.

PISCES

Frustration born out of a sense of stagnation will make you aggressive today. And while you are not likely to be able to meet all your deadlines, you will still make enough of an impact for people to realise the importance of your presence. Worry not, for things will take a turn for the better soon, says Ganesh.



Mouni reacts to being compared with Alia

Mumbai: Actress Mouni Roy has recently spoken about the love and appreciation she's been receiving for her film *Brahmastra*. The actor was seen as Junoon, the antagonist in the Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt-starrer. In a new interview, Mouni was asked about some fan comments on social media that said her role in the Ayan Mukerji film was 'more important' than Alia Bhatt's role in the fantasy drama.

"I don't think anything is more important or less important. My role was only mine, I had to play the role of the antagonist in the film. That was my responsibility. I had to focus on my character and that's what I did. It feels very nice to hear the audiences' response... I think my hard work over the years has paid off," Mouni said.

The actor further spoke about her family and friends' reaction to Junoon, and how it made her 'very scared'. Mouni said, "My family and friends' reactions are the most important for me. I was really scared about their reaction. By the end of the movie, they were all overwhelmed and some even had tears in their eyes."

AGENCIES

Jungles teach you patience: Sadaa

Chennai: Actress Sadaa, who has turned into an avid wildlife photographer, says that jungles can teach you patience and when time comes, they can test the same too.

The actress recently took to her Instagram to share a video of her clicking pictures of Jugni, a young tigress.

She wrote, "When Jugni is in 'Peek-a-boo' mood... I later learned that Jugni is the granddaughter of my most beloved tigress Mataram!"

Taking a philosophical route, she then mentioned in her caption, "Jungles teach you patience and test it too. In jungles, it's the law and the will of wild animals that we respect and gladly (do) so!" She further noted, "They either show up in their full glory or keep you waiting for hours to give just a glimpse. One such instance when Jugni decided to hide behind a rock giving us mortals only glimpses of her!"

She then went onto present a sad reality about animals in captivity in Thailand, "I'm referring to all celebs/influencers who are flocking the Thailand Tiger Parks, trying to look brave posing with sedated and exploited tigers (sic)". She also noted, "The video was shot handheld, kindly excuse the shakes. Had no scope to use a bean bag here!"

IANS

Madhuri: Era of boxing characters is over

Mumbai: Actress Madhuri Dixit, whose streaming movie *Maja Ma* released recently, is chuffed with the response so far to the film. The actress is playing the role of a lesbian in the film, and making a statement on the new-age brave content from the Hindi film industry, she shared her thoughts on the subject.

Excited about the response that the movie has been receiving, Madhuri Dixit shared: "*Maja Ma* proves that the era of boxing people and characters is over. Pallavi's sexual orientation is just one of the many facets of her identity. She is much more than that - a brilliant dancer, a dotting mother, a friend and above all, a human being who can inspire others around her."

Further talking about the arc of her character in the film, the actress said: "The storyline depicts a journey of evolution and Pallavi's character showcases that journey with a myriad of emotions and feelings ranging from confusion, fear, to acceptance and courage to accept one's own true identity." "This movie is about love, family and acceptance, but all of it is said without being preachy. In a way, *Maja Ma* encourages people to not be judgmental and embrace others for who they are," she added. *Maja Ma* is currently streaming on Prime Video.

IANS

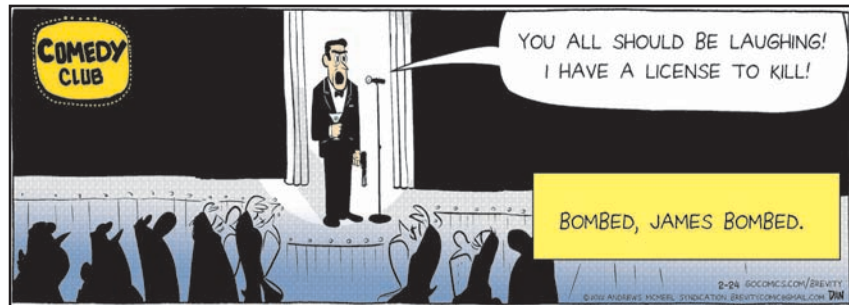
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

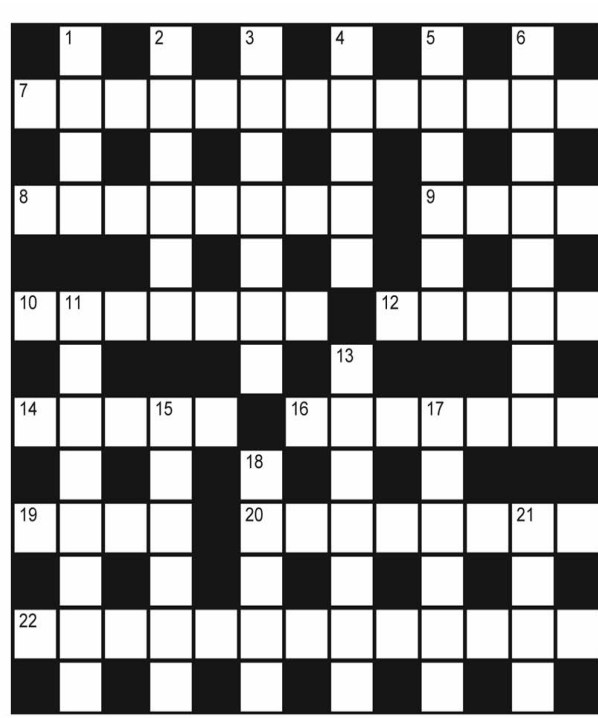


BREVITY



FUN post

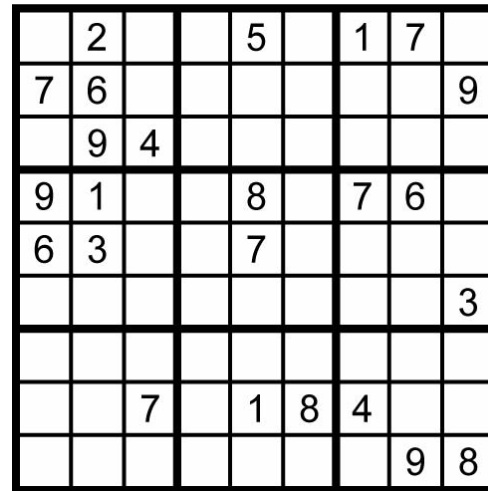
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Game room addition (8,5)
 - 8 Aura
 - 9 Blessing
 - 10 Tornado
 - 12 Sudden short attack
 - 14 Goldbrick
 - 16 Fervency
 - 19 Ablutionary vessel
 - 20 Weatherstrip
 - 22 Internal layer of a mollusk shell (6-2-5)
 - 6 Imaginary place of great wealth
 - 11 Big name in pottery
 - 13 Misrepresent
 - 15 Like some humour
 - 17 Flatware
 - 18 Jewelled headdress
 - 21 School session
- Down**
- 1 Shipshape
 - 2 Fife relatives
 - 3 Meal fit for a king
 - 4 Parting word
 - 5 Cane material

SUDOKU

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

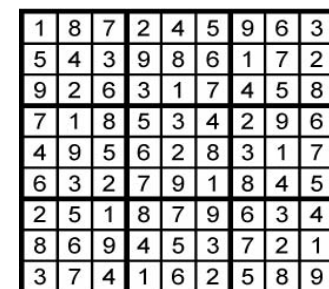


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

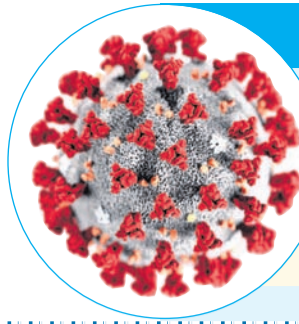


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



GRACEFUL MOVES

Artistes of Nirjhara Cultural Academy perform during celebration of Kumar Mahotsav at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	62,57,47,779	60,53,60,144	65,58,409
India	4,46,06,460	4,40,47,344	5,28,754
Odisha	13,34,705	13,24,912	9,199

Archana arrest in City stirs up hornets' nest

COMMISSIONERATE POLICE KEEPS AN INEXPLICABLE SILENCE OVER THE ARREST OF THE MYSTERIOUS LADY, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN SEXTORTION



■ The cops who carried out a raid at Archana's residence here Thursday were left awestruck after coming across the luxurious interior of the building

■ The couple owns several expensive vehicles including Toyota Fortuner, BMW and a Harley Davidson motorcycle

■ Archana used to blackmail several people by secretly video-recording the intimate moments of the persons with her

Meanwhile, the city police kept an inexplicable silence over the arrest of the lady. Senior officers involved in the whole operation are either dodging the calls from media persons or have switched off their phones.

Sources claimed that police are scared to reveal anything about the case as the accused lady is a member of a prominent political party of the state. Similarly, the names of several high-profile leaders and officers also came to the fore during the course of investigation. Archana used to blackmail several people by secretly video-recording the intimate moments of the persons with her.

She was reportedly forwarded to court by Khandagiri police in a case registered at the police station by one of her associates staying at Jagamara area recently.

The complainant reportedly accused Archana of forcing her to blackmail influential people after keeping illicit relationship with them. She had also alleged that she fraudulently took her signature and tried to blackmail a noted film producer threatening to file a case of sexual abuse case against him at Laxmi Sagar police station a few days back.

The producer had also filed a case against Archana and her associate at Nayapalli police station. He alleged that Archana impersonating an advocate had demanded huge amount from him to avoid get embroiled in legal cases.

However, police are yet to officially confirm the arrest of Archana.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: In a significant development, the Commissionerate Police has arrested a mysterious woman allegedly involved in the blackmailing of several high-profile political leaders and officials in the Capital city.

The lady, identified as Archana Nag, along with her husband has

been residing at a multi-storey building at Satya Vihar under Mancheswar police limits here.

The cops who carried out a raid at Archana's residence here Thursday were left awestruck after coming across the luxurious interior of the building. The couple also owns several expensive vehicles including Toyota Fortuner, BMW and a Harley Davidson motorcycle.



FOR A BIG CATCH: A fisherman casts his net in Kuakhai river on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar as the sun sets in, Friday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

₹85.85cr work plan for anti-Naxal ops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The state government has rolled out annual work plan (AWP) of Rs 85.85 crore for continuing anti-Naxal operations during the current year.

The AWP was approved in State Level Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra here Friday wherein IG, Operations, Amitav Thakur presented the updated situation with proposed work plan for discussion.

The AWP of Rs 85.85 crore for 2022-23 financial year is about 50 per cent more than that of outlay made in the previous year. The outlay for 2021-22 was Rs 50.56 crore.

The funds for AWP 2022-23 would be shared by the Union and state governments on 60:40 sharing formula.

With increase in budget provision, ex gratia for the civilians and security personnel on duty was enhanced from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, and Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh respectively.

While giving nod to the AWP, Mahapatra directed the officials to provide adequate logistic support to the armed forces engaged in anti-terrorist operations.

He also asked to intensify community mobilisation and confidence building activities in the suspected Left-wing infested pockets. He specifically directed police to stay connected with the people and com-

munity, know their concerns and raise their confidence level.

Mahapatra also directed to support better alternative livelihood activities, and children education in the communities.

"People's confidence and participation would go a long way in rooting out of LWE activities from the suspected pockets," he said.

Discussions in the meeting revealed that the Left-wing extremism (LWE) activities are well under control in the state. Swabhimana Anchal in Malkangiri, once considered as the epicentre of extremists, could be freed from the rebels with developmental interventions in the area.

Well-planned intelligence-based actions are being taken to counter

them as and where their ugly heads appear.

The main activities of AWP-2022-23 include procurement of modern ammunition, adequate logistic support to armed forces, training for state police force, community policing, additional fortification of the police posts, and rehabilitation of LWE cadres.

Besides, the affected civilians and security personnel would be extended ex gratia and property damage grant as per the specified guidelines.

Among others, Director General Police Sunil Kumar Bansal, Additional Chief Secretary Home Sanjeev Chopra, Special Secretary Home Santosh Bala participated in the deliberations.

STATE SEES 4% DROP IN ROAD FATALITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Odisha has registered around 4 per cent decline in road mishap fatalities in the month of July this year as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

According to sources, the state has registered 383 road mishap deaths in July 2022 as against 399 such deaths in July 2021 - a decline by 4.01 per cent.

In the first quarter of the year, the state has recorded a negative growth of 10.37 per cent in accidents and 7.55 per cent in fatalities.

The state recorded 2,895 road accidents resulting in 1,359 deaths during same period whereas 3,230 accidents and 1,470 deaths were registered during the first quar-

In the first quarter of the year, the state has recorded a negative growth of 10.37 per cent in accidents and 7.55 per cent in fatalities



LAST MINUTE PREP: An artisan gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Goddess Laxmi at Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

BMC diktat to food joints causing health hazard, traffic congestion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Keeping sanitation, public health and hassle-free movement of citizens in view, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday came out with a new set of guidelines for roadside eateries.

These norms will be followed with immediate effect for ensuring improved sanitation and hygiene in the Capital city with active participation of citizens.

In a notification Friday, BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said, "It has come to the knowledge of the civic body that a great number of food outlets are doing their businesses on the roadside without having sufficient space for parking and sanitation protocols in place."

Their customers are used to park their vehicles on the road and eat there causing huge sanitation hazards and traffic congestion, putting the local people and

THRUST ON HYGIENE

Food outlets not having sufficient parking space for vehicles of customers should not serve food items on the spot. They should opt for take-home food or online delivery of their food items only

Vendors to clean the area falling within 5-metre radius of their outlet by themselves

commuters in utter trouble, the notification said

"Therefore, the vendors of all roadside food outlets and their associations are hereby directed to abide by following conditions. No food outlet should be on the road, footpath and over drains. Food outlets not having sufficient parking space for vehicles of customers should not serve food items on the spot. They should opt for take-home food or online delivery of their food items only.

The food outlets having required parking space have to follow the sanitation protocols of BMC and keep twin dustbins at their shops, handover the garbage to door-to-door collection vehicles and clean the area falling within 5-metre radius of their outlet by themselves."

This apart, food outlet workers will have to wear clean clothes and proper attire like caps, clean apron, gloves and face masks, and serve the food in a hygienic manner.

Food outlets have to obey and ensure all principles of food safety and no food outlet is allowed to do business in locations designated as 'No Vending Zone' by BMC.

Any deviation to these instructions will be viewed seriously and BMC will take all measures to impose penalty and close the shop with cancellation of trade licence and seizure of vehicles illegally parked on the road, the notification reads.

NASA-funded tech can charge cars in 5 mins

A new NASA-funded technology for future space missions may charge an electric car in just five minutes on Earth, paving the way for increased adoption of such vehicles, the US space agency said.

Researchers at Purdue University, US developed the Flow Boiling and Condensation Experiment (FBCE) to enable two-phase fluid flow and heat transfer experiments to be conducted in the long-duration microgravity environment on the International Space Station (ISS).

The new "subcooled flow boiling" technique results in greatly improved heat transfer effectiveness compared to other approaches and could be used to control the temperatures of future systems in space.

This technology can also have applications on Earth: It could make owning an electric car more appealing, the researchers said.

Currently, charging times vary widely, from 20 minutes at a station alongside a roadway to hours using an at-home charging station.

Lengthy charging times and charger location are both cited as



■ CURRENTLY, ADVANCED CHARGERS ONLY DELIVER CURRENTS UP TO 520 AMPERES, AND MOST CHARGERS AVAILABLE TO CONSUMERS SUPPORT CURRENTS OF LESS THAN 150 AMPERES

■ USING THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY, DIELECTRIC -- NON-ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTING -- LIQUID COOLANT IS PUMPED THROUGH THE CHARGING CABLE, WHERE IT CAPTURES THE HEAT GENERATED BY THE CURRENT-CARRYING CONDUCTOR

■ THE CHARGING CABLE CAN PROVIDE 2,400 AMPERES, WHICH IS FAR BEYOND THE 1,400 AMPERES REQUIRED TO REDUCE TIME REQUIRED TO CHARGE AN ELECTRIC CAR TO FIVE MINUTES

major concerns of people who are considering electric vehicle ownership.

Reducing the charging time for electric vehicles to five minutes -- an industry goal -- will require charging systems to provide current at 1,400 amperes.

Currently, advanced chargers only deliver currents up to 520 amperes, and most chargers available to consumers support currents of less than 150 amperes.

However, charging systems providing 1,400 amperes will generate significantly more heat than

current systems, and will require improved methods to control temperature.

Recently, the team applied the technique learned from the NASA FBCE experiments to the electric vehicle charging process.

Using this new technology, dielectric -- non-electrically conducting -- liquid coolant is pumped through the charging cable, where it captures the heat generated by the current-carrying conductor.

Subcooled flow boiling allows the team to deliver 4.6 times the current of the fastest available electric vehicle chargers on the market today by removing up to 24.22 kilowatts of heat, the researchers said.

The charging cable can provide 2,400 amperes, which is far beyond the 1,400 amperes required to reduce time required to charge an electric car to five minutes, they said.

"Application of this new technology resulted in unprecedented reduction of the time required to charge a vehicle and may remove one of the key barriers to worldwide adoption of electric vehicles," the researchers added.

Notification out for Dhamnagar bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Notification for the conduct of byelection to the Dhamnagar Assembly seat (SC) was issued by the office of sub-collector, Bhadrak, Friday. Voting will be held between 7am to 6pm November 3.

Speaking to reporters here, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sushil Kumar Lohani said over 2.38 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise for the byelection required following the death of BJP M.L.A Bishnu Sethi September 19 last.

The voting will be conducted as per the final electoral roll published in January 2022 and updates up to the date of filing of nominations will be used for the election, he said.

As of January 1, 2022 the constituency had 2,38,360 voters including 1,23,013 male 1,15,314 fe-

male and 33 third genders. Voters above 80 years of age and PWD voters are being given forms to give them the option to cast their votes through postal ballots, he said.

Lohani said as per the schedule announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI), October 14 has been fixed as the last date of nomination. The scrutiny of nomination papers will be done October 15. And October 17 has been fixed as the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Over 2.38 lakh voters to exercise franchise for the by-poll

Polling will be held November 3 from 7 am till 6 pm and the counting of votes will be taken up November 6. The results will be declared on the same day and the entire election process will be completed before November 8, 2022.

Lohani said adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs for the by-elections have been procured.

Nobel Peace to rights activists on Putin's b'day

Continued from P1

"But we also have the point of view that the individuals behind these organisations, they have chosen to take a risk and pay a high price and show courage to fight for what they believe in," she said.

"We do pray that this price will not affect him negatively, but we hope it might boost his morale."

Memorial was founded in the Soviet Union in 1987 to ensure the victims of communist repression would be remembered. It has continued to compile information on human rights abuses in Russia and tracked the fate of political prisoners in the country.

"The organisation has also been standing at the forefront of efforts to combat militarism and promote human rights and democracy in Ukraine during a period of turmoil in the country."

"The center has taken a stand to strengthen Ukrainian civil society and pressure the authorities to make Ukraine a full fledged democracy to develop Ukraine into a state governed by rule of law," said Reiss-Andersen.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, the group has worked to document Russian war crimes against Ukrainian civilians.

"The center is playing a pioneering role with a view to holding the guilty parties accountable for their crimes," said Reiss-Andersen.

"The center is playing a pioneering role with a view to holding the guilty parties accountable for their crimes," said Reiss-Andersen.

"The center is playing a pioneering role with a view to holding the guilty parties accountable for their crimes," said Reiss-Andersen.

State approves ₹1,923cr investment in 10 projects

Continued from P1

The project will be set up at an investment of Rs 481 crore generating employment for over 1,150 people.

The committee gave a nod to the proposal of Silox India Private Limited to set up a chemical manufacturing unit in Paradeep Industrial Area. The unit is expected to produce 25,000 MTPA Sodium Formaldehyde Sulphoxylate, 2,000 MTPA Zinc Formaldehyde Sulphoxylate, 15,000 MTP Metal Salts of Cobalt, Nickel, Magnesium, Lithium, and Zinc. The unit is being set up with an investment of Rs 500 crore and is expected to generate employment opportunities for over 800 people.

The committee also approved the investment of Rs 265 crore of Happiest Minds Technologies Limited in setting up a software development centre facility offering IT services at O-Hub in Info-valley SEZ, Bhubaneswar. The project is expected to create over 1,500 highly skilled job opportunities in the state, Sharma said.

The committee approved MGM Resorts Pvt Ltd's 5-star Hotel Hyatt Regency with an investment of Rs 180 crore. The project will come up in the New Marine Drive Road, Puri.

The committee also approved Oil India Limited's oil and gas exploration units with an installed capacity of 10KLPD each in Astaranga, Puri and Patkura, Kendrapara. OIL will be investing over Rs 108 crore in the state creating employment opportunities for over 115 people.

In agro and food processing sector, investment worth Rs 150 crore aqua feed manufacturing facility with an annual capacity of 1,80,000 MT proposed by IFB Agro Industries Limited was approved by the committee. The project will be set up in Somanathpur Industrial Estate, Balasore with an estimated employment potential of over 270.

LACK OF BASIC AMENITIES IN 68 VILLAGES

NHRC seeks ATRs from Chief Secy, Koraput DM



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought Action-Taken Reports (ATRs) from the Chief Secretary and the district magistrate (DM) of Koraput in connection with the alleged lack of basic amenities in at least 68 villages of the district.

The NHRC move came in response to a batch of petitions filed by rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. The commission has asked the state Chief secretary to submit a separate reply without any delay while the DM has been asked to send his reply within four weeks.

In his petitions, Tripathy had informed the commission that even after seven decades of independence, as many as 70 villages in Koraput have not been able to get

basic amenities. "There are no basic facilities such as road, drinking water, health-care and electrification in many villages of Koraput" Tripathy said, alleging that it is a violation of human rights.

He specifically mentioned the names of six villages: Gunjiaguda, Majhiguda, Chuaphula, Bilapat, Dumuriguda, Raipada, Badagan, Burudi Sahi, Pottangi, Katraguda, Lenjiguda, Maliguda, Ghasbanaiguda and Gandrigr, in his complaint filed before the NHRC.

The issues have been brought to the fore of the authorities on numerous occasions, but a little has progressed so far, the rights activist said.

Taking note, the apex rights body has asked the Koraput Collector and the Chief Secretary to revert with ATRs by November 9 this year.

"In case of violation, the NHRC may invoke coercive process under section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 calling for a personal appearance of the authority concerned for submission of the report," the rights body said, listing the next hearing for November 9, 2022.

143 Ayurveda medical officers join health services

Bhubaneswar: CM Naveen Patnaik Friday said that the traditional knowledge of Ayurveda, along with the modern healthcare, has been helpful in making our healthcare system more effective. Naveen said this during an induction programme of 143 Ayurveda medical officers here. The CM said that Ayurveda is an age-old knowledge of life science that has been traditionally helping millions of people in India in maintaining good health and controlling disease. Now, this knowledge, along with the modern healthcare system, has been revived with structured studies to help society with more effectiveness, he stated. Welcoming the new medical officers to the healthcare system of the state, he asked them to follow 5T (teamwork, transparency, technology and time leading to transformation) initiative.



WILDLIFE WEEK: Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat, in presence of dignitaries including additional chief secretary Mona Sharma, releases 'Similipal: The Forest of Hundred Orchids' during Wildlife Week 2022 celebration at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Join hands for wildlife conservation: Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Human civilisation and wildlife are closely associated. Hence, loss of key species due to human interference will have an adverse impact on the ecosystem, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while attending the State-level Wildlife Week 2022 celebration at Soochana Bhawan here on digital mode, Friday.

The CM appealed the people of the state to come forward and join hands in the efforts for conservation of wildlife and restoration of their habitats for well-being of our future generations.

Minister Forest, Environment and Climate Change Pradip Kumar Amat appreciated participation of local villagers in the ecotourism programmes of the state. He said that local villagers are able to supple-



ment their livelihood with the help of ecotourism. Further he said that more ecotourism destinations will come up in near future in addition to the existing 47 destinations spread over 18 districts.

As per the Forest Survey of India 2021, the total area of mangrove forest in the state has increased by 8.34

Sq Km in last two years, which is highest in the country, he informed.

Speaking on the occasion, Mona Sharma, additional chief secretary Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department praised the people of the state for their support in wildlife conservation. She emphasized the role

of community participation in protection of wildlife.

Sushil Kumar Popli, IFS, PCCF (wildlife), and Chief Wildlife Warden briefed in his welcome address about various activities undertaken for the protection of wildlife and their habitats.

On this occasion, a state level exhibition was inaugurated at Soochana Bhawan. The winners of Quiz, Photography, Sit and Draw Competitions were awarded. Bikiji Nag of Siskela, Balangir and Rabindranath Sahu of Purunabandh, Ganjam were honoured with "State Level Biju Patnaik Wildlife Conservation Award" for this year for their exemplary contribution to wildlife conservation.

Three books, namely "Wildlife Odisha", "Birds of Bhubaneswar" and "Similipal: The Forest of Hundred Orchids" were released.



GOING GREEN: Women check bamboo ware items in Kathajodi Ring Road area of Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

Guv asks contractors to focus on state's infra development

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Odisha Infrastructure Conclave (OIC), organised by All Odisha Contractors Welfare Association, was held here Friday at a City Hotel.

This conclave was inaugurated by Ganeshi Lal, Governor of Odisha, in the presence of Bijay Kumar Patnaik, former chief secretary Government of Odisha, S C Sharma, CGM, SBI, Pradipta Kumar Swain, CEO, WATCO and guests and dignitaries.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Lal said, "Odisha is the land of Lord Jagannath, and the land of infrastructure. For making vibrant Odisha, magnificent Odisha, and incredible Odisha we all should concentrate on the infrastructural development of the state. This is the need of the hour; there should be sustainable development."

Jagdish Patra, president, AOCWA said that the conclave gives a platform to all the contractors members and other stakeholders to discuss the role of infrastructure in the growth of the state and the roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders.



Elaborating on the conclave Chinmay Swain, vice president, AOCWA said that the development of a country depends on the availability of infrastructural facilities. "Infrastructure plays a vital role in the improvement of the country's standard of living. It also plays an important role in contributing to a higher rate of economic growth," he added.

Bibhuti Jena, general secretary, AOCWA said, that as its difficult for the lakhs contractors of Odisha to connect and communicate, this conclave offered a platform to all of them recognized their contribution to nation-building.

More than 200 contractors from all over state participated in the conclave and shared their stories. Best engineer and best contractor awards were also given to motivate the stakeholders.

Anxiety during pregnancy may lead to premature births: Study

Women who experience anxiety during pregnancy may give birth earlier compared to those who don't, according to a study.

The research, published recently in the journal Health Psychology, could help doctors understand when and how best to screen for anxiety during pregnancy to help prevent preterm birth.

"Anxiety about a current pregnancy is a potent psychosocial state that may affect birth outcomes," said lead study author Christine Dunkel Schetter, from the University of California Los Angeles, US.

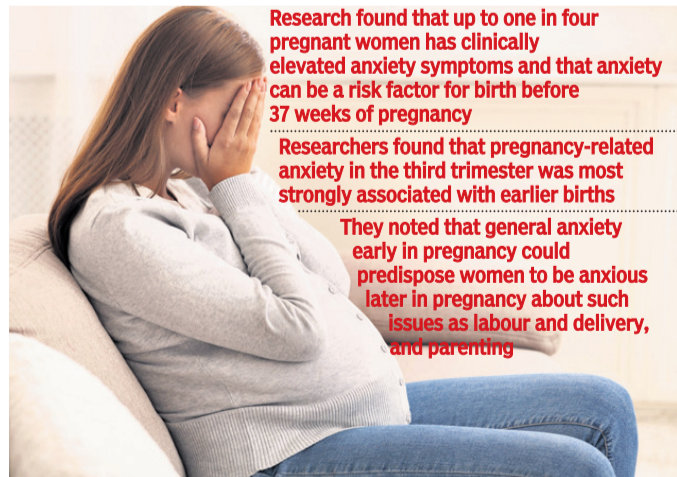
"These days, depressive symptoms are assessed in many clinic settings around the world to prevent complications of postpartum de-

pression for mothers and children. This and other studies suggest that we should also be assessing anxiety in pregnant women," Dunkel Schetter said.

Previous research has found that up to one in four pregnant women has clinically elevated anxiety symptoms and that anxiety can be a risk factor for preterm birth, or birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy.

In the latest study, the researchers examined data from a diverse sample of 196 pregnant women in Denver and Los Angeles who took part in the Healthy Babies Before Birth study.

They administered four different anxiety scales to the women, in both the first and the third



trimesters of their pregnancies. One was a five-question screener for general anxiety and three were specific to pregnancy: a 10-ques-

Research found that up to one in four pregnant women has clinically elevated anxiety symptoms and that anxiety can be a risk factor for birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy

Researchers found that pregnancy-related anxiety in the third trimester was most strongly associated with earlier births

They noted that general anxiety early in pregnancy could predispose women to be anxious later in pregnancy about such issues as labour and delivery, and parenting

tion and a four-question scale of pregnancy-related anxiety.

Another was a nine-question assessment of a broader range of pregnancy-related stressors, such as medical care and worries about taking care of a newborn.

The researchers found that pregnancy-related anxiety in the third trimester was most strongly associated with earlier births.

However, general anxiety in the first trimester also contributed to risk for early birth, they said.

The researchers noted that general anxiety early in pregnancy could predispose women to be anxious later in pregnancy about such issues as medical risks, the baby, labour and delivery, and parenting. The results held even when

adjusted for the actual medical risk of the women's pregnancies, they said.

"Although not all women who begin pregnancy with general anxiety symptoms will later experience pregnancy-specific anxiety, our results suggest that women who do follow this progression are likely to be especially at risk for earlier delivery," Dunkel Schetter said.

The study suggests that doctors should screen women for general anxiety early in pregnancy just as they commonly screen for depression.

Women who score high could be monitored for increases in anxiety and possible intervention later in pregnancy, the researchers added.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS. Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Center (Nagar)- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



NOVEL PROTEST: Tribal activists of Bhanja Sena, a local outfit in Mayurbhanj district, played football in front of the collectorate at Baripada, demanding establishment of a football academy to groom local sports talents, Friday. They have sent a memorandum in this regard to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

Pipe dream: MEMU train yet to reach Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 7: Goods train service to Kendrapara has started since July 24, 2020, but passenger train service still remains a dream for people of this coastal district.



It may be noted here that a proposal was moved in 1996-97 fiscal for construction of Haridaspur-Paradip broad gauge line. However, the project hanged fire for many years.

Panthanivas discharges sewage into Mahanadi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 7: The government has framed stringent norms to regulate air and water pollution in the state with State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) functioning to monitor such issues.



also installed similar STPs in other government owned institutions including Panthanivas in the state. He alleged that the STP has become non-operational due to use of sub-standard equipment and machinery.

Reports said, a sewage treatment plant (STP) of the government-owned Panthanivas here is lying defunct due to faulty equipment.

water daily to keep it running. The waste water should be treated at the STP and then discharged into the drain.

ing in the Panthanivas as well as people in the locality. An official of the Panthanivas requesting anonymity said that funds worth several lakhs were spent to install the STP but it is lying defunct now after running for some days.

Moreover, a letter has been written to the agency concerned to undertake its repairing. SPCB official Satyanarayan Nanda said he will visit the spot and take necessary action if the STP has stopped functioning.

171 gamblers held, ₹4.83L cash seized

Berhampur: As many as 171 people were arrested for gambling and ₹4.83 lakh in cash was seized ahead of Kumar Purnima in Ganjam, police said Friday.

Jharkhand jumbos play havoc in Bantala range

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Oct 7: A herd of 22 elephants that strayed from neighbouring Jharkhand has been playing havoc in Bantala range of Angul district for the last couple of days.



Man trampled to death Baripada: A man was trampled to death by a tusker in the foothills of the Simlipal National Park in Mayurbhanj Friday.

The giants have damaged crops in hectares of land in Inkarbandh, Bantala, Nuasahi, Balasingha and Pandapur in last three days.

visits of the elephants have left them panicked at a time when power supply is often disrupted for the safety of animals in these areas. The people have to live in dark for days together.

Jharkhand, but the latter are often headed for farmlands. "After survey of the crop loss, compensation amounts will be disbursed to the affected farmers," said the ranger.

Charting out a 'silk route' for women empowerment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 7: The state government has initiated a major step to financially empower the women of Malkangiri district through production of tussar yarns.



Currently, cocoons are being brought from Chhattisgarh. The cocoons are immersed in hot water and then tussar silk is extracted with machines and yarns are produced.

ple will not have to migrate to other states in search of livelihood. Besides, raw materials for yarns will be available easily, they added.

Aparajita visits Aradi

Aradi: Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi visited Akhandalamani peetha at Aradi, the famous Shaivite shrine in Bhadrak, Friday.

About 30 women of various SHGs have started their training at this centre from October 2.

However, local women observed that if the government lays emphasis on tussar farming in Malkangiri, people

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (MWCD) Applications are invited to fill up the existing six vacancies of Members in National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCLR), New Delhi in the following fields namely: 1) Child Education. 2) Child Health Care, Welfare or Child Development.

Union Bank of India REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE 3rd Floor, Axis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001 DEMAND NOTICE Notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest

Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE Where, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Kendrapara Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Union Bank of India DEMAND NOTICE Notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest A Demand Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued and sent by Regd. Post with A.D. by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Duburi Branch-2 against the following Borrower/Guarantors, which could not be served to the below mentioned parties.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

XI'S RADIOACTIVE FRIEND



With morale among Russian troops already at rock bottom, an infusion of dispirited and ill-trained draftees may hasten the dissolution of Putin's military and the fall of his regime, akin to how Czar Nicholas II's poor leadership during World War I fueled the collapse of the Czar's armies and the Russian Revolution of 1917

using a nuclear weapon in Ukraine appear slim, they cannot be fully discounted. So, Chinese officials must be trying to assess how the US and NATO would respond if Putin followed through on his threat. Given US President Joe Biden's tough-minded - if still ambiguous - statements, it is safe to assume that the international economic and military response would be far more severe than the sanctions already imposed on Russia.

But if Putin does decide to use a tactical nuclear device to "defend" the Ukrainian territory that he has illegally annexed, he may well open a Pandora's Box of horrors. For example, his war has brought considerable chaos to Ukraine's nuclear power stations, and, in addition to other concerns about their operation, it can no longer be assumed that their spent nuclear fuel rods have always been safely secured during the battles for control of the sites. This opens the terrifying prospect of some mad partisan creating a "dirty" bomb to use in retaliation.

Putin's annexations may also undermine the "One China" policy regarding Taiwan, which most of the world accepts. Some Eastern European countries are already voicing doubts about the wisdom of that policy. If Xi, who has steadfastly defended the principle of territorial integrity, silently accepts Putin's annexations, some countries may decide that Xi's hypocrisy has nullified the "One China" policy.

Ever since he became president ten years ago, Xi has signaled his fear that China could suffer the type of political and economic disintegration that led to the implosion of the Soviet Union. Putin's current predicament should serve as another cautionary tale. The prospect of a regime so rotten that it collapses from within must haunt China's president almost as much as the threat of nuclear war.

The writer is former member of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Vladimir Putin's ongoing failure in Ukraine has put his strategic alliance with Chinese President Xi Jinping to the test. With Putin growing ever more desperate, Xi must finally realise the scale of the threat that his "friendship without limits" with the Russian president poses to China's economic health, to global stability, and to his own geopolitical ambitions. While Putin may or may not have been bluffing when he threatened to use tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine last month, Xi must assume the worst if he wants to be viewed as a responsible leader. After all, Russia's military doctrine allows for a nuclear strike to defend Russian territory against an existential threat. Russia's illegal annexation of the occupied Ukrainian regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia provides the pretext for such an attack.

Xi, who is expected to secure an unprecedented third consecutive term as China's leader at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China later this month, must now turn his attention to preventing World War III. A Russian nuclear strike in Ukraine - the first use of such weapons since the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 - would ignite a catastrophic global crisis, spoiling Xi's coronation.

When Xi and Putin met at the Beijing Winter Olympics in February to sign the Sino-Russian cooperation agreement, the plan to invade Ukraine must have seemed like a safe bet: the Russians would quickly topple Ukraine's leadership, which would make the US and NATO appear weak. A proxy war would also divert US attention from its rivalry with China - or so Xi thought.

Then Ukraine fought back, exposing Russia's myriad military weaknesses. Russian forces have now retreated from the Kharkiv region in the northeast, following Ukraine's impressive counteroffensive, and are suffering heavy losses near Kherson in the south. Xi almost certainly conveyed

his displeasure with Russia's failures when he met with Putin at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Putin publicly acknowledged China's "questions and concerns" about the war - a rare admission of tensions between the two countries - while Xi himself did not publicly mention Ukraine at all. Xi's silence stood in stark contrast to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who - in a remarkable volte-face - openly rebuked Putin.

Still, it is hard to believe that Xi is not wondering whether he made the right decision when he tied his political fate to so reckless an ally. Putin's "partial mobilization" of 300,000 Russian men to join the fight in Ukraine has triggered protests across Russia and caused more than 200,000 young men to flee the country. The quality of Putin's new recruits - who include convicts - is unlikely to help the war effort or assuage Xi's concerns.

With morale among Russian troops already at rock bottom, an infusion of dispirited and ill-trained draftees may hasten the dissolution of Putin's military and the

fall of his regime, akin to how Czar Nicholas II's poor leadership during World War I fueled the collapse of the Czar's armies and the Russian Revolution of 1917. With his direct appeals to Russian soldiers to surrender or die, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky seems to understand the perilous state of the Russian military better than Putin does.

The point of a proxy war is to weaken one's adversary, but Putin's incompetence has achieved the exact opposite for Xi. NATO is now stronger than it has been at any point since the Cold War's end, with previously neutral countries like Sweden and Finland applying to join and Asian countries like Japan, South Korea, and increasingly India voicing support for America's Ukraine policy.

Instead of helping China to establish itself as a counterweight to US global hegemony, Russia has been exposed as too weak and corrupt to defeat even a middling country. With Putin now issuing direct orders to Russian field commanders, China's military alliance with Russia must seem almost worthless to Xi.

While the chances of Putin



Charles Tannock

A RUSSIAN NUCLEAR STRIKE IN UKRAINE - THE FIRST USE OF SUCH WEAPONS SINCE THE UNITED STATES DROPPED ATOMIC BOMBS ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI IN AUGUST 1945 - WOULD IGNITE A CATASTROPHIC GLOBAL CRISIS, SPOILING XI'S CORONATION

CDS Chronicle

More than nine months after the loss of Gen BP Rawat in a horrific air mishap, the Modi sarkar has appointed Gen Anil Chauhan as India's second Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). For the public, the sudden announcement put to rest the rumours about who succeeds Rawat. But those in babu and military veteran circuits say that the only surprise was that the government took so long to announce Chauhan's name, given that the parameters of the appointment which were constantly tweaked, left very few contenders in the ring.

Chauhan will also serve as Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. The secretary role, sources have informed DKB, is to dissuade the impression that the secretary position demeans the CDS appointment in terms of protocol. The Chauhan story gets more interesting if one delves deeper. It is widely believed that the government lingered over this sensitive appointment to ensure that it found the right candidate whose outlook was compatible with the current political and ideological climate. Perhaps it's just a coincidence that Gen Chauhan is from the same unit as Gen Rawat and is considered close to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, apart from the fact that all three are from Garhwal region.

Like-mindedness is clearly a virtue but not necessarily when it comes to an apolitical defence force. In his previous roles as Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) and Army Commander, Eastern Command, Chauhan, some say, echoed the political views of the government. As CDS, he now has the opportunity to implement the government's controversial Agnipath policy of recruiting soldiers for the three armed forces. Of course, this is just one of many challenges awaiting him. The big question is: how much of his predecessor's radical reforms will he push for and what new will he bring to the table? We shall know soon.

NE babus unhappy

Belt-tightening or something else? The Centre has withdrawn incentives and allowances given to IAS and IPS officers posted in the north-east. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) had recently issued the order to all state chief secretaries informing that an additional 25% basic pay, besides other incentives granted to IAS and IPS officers posted in the region, will be withdrawn with immediate effect.

Sources inform DKB that the additional monetary allowance for IAS, IPS and IFS officers belonging to the Assam-Meghalaya joint cadre, Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur cadres was introduced in 2009 by the UPA government. Further, the incentive of reimbursement of payable income tax to Tribal All India Service officers belonging to the Northeast cadres while on central deputation has also been withdrawn. Additionally the post-retirement housing facility introduced in 2007 too has been withdrawn.

Not surprisingly, the affected babus are unhappy with the order, describing it as "insensitive" and "abrupt", and without considering the challenges these officers face in the region. Even Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has reported as saying that he plans to take up the issue with the Centre and ask for the order to be withdrawn. The babus too are planning to send representations to New Delhi urging the government to rescind the order. Watch this space for updates.

Khattar's balancing act

Under fire over the promotions of IPS officers, the Manohar Lal Khattar government in Haryana has formed a committee to examine the cadre management of IPS officers in the state. The panel is headed by Home Secretary Vinay Singh and includes two officers from the state legal department.

The simmering issue burst into the public eye when four IGP-rank officers were promoted to the rank of Additional DGP earlier in May. The promotion raised the number of ADGPs to 17 whereas the state has only 14 posts of ADGP rank available. Six of these posts are cadre posts and the rest are ex-cadre posts. The Haryana Police has reportedly pushed for converting four ex-cadre posts of DGP to those of ADGP to cover the shortfall.

Sources inform DKB that Khattar wants to adopt a judicious approach for promotions in the future for both IAS and IPS officers. Recently, after the state government promoted 1992-batch IAS officer Arun Kumar Gupta from principal secretary to additional chief secretary, the police officers are now demanding the promotion of 1991-batch IPS officers to the rank of DGP. The Vinay Singh panel will examine all these issues and offer a balanced solution to this vexed problem.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- Nothing is permanent in this wicked world - not even our troubles. CHARLIE CHAPLIN
The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions. LEONARDO DA VINCI
I love the work of Matisse and Picasso, but I don't have enough millions to own one. And I don't really believe in owning art, anyway. PT. RAVI SHANKAR

WORDSWORTH

Xeric

Three words for the price of one this time: xeric, hydric and mesic. Something xeric is very dry. It's a term in ecology and might be applied, for example, to a bare rock exposed to the sun. It was formed from classical Greek xer, dry (also the source of Xerox, a method of dry copying), as a comparatively modern creation. Until then, the only word available was xerophytic, which strictly could be used solely of plants (because of the ending -phytic, from Greek phuton, a plant) that were adapted to dry habitats. Messrs Cooper and Weese wanted a term to describe habitats in general. The second word they invented, hydric (from Greek hud, r, water), of a habitat that has a plentiful supply of water, was potentially confusing, since it already existed as a term in chemistry for hydrogen in chemical combination. And mesic (from Greek mesos, middle), for a habitat having an intermediate supply of water, has since been independently recreated by atomic physicists to refer to the subatomic particle called the meson. But in practice ambiguity in either case is unlikely. These days, though xeric is hardly an everyday word, serious gardeners will know it in connection with dry landscaping or xeriscaping.

Aliment

If you first read this as ailment, you momentarily confused the word with one that's almost its opposite. Ailment, a minor illness, derives from Old English eglan, to trouble or afflict. This became the verb ail, which we hardly know except in set phrases that are most often uttered for humorous effect, such as "what ails you?". Contrariwise, an aliment is food or nourishment. In that sense it has likewise disappeared from our language except as a deliberate archaism (the late Ivor Brown called it "crossword-clue English"). It derives from Latin alere, to nourish, and close relatives of aliment are known in all the Latin-derived European languages. Mrs Beeton recorded in her invaluable Book of Household Management that "there exists in the salt ocean, and fresh-water rivers, an abundance of aliment". She was rather fond of aliment and also mentioned the alimentary canal, which the medical profession now prefers to call the digestive tract.

SPECTRUM INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Time for repositioning



DK Giri

INDIA SHOULD ENLARGE ITS PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE WORLD; RETREAT FROM HER DALLIANCE WITH AUTOCRATIC AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES, REPOSITION AS A CHAMPION OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY, SOLIDARITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

On the war on Ukraine, New Delhi's ambivalent and in-different position, euphemistically called neutral or non-aligned has put a question mark on India's role in international politics. In the name of pragmatism, or in defence of national interest, New Delhi has not only been soft on Russia's aggression on Ukraine, but has gone ahead to do business with Russia for oil and defence trade etc. New Delhi's response to the war consisting of not standing up for rule of law, right to self-determination of countries, abstaining on all resolutions in the UN, occasional soundings for peace and diplomacy does not do well for its image, and worse, it may lose the UNSC Permanent seat to countries like Japan and Germany, whenever it is restructured.

Therefore, it is high time that New Delhi makes amends and repositions itself.

Major part of the problem in defining and redefining India's foreign policy - her role in and response to world events, stems from the absence of a wider foreign policy community in India, in particular, lack of interest by political actors and the civil society in in-

ternational issues. Understandably, they are too engaged in internal issues of this vast country of 1.3 billion people to have time or resources to look beyond the borders. Secondly, India is still a developing country despite its rise in GDP to play a decisive role in world affairs. But this assumption is no longer valid. India, for that matter, any country cannot remain isolated in this inter-dependent as well as globalised world.

Besides, India's big neighbour China harbouring ambitions of being the world power should worry New Delhi, given the revanchist and belligerent attitude of Beijing. Remember, China possesses and continues to claim Indian territories. It is high time that foreign policy becomes a part of national discourse with all political parties, regional or national, taking part in it. It is no longer advisable to leave the foreign policy alone to the mandarins of the South Block. Unless India does quick course-correction, it runs the risk of self-isolation in world politics. The consequences of the Ukraine war are telling upon international politics - triggering radical decisions, accelerating processes, and derailing development. While Putin's

motives, goals and strategies might fascinate historians, political analysts and psychologists in times to come, the consequences of his war question the present leadership in the world. The answers to such questions will indisputably shape the future. The Europeans know it now.

Likewise, India should anticipate the danger emanating from the consequences of the Ukrainian war. If the war is not ended through negotiations, and if Russia claims victory by annexing Ukraine's territory, or making it a vassal state, it will embolden China to invade Taiwan and even parts of India. Beijing is anxiously watching the war.

At any rate, cognizing the consequences of the crisis which is already afflicting the world, India should rethink its engagement in world politics.

Unarguably, the premise to position India in the world should comprise two strategic elements - one, the political values India imbibes and should uphold, and second, her national interest.

Sadly, the present regime here is missing the point. It is justifying India's position at times by making a choice between Russia-China and the West, at other times, going with

both. New Delhi should make another distinction. Russia is not the same as the former USSR, which stood by India through thick and thin. Russia is now known only for oil and gas, and ruled by a controversial and enigmatic autocrat. On India's position in the world based on values and interest, India should stand, without a shred of doubt for peace, non-violence (no-war).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has correctly taken that stand recently. He ticked off Putin and has also told the Ukrainian President Zelenskyy about the absolute undesirability of war. On a positive note, he offered help in brokering an agreement.

To start with repositioning, Prime Minister Modi should call for an Asian Confederation for peace and democracy. It is better to begin nearer home. The Federation should comprise the members of SAARC and BIMSTEC, plus others willing to join. Such a Confederation should talk of building peace by securing human rights, freedom, equality and solidarity. It need not discuss trade and economic issues.

The focus needs to change. India can become the harbinger of that change. Will it? INFA

Gruesome incident

Sir, The horrific Thailand mass shooting in which 37 people, including 23 children, perished has shocked the international community. Following the attack, gunman Panya Khamrab went home and killed his wife and child before taking his own life. The episode also injured ten, with six battling for their lives. We believe the killer identified as a former cop, was under the influence of drugs. The attack is one of the kingdom's deadliest mass killings and shows that people prone to vices can go bonkers. N J Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Reputation at stake

Sir, This refers to the news report "WHO alert for 4 Indian syrups", Orissa POST, Oct 7. The World Health Organization has said Wednesday the deaths of dozens of young children in Gambia from acute kidney injuries may be linked to contaminated cough and cold syrups made by an Indian drug manufacturer, Maiden Pharmaceuticals. The loss of these young lives is beyond heart-breaking for their families. Also, it is a damning claim as it hit the reputation of the Indian pharmaceutical market globally, which until now has been known as the pharmacy to the world. It's a cause for concern that the tentative results of the laboratory analysis of one of the cough syrups have confirmed 'unacceptable' amounts of toxic chemicals that can cause acute kidney injury in four of the 23 samples tested. The matter needs to be thoroughly probed in a time-bound manner as it will have a bearing on India's growing reputation as a global pharma hub. N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Perfect 10 for PS-1

Sir, Lovely narrative and the problem with the writer is the enlarged pre-conceived notions. But comparisons are inevitable and inferences are drawn as per individual's wealth of knowledge. But calling Kalki a failure as a writer is surprising. We can but limit it to the intrigues, mysteries, rivalries and rampages and beyond that, well difficult to say and conclude. Supported by a rousing music score by the master AR Rahman, Mani Ratnam's Ponniyin Selvan-1 is a marvelous cinematic experience, after Bahubali. The Chola empire was brought up in all its glory. The ethereal Aishwarya Rai and the beautiful Trisha light up the screen with their presence and performance. And in the scene where they are together the screen is so luminous. All in all it has been worth waiting for the movie and I just cannot wait for the second part which will release in 2023. CK Dorai Ramani Suresh, COIMBATORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

national

of the day quote

The biggest achievement is psychological. It's all in the mind. I think what the yatra has done is to show to the Congress party that we can do it. We are on the roads, on the streets, we are fighting the BJP. We are taking the battle to their camp. We are raising issues. We are not reacting. Now the BJP is reacting to us and that I think is the greatest contribution of the yatra. It's psychological rather than electoral

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

Collision with cattle on the tracks is unavoidable and this has been kept in mind while designing the semi-high speed Vande Bharat train

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAY MINISTER

A lot of people say I am a remote control and work from behind. They say I will do what Sonia Gandhi will say. There is no such thing as remote control in Congress, people take decisions together. It is your thinking. A few people are creating this idea

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

One dead, several hospitalised in TN

Chennai: A 24-year-old man died and several others were taken ill due to suspected food poisoning during a baby shower function at Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu. Police said that Selvamurugan of Velankani was among those who consumed biryani during the function, organised by C. Vignesh for his wife V. Mariammal on Thursday.

Drug cartel busted

Mumbai: The NCB has busted a major inter-state drug syndicate active in Maharashtra-Gujarat to seize 60 kg of high-grade mephedrone in the operations, and arrested six persons, including a former pilot, a top official said here Friday. NCB Mumbai Zonal Director Amit Ghawate said that among the accused is the kingpin of the drug syndicate and a former Air India pilot. Ghawate said that the tip-off was passed by the Naval Intelligence Bureau at Jamnagar in Gujarat on the suspicious activities of some persons.

Two arrested

Varanasi: The Varanasi police have arrested two cyber criminals on charges of cyber bullying. Commissioner of police A. Satish Ganesh said that the two were extorting money by blackmailing girl students after making their obscene video through WhatsApp. The cyber cell police nabbed Chandrapal Singh Parihar and Mohd Nasir of Jhansi from Naria crossing in the city.

Three killed in MP

Bhopal: Three persons have died after a tractor-trolley in which they were travelling overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, officials said Thursday. The incident took place at a village in Naigarhi block, around 50 km from Rewa. The police said the incident occurred when the villagers who had gone to participate in the immersion procession of goddess Durga idols were returning to their village.

Body found

Sambhal (UP): The body of a woman, who was allegedly killed six months ago, has been recovered by the Sambhal police, police said Friday. It was recovered from the courtyard behind the accused's house Thursday.



India has shown to the world that it is possible to protect the environment and ensure economic development simultaneously

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

STALIN FILES NOMINATION

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Friday filed nomination papers for the president's post in the ruling DMK intra-party elections. The party general council meeting is scheduled to be held October 9 at St. George School, Aminjikarai, Chennai



DELHI EXCISE POLICY SCAM

ED conducts raids at 35 places in 3 states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Enforcement Directorate Friday launched fresh raids in connection with its money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, official sources said.

The searches are being carried out at about 35 locations in Delhi, Punjab and some places in Hyderabad, they said. Some liquor distributors, companies and linked entities are being searched after the agency obtained some new leads in the case during questioning of various accused, the sources said.

The federal agency has conducted more than 103 raids in this case till now and had also arrested Sameer Mahandru, a liquor businessman and managing director of liquor manufacturing company Indospirit, last month in the case.

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR that had named Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as an accused among others. The scheme came under the scanner after the Delhi LG recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the implementation of Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22. He had also suspended 11 excise officials in the matter.

The ED has questioned AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak and minister Satyendar Jain, lodged in Tihar Jail, in this case while the CBI has also questioned a number of people and arrested businessman Vijay Nair.

The CBI inquiry was recommended on the findings of the Delhi chief secretary's report filed

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR that had named Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as an accused among others

in July showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009, and Delhi Excise Rules-2010, officials said.

According to officials, the chief secretary's report had shown prima facie violations, including "deliberate and gross procedural lapses", to provide post-tender "undue benefits to liquor licensees" through the policy.

It is alleged that undue financial favours were extended to liquor licensees after the tenders were awarded, causing loss to the exchequer. The excise department gave a waiver of Rs 144.36 crore to the licensees on the tendered licence fee citing COVID-19, sources had claimed.

They added that it also refunded the earnest money of Rs 30 crore to the lowest bidder for the licence of the airport zone when it failed to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from airport authorities.

"It was in gross violation of rule 48(11)(b) of the Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, which clearly stipulates that the successful bidder must complete all formalities for the grant of the licence, failing which all deposits made by him shall stand forfeited to the government," a source had said.



A volunteer with her face painted takes a selfie with another during Wildlife Week, at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal

PTI PHOTO

SC status for religious converts: Panel formed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Centre has appointed a commission headed by former CJI K G Balakrishnan to examine the matter of giving Scheduled Caste status to new people who claim to "historically" have belonged to the SCs, but have converted to a religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential orders.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (amended from time to time) says that no person professing a religion other than Hinduism or Sikhism, or Buddhism can be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste. However, Muslim, and Christian groups have often demanded similar status for Dalits who have converted to their religions. The BJP has been opposed to their demand.

The three-member team also includes retired IAS officer Dr Ravinder Kumar Jain and member UGC Professor Sushma Yadav, according to a gazette notification issued by the Social Justice and



Former CJI K G Balakrishnan

Empowerment ministry Thursday.

The panel will examine the matter of giving Scheduled Caste status to new persons, who claim to historically have belonged to the Scheduled Castes, but have converted to religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential Orders issued from time to time under article 341 of the Constitution.

The panel will also examine the implications of the decision - if it comes to be - on the existing Scheduled Castes, besides taking into account the changes in customs, traditions, and their status of social discrimination and deprivation, after these people converted to other religions. The commission will also examine any other related

questions that the Commission deems appropriate in consultation with the Centre and with its consent.

K G Balakrishnan is the Supreme Court's first Dalit Chief Justice. He was also the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of India. In the notification, the ministry said the issue is a "seminal and historically complex sociological and constitutional question", and a definite matter of public importance.

"And whereas, given its importance, sensitivity and potential impact, any change in definition in this regard should be on the basis of a detailed and definitive study and extensive consultation with all stakeholders and no Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952) has so far inquired into the matter," the notification said. The headquarters of the commission will be in New Delhi and it will submit its report within two years from the date of taking over of the charge by the Chairperson, the notification said.

SENA POLL SYMBOL TUSSLE

EC asks Thackeray camp to respond

The fresh claim to the 'bow and arrow' election symbol by the Shinde faction is seen as an attempt to deny its use by the Thackeray group which has decided to field Rutuja Latke, the widow of MLA Ramesh Latke, for the November 3 bypoll



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Election Commission has asked the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena to respond by Saturday on rival Eknath Shinde group's claim on the party's 'bow and arrow' election symbol in view of the upcoming assembly bypoll in the state.

The Commission's directive came on Friday after the Shinde faction submitted a memorandum seeking it be allocated the

symbol as the Andheri East assembly bypoll is approaching. In a letter to Thackeray, the Commission directed it to furnish comments along with requisite documents latest by 2 pm on October 8.

"In case no reply is received, the Commission will take appropriate action in the matter accordingly," the Commission said. The Commission told Thackeray the Shinde faction had staked claim to the 'bow and arrow' on October 4. The Andheri East bypoll was notified on Friday.

Shiv Sena leader Anil Desai, who belongs to the Thackeray faction, said the party would respond to the Commission within the stipulated time. Desai met Commission officials earlier on Friday to submit documents in connection with a separate matter where the Shinde faction had claimed to be the "real Shiv Sena", citing support of majority members of the Lok Sabha and the state assembly.

The fresh claim to the 'bow and arrow' election symbol by the Shinde faction is seen as an at-

tempt to deny its use by the Thackeray group which has decided to field Rutuja Latke, the widow of MLA Ramesh Latke, for the November 3 bypoll.

The BJP, an ally of the Shinde faction, has decided to field Murji Patel, a corporator in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, for the bypoll necessitated due to the death of Ramesh Latke. The Congress and the NCP have decided to support the candidate of the Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena, their coalition partner in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Shinde had raised a banner of revolt against Thackeray for entering into an "unnatural alliance" with the Congress and NCP. Over 40 of the Shiv Sena's 55 MLAs had supported Shinde, forcing the resignation of Thackeray from the post of Maharashtra Chief Minister.

Twelve of the 18 Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena also came out in support of Shinde, who later claimed to be the leader of the original Shiv Sena.

Govt asks CJI to name successor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Setting in motion the process of appointing the next head of the Indian judiciary, the government on Friday wrote to Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit to recommend his successor.

Justice Lalit will retire as the CJI on November 8 after a brief tenure of 74 days. "As per the MoP on appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, today the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for sending his recommendations for appointment of his successor," the Ministry of Law and Justice said in a tweet.

This is perhaps the first time that the ministry has tweeted about it. According to the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the CJI names the senior-most judge as his or her successor.

The MoP is a document which guides the appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and high court judges. Justice D Y Chandrachud is the senior-most judge after the CJI.

Going by the established practice and convention, Justice Chandrachud would be the 50th CJI and take oath on November 9. He would have a tenure of two years and demit office on November 10, 2024. While Supreme Court judges retire after attaining the age of 65, high court judges retire at 62 years.



Vande Bharat Express undergoes a 'nose-job'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 7: The protruding front portion of the new Mumbai-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express train - which was damaged due to a cattle hit on Thursday - got a new 'nose' at the Coach Care Centre of the Western Railway, here on Friday, an official said.

The nose, made of FRP (fibre reinforced plastic) suffered an ugly rip-off as three-four buffaloes were run over between Vatva-Maninagar, near Ahmedabad,

around 11.15 a.m., delaying the train by 10 minutes.

However, even on Friday, the train with the new nose on the way to Gujarat suffered another similar accident with the front portion suffering a dent near Anand. After the accident on Thursday, the train travelled between the two cities without the frontal portion and was sent to the repair workshop on Friday.

"The nose cone cover of the train's driver coach along with its mounting brackets was damaged in the cat-



tle-hit incident.... The vital parts of the train remained unaffected. The damaged nose cone was replaced at Mumbai Central," said Western Railway chief spokesperson Sumit Thakur.

He explained that the nose cover is designed to absorb the impact without transmitting the same to the functional parts of the train, so it is sacrificial by design and replaceable. The damaged nose cone - of which the Western Railway has sufficient spares - was quickly replaced during the maintenance

and the train deployed back into service without delays.

It departed from Mumbai Central for Gandhinagar but en route suffered another minor mishap which dented the newly-installed nose, which will be set right, said Thakur.

It may be recalled that the indigenous-designed and manufactured semi-high speed train was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 30 and is the third service under the Vande Bharat series, with a capacity to attain up to 200 kmph speeds in future.



Delhi's air quality turns 'poor'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: Measures under 'stage-1' of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will be enforced in the national capital region with immediate effect, according to an order issued by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

According to the order issued by the CAQM: "It was noted that there has been a sudden dip in air quality parameters in the last 24 hours in the region which led to the AQI for Delhi moving into the 'POOR' category.

While this is likely to be a localised influence and the forecasts do not predict any further deterioration, in an effort to maintain the AQI in the moderate category, as a precautionary measure, the sub-committee decided that ALL actions as envisaged under Stage I of the GRAP - Poor Air Quality (DELHI AQI ranging between 201-300), be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned, with immediate effect in the NCR."

The CAQM Wednesday announced an immediate ban on all construction and demolition activity carried over an area of 500



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

sqm. and above that are not registered on the web portals created by the governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The decision was taken as Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) worsened to the "poor" category Wednesday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

GRAP is a set of emergency measures taken to reduce air pollution. The measures include banning construction activities and entry of trucks into Delhi.

There are 24 measures under stage 1 of GRAP, most of which are directions to States for strict implementation of various existing measures to control air pollution.

The measures that kick in with immediate effect include ensuring mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads, enforcing guidelines on the use of anti-smog guns at construction sites, enforcing the ban on open burning of waste and PUC (pollution under control norms) for vehicles. The ban

Tackling situation

New Delhi: The Delhi government has asked the neighbouring states, including Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, not to deploy old buses in the national capital and also those without a valid pollution certificate, sources said Friday. Transport department officials of the city government held a video-conference with their counterparts from other states Thursday, they added.

on firecrackers is also to be strictly enforced and DISCOMS are to minimise power supply disruptions.

These measures are to be enforced by the pollution control boards, the local bodies and other agencies and departments including the Transport Department.

The revised GRAP also contains measures to be taken by the public: keeping engines of vehicles properly tuned, turning off the engines at red lights, keeping PUC certificates up to date, maintaining proper tyre pressure in vehicles, and not disposing of waste in open spaces.

'Hyperlocal emissions' behind spike in pollution on Dussehra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Delhi's air quality turned poor on Dussehra, though the early warning system of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology had predicted moderate to satisfactory air quality in the capital.

"While this is likely due to a localised influence and the forecasts do not predict any further deterioration, in an effort to maintain the AQI in the moderate category, as a precautionary measure, the sub-committee decided that all actions as envisaged under Stage I of the GRAP - 'Poor' air quality (AQI 201-300) be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned with immediate effect in the NCR," the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said in an order.

The GRAP has four different stages of adverse air quality: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300), Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400), Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450) and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI >450).

Under Stage 1, the Centre's CAQM recommends stopping



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

MATTER OF CONCERN

ITM officials said that they did not record any substantial changes in parameters like temperature, wind speed and emissions from farm fires October 5 and "hyperlocal emissions" could have impacted the air quality

The possible sources of these emissions could be the large number of effigies burnt on the occasion of Dussehra and during a political protest, officials said

construction and demolition activities at sites having a plot size equal to or bigger than 500 sqm that are not registered on the web portal of the respective states for remote monitoring of air pollution levels.

Delhi's 24-hour average AQI stood at 211 (poor category) at 4 pm Wednesday, worsening from 150 at 4 pm Tuesday. It was 248 in Ghaziabad, 196 in Faridabad, 234 in Greater Noida, 238 in Gurugram and 215 in Noida Wednesday.

Snake bite cases on the rise in Eastern UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj/Varanasi (UP), Oct 7: An increase in snake bite cases has become a cause for concern in eastern Uttar Pradesh districts that are witnessing a fresh spell of rains.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the health department to make all possible arrangements to keep a check on snake bite cases and ensure availability of anti-snake venom at all the primary health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs).

Chandauli, one of the flood-affected districts of eastern UP, tops the list with over 65 snake bite cases in the current season.

Chandauli chief medical officer Dr Y.K. Rai, said, "Snake bites cases in Chandauli are in abundance. We have distributed anti-snake venom at all the PHCs and CHCs in order to cater to the snake bite cases."

Rai said an awareness drive was also launched to help keep people safe at the time of floods.

"We are telling them not to venture out all alone, always carry a stick and torch and, in case of snake bite, do not panic, but rush

CHANDAULI, ONE OF THE FLOOD-AFFECTED DISTRICTS OF EASTERN UP, TOPS THE LIST WITH OVER 65 SNAKE BITE CASES IN THE CURRENT SEASON

to the nearby PHC or CHC. We have made the anti-snake venom available in abundance," said Rai.

He said the people were also told not to fall prey to quacks. Ghazipur, another flood-affected district has also reported nearly 50 snake bite cases.

Azamgarh, Bhadohi, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Varanasi have also reported several cases of snake bite.

"Cases of snake bite increase in the flood-affected areas. The snakes come out of their habitat and come into conflict with humans. As a result, the snake bite cases spikes during or post flood phase," said an official with the relief commissioner's office.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal on a cloudy day in Agra

PTI PHOTO

Hosp performs 19th century procedure to save Iraqi man's leg

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Doctors at a city-based hospital here treated a 40-year-old Iraqi national using the cross-leg flap surgery, an over a century-old technique, in which they lifted tissue from one site and placed it on the affected area.

The doctors at Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj, decided to perform the procedure — a technique arguably first described in medical literature in 1854 — as the newer and more sophisticated ones were not feasible due to the patient's precarious condition, the hospital said.

A flap surgery involves lifting tissue from a donor site and placing it on the recipient site with an intact blood supply.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

It was considered the gold standard to reconstruct soft tissue

defects of the lower limb during its heydays.

However, the technique fell into disuse with the advent of the highly sophisticated microvascular techniques, which enable doctors to join or repair damaged blood vessels or nerves, the hospital said.

The road accident victim, who had undergone three unsuccessful surgeries in Iraq in eight months, was brought to the hospital with acute dislocation of the left knee joint and a severely infected, pus-oozing leg, the hospital said.

Investigations revealed that the patient's affected leg had no intact blood vessel due to multiple injuries, which is necessary for the reconstructive surgeries currently in vogue. The doctors then decided to perform the cross-leg flap surgery.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

More than 1.25L old vehicles to be deregistered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida, Oct 7: Over 1.25 lakh old vehicles registered in Gautam Buddha Nagar will be taken off the roads in compliance with a National Green Tribunal order on phasing out diesel and petrol vehicles older than 10 and 15 years, respectively, from the national capital region.

The district transport department has started a campaign to phase out such vehicles and begun contacting their owners from October 1 following an Uttar Pradesh government order, officials said.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Siyaram Verma said, "These vehicles will either be scrapped or a no-objection certificate (NOC) issued for their usage so that they could be used in some select districts that do not fall under NCR."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Ganesh Saha told PTI that the police department, on its part, was also carrying out stricter checks and penalising old vehicles found plying on the roads.

The Uttar Pradesh government order said there were 34 districts with better air quality where such vehicles could be transferred after the issuance of an NOC from their respective regional transport offices.

Gautam Buddha Nagar had 8,26,110 registered vehicles, including 94,299 diesel and 7,31,811 petrol, as October 1, according to transport department data.

Over 1.2cr cases pending in UP courts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 7: More than 1.2 crore court cases are pending before various courts of Uttar Pradesh, as per the figures provided by the law department.

To deal with the high rate of pendency, it has been decided that all the cases filed between 1980 and 1990 are going to be segregated and their trials expedited and taken up on a daily basis.

Cases filed post 1990 that are due for the final round of hearings are also going to be assigned priority.

The judicial officials have been asked to bundle and dispose of similar cases accordingly. If required, a bench comprising single or two judges can be constituted. "Efforts must be put in to dispose of the old cases first. Hence, we are pushing for efficient disposal of the cases filed in the 80s and 90s," said a senior government officer.



Judicial officials taking up criminal cases have been asked to conclude trials of petty offences quickly. Senior judges posted in the district will have to take up weekly meetings to streamline operational issues. It may be recalled that during the recent Assembly session, Samajwadi Party MLA Atul Pradhan had sought details of the efforts being made to expedite the disposal of pending cases.

Thereafter, the law department of the state was asked to find out the status of the pending cases before the Allahabad high court and lower courts.

criminal and family matters, were at various stages of litigation.

Till August 31, a maximum number of cases were found pending in lower courts. While 88.75 lakh cases pertained to criminal offences, 16.8 lakhs were of civil disputes before the lower judiciary.

Senior officers heading the law department found 3.94 lakh cases are being pursued in the family courts. The Allahabad HC also has to take up 10.36 lakh cases, out of which a majority (5.6 lakh) are of civil nature, while the remaining are criminal appeals. To tide over the huge pendency, the law department of the state has prepared an exhaustive strategy.

Principal secretary of the department, Pramod Kumar Srivastava (I) said, "All the stakeholders are working closely to bring down the pendency. We are holding reviews on a weekly basis to streamline the day-to-day functioning of the courts and improve productivity."

Now adopt animals at Delhi zoo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: People, educational institutions and private companies can now adopt animals at the Delhi zoo and help in wildlife conservation efforts at the facility, officials said.

The animal adoption scheme, which was in the works for the last five years, was launched recently and is open to the general public, corporate sector, celebrities, educational institutions etc.

Interested people can download a form available on the Delhi zoo's website, fill up and send it to the administration following which an agreement will be signed between the two parties.

The Kolkata Zoological Garden, Mysore zoo, Karnataka; Nandankanan zoo, Odisha; and Vishakhapatnam zoo have successfully implemented the scheme.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Delhi Zoo Director Dharamdeo Rai said Oil India has adopted two rhinos for Rs 6 lakh each for a year. A large number of people have shown interest in adopting birds, snakes and even elephants. The involvement of people will help the zoo create awareness about the plight of the endangered species.

Their contribution would help improve the existing facilities for the animals, Rai said.

The adoption cost ranges from Rs 700 per year for a zebra finch bird to Rs 6 lakh per year for lion, tiger, rhino and elephant.

Adoption of leopard, hippopotamus, striped hyena would cost Rs 3.6 lakh, Rs 3 lakh and Rs 2.4 lakh, respectively.

The adopters will be given a membership card once they make the payment.

Using the card, the adopter along with up to five family members can visit the adopted animal once in a month.

The name of the person or the company's logo will feature in a signage in front of the adopted animal's enclosure.

The zoo will also provide a certificate to the adopter on successful completion of the adoption membership tenure.

The animal adoption scheme, which was in the works for the last five years, was launched recently and is open to the general public, corporate sector, celebrities, educational institutions etc

of the day quote

The credit for Indore getting top rank for the sixth time in a row in the Centre's 'Swachh Survekshan' awards must go to 'safai mitras' (cleanliness and conservancy workers) and citizens instead of officials

KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA | BJP LEADER

This is a monumental tragedy that raises serious concerns as conveyed by WHO and also questions which, must be answered. The bland statements from the Health ministry and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) are devoid of sensitivity and empathy and do not register the seriousness of the issue and its adverse fallout

ANAND SHARMA | CONGRESS LEADER

Primary agricultural credit societies will be set up in all panchayats of the country to boost various activities over the next five years, such as marketing of dairy products, and people of northeast will largely benefit from the move

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Two Army personnel killed

Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh): Two Army personnel were killed and one injured on Friday after the barrel of a T-90 tank burst during a field exercise near Jhansi district. Among the deceased personnel was a junior commissioned officer (JCO). A court of inquiry has been ordered, according to sources. "Two Indian Army personnel, including a JCO, lost their lives after the barrel of a T-90 tank burst during a field firing exercise today in Babina Cantonment near Jhansi. Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident," an official release from the Army said.

Fake judge held

Lucknow: A 40-year-old man in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, who exploited women and allegedly duped them of money by posing as a judge, has been arrested, police said. The Lucknow police cyber cell laid a trap by giving a matrimonial advertisement seeking proposal preferably from a 'judge' to trap the accused identified as Vishnu Shanker Gupta. Gupta is a law graduate and had practiced in a court for a short period.

Man arrested

Gurugram: A 26-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing his father over a property dispute in Gurugram, police said Friday. The accused, Anuj, allegedly stabbed his father, Rakesh (52) to death during the intervening night of September 17/18 near the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) in Gurugram and then fled the spot, police said. IMT Manesar police station had then registered a murder case against the accused and launched a search for him. They finally arrested him from Nevada in Gurugram on Thursday, the official said.

Tiger kills man

Patna: A man was killed by a tiger in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) on Friday, making him the eighth victim in the last 27 days. The victim, Sanjay Mahto, was attacked when he went out to an agriculture field in the Damro Govardhan village under the Ram Nagar police station. Locals said that his neck bone was broken and bite marks made of the tiger were found also on the neck. On Thursday night, the same tiger is suspected to have killed a 1girl while she was sleeping in her house in Sihni village under Baghi Panchayat.



The atmosphere in the country is worrisome as democracy is under threat and communal harmony has been disturbed

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

153 HC JUDGES APPOINTED

A total of 153 judges have been appointed to the various high courts in this calendar year so far, with sources hinting at more appointments to the higher judiciary in the coming days



AAP minister's presence at conversion event sparks row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: A political row erupted Friday after a purported video of AAP minister Rajendra Pal Gautam at a "religious conversion" event went viral in which hundreds can be heard taking an oath denouncing Hindu deities, with the BJP launching an attack on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and asking him to sack his cabinet colleague. Sources in the Aam Aadmi Party claimed that the chief minister was "extremely displeased" with Gautam.

However, an immediate response was not available either from the chief minister or the Delhi government. Gautam is the social welfare minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government. At a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused the AAP of hurting the sentiments of Hindus and alleged that "Gautam's comments highlight the hate" the party has for the community".

Bhatia claimed that the minister's alleged comments were made at the behest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. During the programme, around 10,000 people reportedly took vows to convert to Buddhism to follow Lord Buddha's teachings and give up worship of Hindu deities.

On October 5, Gautam himself had also tweeted the pictures of the event, saying more than 10,000 people pledged to join Buddhism and work for making India free from casteism and untouchability.

Gautam, in a programme at Central Delhi's Karol Bagh on Dussehra, showed "disrespect" towards Hindu deities in the presence of thousands of people. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta charged during a press conference.

"This is not an isolated incident, it is in the character of the AAP to insult and disrespect Hindu gods and goddesses. We demand that Kejriwal should immediately expel Gautam from his cabinet," Gupta said. Gupta also led a party dele-



Sources in the Aam Aadmi Party claimed that the Chief Minister was 'extremely displeased' with Gautam. During the programme, around 10,000 people reportedly took vows to convert to Buddhism to follow Lord Buddha's teachings and give up worship of Hindu deities

gation to file a complaint with the police here in the matter.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari also demanded Gautam's sacking, claiming his action could lead to animosity between Hindu and Buddhist communities. Hitting out at Gautam, West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma accused him of indulging in "mass religious conversion".

"Every day news of conversions comes from AAP-ruled Punjab. Similarly, Kejriwal's minister Rajendra Pal is now conducting a mass conversion of people in Delhi," Verma said in a tweet. Bhatia said the comments were made due to "vote bank" politics in light of the coming elections, he said.

"How low you will stoop for votes, Kejriwal," he asked. Bhatia said every Hindu has faith in their gods and claimed that the minister's comments are a blow to national integrity. The Vishva Hindu Parishad also slammed Gautam and demanded his sacking. The RSS affiliate also urged the Delhi Police and Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena to take "strictest action" against Gautam, alleging that administering of oaths to people at the event attended by the minister hurt the sentiments of Hindus.

The VHP also targeted Kejriwal and demanded an apology from him, alleging that his minister's

participation in the event has exposed his "hypocrisy".

"We do not have any problem with people embracing Buddhism at the event. Hinduism and Buddhism are not separate. But the way our gods and goddesses were openly scorned at the event is not acceptable," VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said. The Delhi minister was openly administering such oaths to people from the dias at the event and "tearing the country's secularism into pieces", he charged, referring to the purported footage circulating on social media.

"We demand that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal sack the minister," the VHP leader said.

"With his misdemeanour, Gautam has insulted the same goddess Lakshmi and god Ganesha whom Kejriwal worships on every Diwali in a showoff. He has exposed Kejriwal's hypocrisy," he charged. Kejriwal must apologize to people for being "such a hypocrite" the VHP leader said.

"People have freedom to embrace the religion of their choice but nobody has the right to spew venom against Hindu gods and goddesses organising such an event for conversion. It's condemnable, unconstitutional and hurting to Hindu sentiments," he said.

200 kg heroin worth ₹1,200 crore seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 7: An Iranian fishing vessel with around 200 kg of heroin worth over ₹1,200 crore has been seized in a joint operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Indian Navy, the NCB said Friday.

Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (operations) of the NCB, who met reporters here, said the agency has arrested six Iran nationals and the boat, along with the heroin, was brought to Mattancherry wharf here.

"The NCB has now seized the vessel and 200 kg of heroin. The six Iranian crew members have also been arrested under relevant sections of the NDPS Act, 1985," Singh said, adding that interrogation was on. He said the drug was found in 200 packets each of which has markings and packing specialties unique to Afghanistan- and Pakistan-based drug cartels.



While some of the drug packets had 'Scorpion' seal markings, the others had 'dragon' seal markings. The drug was also packed in a water-proof seven-layered packing. Preliminary investigation revealed that the seized drug was sourced from Afghanistan and was transported to Pakistan. This consignment was then loaded into the now-seized vessel off Pakistan coast in a mid-sea exchange, NCB said.

The agency said the vessel then set sail to Indian waters for further delivery of the consignment to a Sri Lankan vessel. It said efforts were made to identify and intercept this Sri Lankan vessel but it couldn't be traced.

Uttarkashi avalanche: 10 more bodies found

A heavy rain alert was issued by the meteorological department for several hill districts in Uttarakhand including Uttarkashi where schools were closed Friday



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, Oct 7: Ten more bodies were recovered from the site of an avalanche here, taking the death toll to 26, the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering said Friday.

Two Cheetah helicopters took off from the Army helipad in Harsil to join the search operations, officials said. The avalanche occurred at a height of 17,000 feet on Tuesday when a team of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) was returning after summiting Draupadi Ka Danda II peak.

Three more bodies were recovered from the avalanche site late on Thursday evening and seven were found on Friday, taking the total number of bodies retrieved so far to 26, the NIM said.

While 24 of these bodies are of trainee mountaineers, two are of their instructors, it said. According to the NIM, three trainees are still missing. Fifteen bodies were recovered Thursday, the NIM said.

Four of the bodies that were being brought to Matli were taken to the Harsil helipad due to bad weather.

From there, they were sent to Uttarkashi in ambulances. District Magistrate (DM) Abhishek Ruhella

said. Not all the bodies have been identified yet. The relatives of the deceased who have been identified have been informed, he said.

Inclement weather hampered aerial search efforts but they continued uninterrupted on the ground, the DM said. A heavy rain alert was issued by the meteorological department for several hill districts in Uttarakhand including Uttarkashi where schools were closed Friday and disaster management teams were put on alert.

NIM instructor Nayab Subedar Anil Kumar, who survived the tragedy, said Thursday that 33 climbers took shelter in a crevasse during the avalanche.

Four bodies were pulled out of the crevasse on the day of the avalanche while 29 were still stuck, Kumar had said.

Army, IAF, NIM, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, High Altitude Warfare School (Jammu and Kashmir) and State Disaster Response Force along with the district administration are conducting the search operations that were launched hours after the avalanche struck on Tuesday.

The mountaineers who went missing after the avalanche were part of a team selected by the NIM for an advanced training course.

Juvenile tasked to kill Salman held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Delhi Police has apprehended two terror accused, including a juvenile, in connection with the May 9 RPG attack at Punjab Police headquarters in Mohali.

The juvenile was also tasked with "eliminating" actor Salman Khan, police said.

Apart from the juvenile, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police has arrested another man, identified as Arshdeep Singh, in connection with the recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Haryana on August 4, police said.

According to the police, the Lawrence Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria syndicate tasked the juvenile along with Deepak Surakpur (presently absconding) and Monu Dagar (in jail) with "eliminating" actor Salman Khan. On May 9, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the Punjab Police's intelligence headquarters in Mohali.

During investigation, it was established that the attack was a conspiracy of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), backed by



Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and local gangsters, a senior police officer said.

The police identified the attackers - the juvenile who is a resident of Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh and Deepak, a resident of Surakpur, Haryana, officials said. "It was also established that the attack was orchestrated by gangster-turned-ISI stooge Harvinder Singh alias Rinda. "Another fugitive -- Canada-based gangster-turned-terrorist Lakhbir Singh Landa - had also joined hands with Rinda in sharing of manpower, logistics and resources," the officer said.

Rinda's name had already cropped up in the grenade attack at the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) office in Nawanshahr after the arrest of four suspected Pakistan-linked terrorists in Haryana's Karnal earlier this year, they said.

Bangalore directs Uber, Ola to stop auto services

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Oct 7: Karnataka Transport Department Friday issued notices to Ola, Uber and Rapido to immediately stop their auto services, and directed them to give explanation on complaint against exorbitant charges levied to customers.

The department has warned the app-based cab aggregators that if the explanation is not given and order is not complied, "they would face legal action".

T.H.M. Kumar, State Transport Department Commissioner has stated that they received a large number of complaints during last two to three days. The complaints were raised specifically against cab aggregators for charging double for auto services. The cab aggregators have been issued notices and given three days' time for explanation. "A decision would be taken once we receive the response," he explained.

Sources explain that the minimum auto fare is ₹30 and the waiting charge of ₹5 for 5 minutes has been fixed officially. But, cab aggregators are allegedly charging ₹100 as minimum fare and a large number of people have raised complaints against it.

Karnataka madrasa incident: Four arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bidar(Karnataka), Oct 7: A mob barged into a 15th Century heritage site here, that houses a madrasa and mosque, and performed puja during Dasara festivities, police sources said Friday.

Nine people have been booked and four of them arrested in connection with the incident, they said adding it reportedly took place during the

early hours of Thursday. Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, however, said there was no law and order situation as devotees went inside to perform certain rituals at a spot where a "Shami" tree stood years ago. They had been following this custom for ages. The Shami tree (Prosopis cineraria) is considered holy and worshipped during Dasara festivities.

According to the complainant,

Mohammed Shafiuddin, a mosque committee member, the incident took place when a procession to immerse a Durga idol was passing near the place of worship and the unruly group comprised about 60 people. After a video clip, purportedly of the incident went viral on social media, tension prevailed in parts of the city and a section of Muslims staged a protest demanding action against those responsible for it.

In a first, India talks about rights situation in China

Bagchi said India has taken note of assessment of human rights concerns in Xinjiang by the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: India Friday said rights of people in China's Xinjiang region should be "respected and guaranteed" but noted that its decision to abstain from a resolution on the concerns at the UN human rights commission was in line with the practice of not voting on country-specific resolutions.

It is for the first time that India clearly called for respecting the human rights of the people of Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region.

"The human rights of the people of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region should be respected and guaranteed. We hope that the relevant party will address the situation objectively and properly,"

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

His comments came at a media briefing when asked about India's abstention at the UN rights body on the resolution calling for a debate on the human rights situation in Xinjiang. "India remains committed to upholding all human rights. India's vote is in line with its long held position that country specific resolutions are never helpful. India favours a dialogue to deal with such issues," he said.

Bagchi said India has taken note of assessment of human rights



concerns in Xinjiang by the UN Office of the High Commissioner

on Human Rights (OHCHR). "We have taken note of the OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China," he said.

The draft resolution was pushed by a group comprising Canada, Denmark, Finland, the UK, the US, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and was co-sponsored by some other countries. In its recent report, the OHCHR said serious human rights violations have been committed in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in the context of the

Chinese government's application of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism strategies.

"The implementation of these strategies, and associated policies in XUAR has led to interlocking patterns of severe and undue restrictions on a wide range of human rights," it said. "These patterns of restrictions are characterized by a discriminatory component, as the underlying acts often directly or indirectly affect Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim communities," the report said.

international



The European Union is considering slapping additional sanctions on Iran
JOSEP BORRELL | EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

US FORCES KILL TOP IS LEADERS IN SYRIA

American forces have killed two top leaders of the Islamic State (IS) terror group in an airstrike conducted in northern Syria, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement published here Friday



of the day quote

This is not about moving closer to Europe. This is about working with Europe on issues that we both face. And we both face rising energy costs

LIZ TRUSS | BRITISH PM

Cambodia's economy grew at a positive rate of 3 percent in 2021 ... and will likely continue to grow around 5 percent and 6 percent in 2022 and 2023, respectively

SAMDECH TECHO HUN SEN | CAMBODIAN PM

I hope that the parliament succeeds in electing a new President for the country within the constitutional time frame because the challenges facing Lebanon require a strong cooperation among constitutional institutions

NAJIB MIKATI | LEBANESE PM

SHORT TAKES

2 dead, 6 hurt in stabbings

Las Vegas (US): An attacker with a large kitchen knife killed two people and wounded six others in stabbings along the Las Vegas Strip before he was arrested Thursday, police said. Three people were hospitalized in critical condition and another three were in stable condition, according to Las Vegas police, who said they began receiving 911 calls about the stabbings around 11.40 am across the street from the Wynn casino and hotel.

Maryam, Nawaz reunite in London

London: Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif has reunited with his daughter Maryam Nawaz Sharif in London three years after authorities returned her passport following a court order. Maryam, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice-president, who arrived in London Thursday, was received by her brother Hassan Nawaz Sharif and son Junaid Safdar at the Heathrow Airport.

13 inmates killed in Ecuador prison riot

Quito: The number of prisoners killed during a riot at a prison in Ecuador's city of Guayaquil has increased to 13, authorities confirmed. The riot took place in the Litoral Penitentiary amid clashes between inmates, Xinhua news agency reported.

Israeli army put on alert

Tel Aviv: Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz has instructed the army to prepare for any possible escalation with Lebanon hours after the Jewish state rejected Beirut's amendments to a US-brokered proposal for demarcating a maritime border. "In light of the developments in the maritime border negotiations with Lebanon, Gantz instructed the defence establishment to prepare for any scenario in which tensions increase in the northern arena, including defensive and offensive readiness," Xinhua news said.

Fiji issues coastal inundation alert

Suva: The Fiji Meteorological Office Friday warned residents living along coastal areas to expect flooding as a coastal inundation alert is still in force for parts of the island nation. The Office said an intensifying high-pressure system to the south of Fiji is expected to generate and direct moderate-to-damaging heavy swells over the territorial waters, reports Xinhua news agency.

HISTORIC MOVE UN rights council to monitor Russia



- Biden says greatest risk since Cuban Missile Crisis
- Putin marks 70th birthday with prayers, little public fuss
- Nobel Prize goes to Ukraine, Russia, Belarus activists
- Russia's Eastern Commander sacked as defeats mount - RBC

AGENCIES

Geneva, Oct 7: The UN's top human rights body voted Friday to appoint an independent expert to step up scrutiny of Russia's rights record at home as arbitrary arrests, a crackdown on dissenting voices and limits on free speech worsen during the war in Ukraine. The 47-member Human Rights Council passed the proposal, presented last week by all European Union member countries except Hungary, on a 17-6 vote, with 24 abstentions. Shortly before the vote in Geneva, Russian human rights group Memorial was named a co-winner of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize.

The original proposal expressed concerns about "mass forced shutdowns" of independent media, non-governmental organisations and opposition groups in Russia.

The Human Rights Council majority agreed to name a "special rapporteur" to keep tabs on rights violations in Russia, in part by relying on help from Russian groups and activists who are both still in the country and abroad.

It's the first time the council has authorized a special rapporteur to look into human rights issues in any of the five countries that are permanent members of the UN Security Council: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Russian ambassador Gennady Gatilov called the draft proposal a "despicable document" that was intended "to find yet another way of exerting leverage for bringing pressure to bear on Russia."

"This scheme by the EU and its allies is yet another attempt to punish our country for pursuing an independent foreign and domestic policy, and to entrench for the long-term the topic of Russia on the agenda of the HRC so as to un-

leash a stream of false allegations and accusations directed at us," Gatilov said.

Western countries provided most of the votes in favor, joined by Paraguay, Marshall Islands and Ukraine. Diplomats from Bolivia, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Kazakhstan and Venezuela voted against the proposal.

The number of abstentions in part reflected hesitations about authorizing a special rapporteur for a country that opposed the initiative: It's unlikely that Russia will let the special rapporteur to visit the country.

The council previously appointed a Commission of Inquiry — the UN-backed body's highest form of scrutiny — that is looking into rights abuses related to Russia's war in Ukraine.

The Russian government has taken a number of steps to limit domestic dissent over the war, including passing a law that criminalizes spreading "fake" news about Russia's military.

British ambassador Simon Manley said "repression at home, aggression abroad" by Russian authorities had increased since Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February.

"The truth is that (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin uses repressive legislation to restrict freedom of speech and assembly. He crushes dissent through arbitrary detention and violence and has created a climate of fear and intimidation in order to deter civil society and activists from speaking out against the authorities," Manley said.

Russia was a member of the Human Rights Council until earlier this year, when it suspended its participation as the UN General Assembly was set to strip the country of its membership due to the invasion of Ukraine.

'Mahsa died of illness, not blows'

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 7: Iran said Friday an investigation into the death in custody of Mahsa Amini found she lost her life to illness rather than reported beatings that sparked three weeks of bloody protests.

Amini, 22, died September 16, three days after falling into a coma following her arrest in Tehran by the morality police for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Anger over her death has sparked the biggest wave of protests to rock Iran in almost three years and a crackdown that has killed dozens of protesters and seen scores arrested. Despite the security forces' use of lethal force, the women-led protests have continued for 20 consecutive days and nights, accord-



ing to online videos verified by AFP. Iran's Forensic Organisation said Friday that "Mahsa Amini's death was not caused by blows to the head and vital organs and limbs of the body". The death of Amini, whose Kurdish first name is Jhina, was related to "surgery for a brain tumour at the age of eight," it said in a statement.

Other young girls have lost their lives at the protests, but Amnesty International says Iran has been forcing televised confessions out of



FOR A CAUSE: Protestors hold EU flags and banners as they demonstrate outside of an EU Summit at Prague Castle in Prague, Czech Republic. European Union leaders converged on Prague Castle Friday to try to bridge significant differences over a natural gas price cap as winter approaches and Russia's war on Ukraine fuels a major energy crisis

US asks its citizens to exercise caution while travelling to India

In a new travel advisory issued Friday, the US State Department reduced the India Travel Advisory Level to 2 on a scale of one to 4 with the latter being the highest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Washington, Oct 7: The US Friday asked its citizens to exercise "increased caution" while travelling to India due to "crime and terrorism" and advised them to not to travel to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a new travel advisory issued Friday, the US State Department reduced the India Travel Advisory Level to 2 on a scale of one to 4 with the latter being the highest.

The State Department in a separate advisory, a day earlier, had put Pakistan on Level 3 and asked its citizens to reconsider their travel

especially its restive provinces due to terrorism and sectarian violence. "Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism," said the State Department.

"Do not travel to: The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest. Within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border due to the potential for armed conflict," it said. According to the travel advisory, "Indian authorities report rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Violent crime, such as sexual assault, has oc-

curred at tourist sites and in other locations." The advisory said that "terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities."

"The US government has limited ability to provide emergency services to US citizens in rural areas from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal as US government employees must obtain special authorisation to travel to these areas," said the travel advisory.

EU struggles to cap gas price

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prague, Oct 7: European Union leaders struggled Friday to bridge significant differences over a natural gas price cap as winter approaches and Russia's war in Ukraine fuels a major energy crisis, driving up prices for consumers and businesses.

The price cap is one of several measures the 27-nation bloc is preparing to contain an energy crisis in Europe that some fear could lead to rolling blackouts, factory shutdowns and a deep recession over the winter in economies already weakened by the coronavirus pandemic.

Russia has reduced or cut off natural gas supplies to 13 EU mem-

ber nations as European governments bolster their support for Ukraine in the form of weapons, money, aid and sanctions on Moscow. The potential for shortages has led to surging gas and electricity prices that could climb

higher as demand peaks during the cold months.

"Russia has fired an energy missile at the European continent and the world," European Council President Charles Michel said as the leaders met in Prague.

No breakthrough emerged from the summit, but Michel said the meeting was an important "strategic step" that he hoped might soon lead to a deal.

HALF A DOZEN MURDERS IN A WEEK

THE US IS HOME TO MORE THAN 4.5 MLN INDIANS, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST-EARNING ETHNIC GROUP IN THE COUNTRY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: A total of six murders, including that of an eight-month-old infant, within a week's time begs answer to the question every Indian wants to know — is the community safe in the US?

President Joe Biden recently went on record to say: "It's amazing, Indian of descent Americans

are taking over the country: you, my Vice President (Kamala Harris), my speechwriter, Vinay (Vinay Reddy)... You guys are incredible!"

Even as one grappled with the shock of four Sikh family members, within the age groups of eight months to 39 years, found dead in California, news of 20-year-old student Varun Manish Chheda stabbed to death on Purdue University campus, sent shockwaves running across the Indian community world over. Earlier this week, Gurpreet Kaur Dosaanj, a Walmart employee, was shot dead and lumped inside a car in a parking lot in San Jose, California.

In June this year, Satnam Singh, 31, was shot dead while sitting in a parked SUV down the street from



his home in New York. This came days after Sai Charan Nakka, a 25-year-old techie from Telangana,

was killed after sustaining an apparent gunshot wound to his head in Maryland

Idol destroyed at colonial-era Hindu temple in B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 7: Unidentified persons destroyed the idol of a deity at a colonial-era Hindu temple in western Bangladesh, prompting police to launch a massive manhunt, officials said Friday.

Authorities of the Kali temple in Dautiyya village in Bangladesh's Jhenaidah district found the idol smashed into pieces on Friday and dumped the idol's head on a road half a kilometre from the temple's premises, news portal bd-news24.Com quoted Sukumar Kunda, president of the temple committee as saying.

The Kali temple was a place of worship for the Hindus since the colonial era, Kunda said.

The incident comes to the fore a little more than 24 hours after the 10-day annual Durga Puja festivities in Bangladesh came to an end with the immersion of idols on the auspicious 'Vijayadashami' at various river ghats across the country.

"The incident took place at night at the temple in Jhenaidah," general secretary of Bangladesh Puja Celebration Council Chandanath Poddar told PTI. Poddar, a mathematics professor of premier Dhaka University, however called it an "isolated" but unfortunate incident since the ten-day festival was held across the country without any disruption.

"A case has been lodged and an investigation and manhunt for the suspects are underway," Jhenaidah police assistant superintendent Amit Kumar Burman said. Barring this incident, Durga Puja festivities were celebrated peacefully across Bangladesh this year.

This was a far cry compared to last year, when at least six people were killed and hundreds injured in communal violence and clashes that broke out during the Durga Puja celebrations in the country.

Hindus constitute around 10 per cent of the Muslim-majority Bangladesh's 169 million population.

'Suspect in killing of Sikh family once worked for them'

San Francisco: A man arrested in connection with the kidnapping and killings of four Indian-origin Sikh family members, including a baby girl, used to work for their trucking business and had a longstanding feud with them that got "pretty nasty" and led to their senseless murder, authorities and a relative said. The bodies of 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child Aroohi Dheri and the baby's uncle, 39-year-old Amandeep Singh were found on Wednesday evening in a rural orchard in the US state of California after they were kidnapped at gunpoint Monday.

Apart from the gruesome killings, Indian-Americans have been consistently battling racial taunts, assaults, hate crime robberies, and vandalism of their properties.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 161 anti-Asian hate crimes took place in 2019, which rose to 279 in 2020.

Giving a religious break-up, the FBI said that 54 anti-Sikh crimes occurred in 2019, which rose to 89 in 2020.

Anti-Asian hate crime increased by 339 percent last year compared to the year before, with New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other cities surpassing their record numbers in 2020, according to research by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism.

of the day quote

Robust growth, despite the semiconductor shortage and global supply-chain issues reiterates the customers' enthusiasm around the brand and our wide product portfolio

BALBIR SINGH DHILLON | HEAD, AUDI INDIA

Over the last few quarters, we have had a very sharp focus on working with our supplier-partners to ramp up our supply chain

RAVNEET S PHOKELA | CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, Ather Energy

Despite all the headwinds, we have continued to charter a growth trajectory with strong pre-sales and are uniquely positioned on account of strong cash-flows, quality land bank and a diversified pipeline of new projects

DHAVAL AJMERA | DIRECTOR, AJMERA REALTY & INFRA INDIA LTD

SHORT TAKES

HDFC to raise upto ₹12K-cr

Mumbai: Housing Finance Corporation (HDFC Ltd) will raise upto ₹12,000 crore by issuing bonds on a private placement basis next week. The base issue size is ₹1,000 crore with an option to retain over subscription of up to ₹1,000 crore, it said in a regulatory filing Friday. The secured redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) will carry a coupon rate of 8.07 per cent per annum for a tenor of 10 years. The issue will open October 11 and close the same day.

Adani to invest ₹65K-cr in Raj

Jaipur: Richest Asian Gautam Adani Friday announced a ₹65,000 crore investment in Rajasthan over the next 5 to 7 years in setting up a mega 10,000 MW solar power capacity, expanding cement plants and upgrading Jaipur airport. The investment by ports-to-energy conglomerate that Adani heads also spans city gas infrastructure for retailing CNG to automobiles and piped gas to households and industries as well as laying transmission lines to carry renewable power.

Equitas SFB gross advances up 20%

New Delhi: Equitas Small Finance Bank Friday said its gross advances grew by 20 per cent to ₹22,802 crore at end of September 2022 quarter. The Bank's gross advances in the year-ago period of September 2021 stood at ₹18,978 crore. During the second quarter ended September 2022-23, the Bank's disbursements were up by 22 per cent at ₹3,845 crore, as against ₹3,145 crore in year-ago period. Total deposits rose by 20 per cent to ₹21,726 crore, from ₹18,094 crore at end Q2FY22, Equitas Small Finance Bank said in a release.

Hackers steal \$100mn crypto

London: Hackers have stolen around \$100 million worth of cryptocurrency from a Binance-linked blockchain, Binance CEO Changpeng Zhao said in a tweet Friday. Zhao said the tokens were stolen from a blockchain "bridge" used in the Binance-linked blockchain called BNB Chain, known as Binance Smart Chain until February. Separately, BNB Chain said in a tweet that the hack involved \$100 million to \$110 million of digital tokens, without specifying which token was affected.

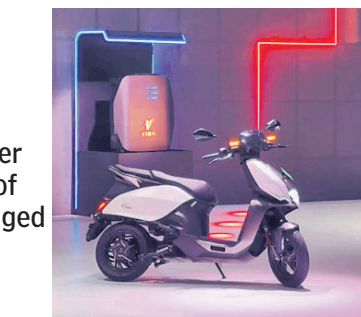


The IMF anticipates that the world could lose \$4 trillion in economic output between now and 2026. This is the size of the German economy - a massive setback for the world economy

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | MD, IMF

HERO FORAYS INTO ELECTRIC SEGMENT

The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp Friday forayed into the electric vehicle segment with the launch of its first electric scooter VIDA V1. The company has introduced two trims of the scooter -- VIDA V1 plus and VIDA V1 Pro -- tagged at ₹1.45 lakh and ₹1.59 lakh, respectively. The bookings will start October 10 and deliveries will commence from second week of December



WATERSHED MOMENT

RBI to commence pilot launch of e-rupee soon

CBDC IS A CURRENCY THAT IS BACKED BY THE REGULATOR AND STORED IN A DIGITAL FORMAT. IT CAN BE CONVERTED INTO PAPER CURRENCY AND WILL REFLECT ON THE RBI'S BALANCE SHEET, THEREBY GRANTING IT LEGAL TENDER STATUS



India is aiming to launch its own central bank digital currency in this financial year that ends March 31, 2023

Of the G20 countries, 19 are exploring launching their own CBDCs, while 16 of them are already in the development or pilot stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: The Reserve Bank Friday said it will soon commence the pilot launch of e-rupee for specific use cases with a view to bolstering India's digital economy, making payment systems more efficient, and checking money laundering.

In a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency, the RBI said CBDC is aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of money and is envisaged to provide an additional payment avenue to users, not to replace the existing payment systems. "Supported by state-of-the-art payment systems of India that are affordable, accessible, convenient, efficient, safe and secure, the Digital Rupee (e-rupee) system will further bolster India's digital economy, make the monetary and payment systems more efficient and contribute to furthering financial inclusion," the paper said.

CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country's unique requirements. The Government of India had announced the launch of the Digital Rupee—a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) from fiscal year 2022-23 onwards in the Union Budget placed in Parliament February 1, 2022.

The central bank said: "The Reserve Bank will soon commence pilot launches of e-rupee for specific use cases. As the extent and scope of such pilot launches expand, RBI will continue to communicate about the specific features and benefits of e-rupee, from time to time."

CBDC can be classified into two broad types—general purpose or retail (CBDC-R) and wholesale (CBDC-W). Retail CBDC would be potentially available for use by all and while wholesale CBDC is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.

"For CBDC to play the role as a medium of exchange, it needs to incorporate all the features that physical currency represents including anonymity, universality, and finality," the note said.

Across the globe, the note said more than 60 central banks have expressed interest in CBDC with a few implementations already under pilot across both Retail and Wholesale categories and many others are researching, testing, and/or launching their own CBDC framework.

The concept note presents the background, motivation, choices of design features and other policy frameworks for e-rupee system for the country. The aim is to build an open, inclusive, interoperable and innovative CBDC system which will meet the aspirations of the modern digital economy of India, it said.

The paper also noted that the potential impact on monetary policy from an introduction of CBDC is still unclear and is purely speculative given that only limited CBDCs are currently in existence as few nations have issued till date.

IDBI BANK PRIVATISATION

Govt, LIC plan to sell 60.72% stake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The government Friday invited bids for privatising IDBI Bank and said that it together with LIC will sell a total of 60.72 per cent stake in the financial institution.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), while inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI), said that the potential investor should have a minimum net worth of ₹22,500 crore, must report net profit in three out of the past five years to be eligible for bidding for IDBI Bank. Also, a maximum of four members would be allowed in a consortium.

The successful bidder would be required to mandatorily lock-in at least 40 per cent of the equity capital for five years from the date of acquisition.

The last date for submission of bids or Expression of Interest by potential buyers is December 16

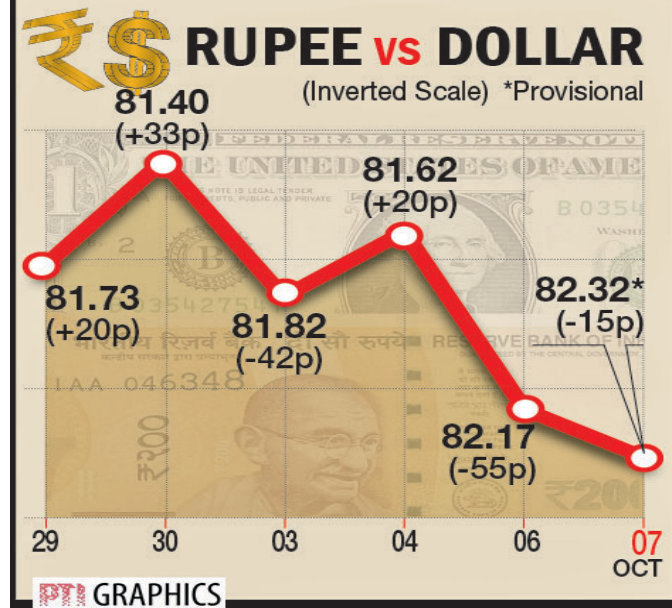
It said that the selection of the qualified interested parties and the amount of equity stake such entities would hold in IDBI Bank would be decided by the Reserve Bank and the bidder would have to clear the 'Fit and Proper' assessment done by the banking regulator.

It also barred large industrial/corporate houses or individuals from participating in the bidding process.

The government and LIC hold 94.72 per cent stake together in IDBI Bank. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) holds 529.41 crore shares representing 49.24 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, while the government holds 488.99 crore shares or 45.48 per cent stake.

₹ dips to new low of 82.30 against \$

The Indian currency for the first time closed below the 82 level against the greenback Thursday



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: The rupee depreciated further by 13 paise to hit a new life-time closing low of 82.30 against the US dollar Friday as a firm American currency and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, a negative trend in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.19, then fell further to 82.43 and finally settled for the day at an all-time low of 82.30.

On Thursday, rupee for the first time closed below the 82 level against the greenback. It plunged 55 paise to close at a record low of 82.17 against the US currency.

In this week, the rupee depreciated 90 paise or 1.11% against dollar

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.19 per cent to 112.04.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures surged 0.82 per cent to \$95.19 per barrel after oil cartel OPEC decided to cut production in view of weakening global demand.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 30.81 points or 0.05 per cent to end at 58,191.29, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 17.15 points or 0.1 per cent to 17,314.65.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market Friday as they purchased shares worth ₹545.25 crore.

Joyalukkas Jewellery to debut in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: World's favourite jewellery brand Joyalukkas is expanding its presence in India with its first showroom in Bhubaneswar all set to open with exciting inaugural offers for jewellery lovers.

This state-of-the-art showroom designed in the signature Joyalukkas world-class design will feature premium facilities and is set to offer jewellery lovers a delightful and enriching shopping experience.

The showroom opening ceremony is scheduled for October 16 at 11:30am. This upcoming showroom features modern decor along with ample shopping and parking space keeping the convenience of Bhubaneswar residents in mind.

Customers can visit the showroom to explore all the latest and exquisite collections from around the world

and enjoy an unparalleled jewellery shopping experience like never before.

Speaking of the upcoming showroom launch, Joy Alukkas, MD, Joyalukkas India limited, said, "We are committed towards providing an unmatched jewellery shopping experience and we can assure the residents of Bhubaneswar of this at Joyalukkas. We aim to bring them the best and widest choice in jewellery to meet their every need. My team is excited to offer jewellery lovers here a premium and seamless experience, paired with our aesthetic ambience, wide range of collections, and superior customer service. Plus, we have the exciting inaugural offers and free gifts to double their joy. I welcome all Bhubaneswar residents to join our launch celebrations for Bhubaneswar October 16 and enjoy a delightful jewellery shopping experience."

Forex kitty declines to over two-year low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: India's forex reserves dropped by \$4.854 billion to \$532.664 billion as September 30, their lowest level since July 2020, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

The reserves, which have been dipping as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly

IN OCT 2021, INDIA'S FOREX KITTY HAD REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH OF \$645BN

by global developments, had declined by over \$8.134 billion to \$537.518 billion in the previous reporting week.

The drop in the reserves for the week ended September 30 was on account of a dip in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The FCAs dropped by \$4.406 billion to \$472.807 billion during the

reporting week, the apex bank said. The value of the gold reserves decreased by \$281 million to \$37.605 billion, the data showed.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) dropped by \$167 million to \$17.427 billion, the RBI said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was unchanged at \$4.826 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Amazon sees high festive demand from Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: 'Amazon Great Indian Festival (AGIF) 2022' is live and is dedicated to sellers and partners to reach millions of customers across the country, said an official. AGIF has over 2,000 new product launches and a wide selection from top brands across categories such as smartphones, appliances, TVs, consumer electronics, fashion & beauty, Amazon devices, home & kitchen, groceries, and more. In Bhubaneswar, during the festive season we observed 5X growth in 'ready meals', 2X more chocolates, 4X more men's grooming products, and 2.5X more cleaning supplies, the official said. Other top categories that witnessed strong demand among new customers were snacks and biscuits which saw a rise of 5X in demand, nutritional bars saw an increase of 3X in demand, and laundry an increase of 13X in demand v/s last year, he added. Nishant Raman, Director - IN Consumables, Amazon India said, "Amazon India enables sellers on the marketplace to provide customers across the country with wide selection, at great value and the convenience of shopping from anywhere, anytime. During the festive season, we observed more than 80% of growth from tier 2 and 3 cities and new customers grew by 2X to shop for ready-to-eat meals, chocolates, grooming, hygiene products, pet, baby and laundry essentials, among others. We will help sellers, brands and customers find celebrations as we head into the heart of the festive period with Dussehra Dhanteras and Diwali."



BIZ BUZZ

Union Bank kicks off Cyber Security Awareness Month

Mumbai: With an aim to spread cyber security awareness and promote cyber safe culture amongst staff and customers, Union Bank of India has launched 'Cyber Security Awareness Month'. The bank is celebrating October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM), during which several awareness activities like webinars, quiz competitions, social media promotion of cyber security, cyber awareness video clips, cyber comics in Hindi, cyber fitness & cyber talks are organised during the entire month. The theme for the campaign is "See Yourself in Cyber". Daily webinars are organised by inviting eminent speakers from cyber security domain to deliver sessions on cyber security awareness. Commenting on the event, A Manimekhalai, MD & CEO said, "Union Bank is taking several initiatives for ease of banking to the customers through digitalisation as well as to strengthen the cyber ecosystem. Cybersecurity awareness is an important aspect in the journey ahead to secure digital banking experience."

How will OPEC+ output cuts affect oil prices, inflation?

Oil producers are wary of a sudden collapse in prices if the global economy goes downhill faster than expected. That's what happened during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and during the global financial crisis in 2008-09

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frankfurt, Oct 7: Major oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia and Russia have decided to slash the amount of oil they deliver to the global economy.

And the law of supply and demand suggests that can only mean one thing: higher prices are on the

way for crude, and for the diesel fuel, gasoline and heating oil that are produced from oil.

The decision by the OPEC+ alliance to cut 2 million barrels a day starting next month comes as the Western allies are trying to cap the oil money flowing into Moscow's war chest after it invaded Ukraine. Here is what to know about the OPEC+ decision and what it could mean for the economy and the oil price cap: **WHY IS OPEC+ CUTTING PRODUCTION?**

Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman says that the alliance is being proactive in adjusting supply ahead of a possible downturn in demand because a slowing global economy needs less fuel for travel and industry.

"We are going through a period of diverse uncertainties which could come our way, it's a brew-



ing cloud," he said, and OPEC+ sought to remain "ahead of the curve." He described the group's role as "a moderating force, to bring about stability."

Oil prices have fallen after a summer of highs. One big reason for the slide is fears that large parts of the global economy are slipping

into recession as high energy prices — for oil, natural gas and electricity — drive inflation and rob consumers of spending power.

Another reason: The summer highs came about because of fears that much of Russia's oil production would be lost to the market over the war in Ukraine.

As Western traders shunned Russian oil even without sanctions, customers in India and China bought

Higher oil prices will inevitably add to the inflation headache that global central banks are fighting, and higher oil prices will factor into the calculus of further increasing interest rates to cool down the economy

JORGE LEON | SENIOR VP, RYSTAD ENERGY

those barrels at a steep discount, so the hit to supply wasn't as bad as expected.

WILL THE OPEC+ PRODUCTION CUT MAKE INFLATION WORSE?

Likely yes. Brent crude should reach \$100 per barrel by December,

says Jorge Leon, senior vice president at Rystad Energy. That is up from an earlier prediction of \$89.

Part of the 2 million-barrel-per-day cut is only on paper as some OPEC+ countries aren't able to produce their quota. So the group can deliver only about 1.2 million barrels a day in actual cuts.

That's still going to have a "significant" effect on prices, Leon said. That would exacerbate an energy crisis in Europe largely tied to Russian cutbacks of natural gas supplies used for heating, electricity and in factories and would send gasoline prices up worldwide.

As that fuels inflation, people have less money to spend on other things like food and rent. Other factors also could affect oil prices, including the depth of any possible recession in the US or Europe and the duration of China's Covid-19 restrictions, which have sapped demand for fuel.

Dennerby eyes last 8 spot

INDIA UNDER-17 HEAD COACH ASSERTS SQUAD HAVE THE ABILITY TO UPSET SUPERIOR RANKED SIDES IN WORLD CUP

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Head coach Thomas Dennerby has full faith that the Indian under-17 women's team will give stronger nations like Brazil and the USA a run for their money. He is also hopeful that the Indian team will qualify for the quarterfinals in the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, starting Tuesday.

India will begin their campaign October 11 against the mighty USA. Then they will play Morocco (October 14) and Brazil (October 17) at the Kalinga Stadium here. "Of course, we're up against absolute top teams, but if we have a really good day and the fancied teams have a 'bad' one, there's always a chance for the underdogs to win that game," the 63-year-old told reporters Friday during a virtual interaction.

"If we can score an early goal against one of these teams, they may get a little bit nervous, get stressed and so on. There's always a chance and if we get a chance we'll have to take it," Dennerby added.

The top two teams from each group will make the cut for the quarters and if their senior FIFA rankings are of any indication, then the USA are World No 1. Brazil are in the top 10, while Morocco (76th) are the only nation below the 58-ranked India in the senior women's rankings.

"Of course, we want to be in the quarters, no doubt about that, and we are going to play with all our hearts. The way to do it is only by focusing on our performances," Dennerby pointed out.



LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS: Head coach Thomas Dennerby during a training session talks to the Indian U-17 footballers in Bhubaneswar

Yes we are the underdogs, but then we will also have chances and we have to take those to upset the opposition

THOMAS DENNERBY | HEAD COACH

"For me, it's not so much about results. We have to stick to our plans, stay calm to whatever the

results (are). We are going to fight to take points from each and every opponent. Hopefully our performances are going to be good and will also lead to points," said the Swede, who took charge of the Blue Tigresses in November 2019.

Dennerby is counting high on the home support at the Kalinga Stadium here. However, he is not ready to commit as to whether the Indian team can beat superior ranked teams. "In total, I am going to look at performances that we can achieve at the top level. Is our top

level enough to beat the USA or Brazil, it's too early to say that," Dennerby informed.

Dennerby stated that the team poses solid defensive qualities and so he will depend on counter-attacks to score against the opposition. "I hope you will see India with a really strong defence and a well-organised team hard to score against. We have a lot of speed upfront and so we must depend on counter-attacks by using the wings frequently," Dennerby pointed out.

SHORT TAKES

Easy for Novak

Astana: Novak Djokovic didn't play as well in his Astana Open quarterfinal Friday as he did in the first two rounds. "Still, it was enough," Djokovic said after beating Karen Khachanov 6-4, 6-3. "I managed to produce some good tennis when it was the most needed." Djokovic conceded a 0-3 lead but broke Khachanov for the first set with a backhand volley. He broke Khachanov for 3-1 in the second and finished their quarterfinal with an ace. Daniil Medvedev now awaits Djokovic in the semifinals. Medvedev simply outplayed Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-1 to set up the mouth-watering clash against the Serbian.

Mitchell doubtful

Wellington: New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell has been ruled out of the T20 Tri-Series in Christchurch after fracturing his hand during training Friday at Lincoln. He is also doubtful for the T20 World Cup as his hand would remain in cast for a minimum of two weeks. The all-rounder sustained a blow to his right-hand while batting in the nets. Coach Gary Stead said some time is needed to consider a decision on Mitchell's availability for the ICC T20 World Cup, with the squad set to depart October 15 for Australia.

Good show by Jeev

Ibaraki (Japan): Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh started off well in challenging and wet conditions with an even par 72 at the PGA Senior Championships Summit Cup here. The 50-year-old, who is dividing his time between various Senior Tours, had a strong finish with birdies on the last two holes. He birdied first, 13th, 17th and 18th and dropped shots on the second, 12th, 14th and 16th holes. "It was cold and rainy, as it can sometimes be in Japan. The course played very differently," Jeev said.

Naveen fashions win

Bangalore: Captain Naveen Kumar racked up 13 points as Dabang Delhi KC thrashed U Mumba 41-27 in the opening match of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 at the Shree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Friday. Delhi earned the momentum as Naveen pulled off a flurry of fantastic raids. He was backed up brilliantly by defenders Vishal and Sandeep Dhuil who kept the Mumbai attackers at bay all through the match. AGENCIES

2nd consecutive FIH award for Harmanpreet

THE INDIAN VICE-CAPTAIN SAYS PRIZE WILL MOTIVATE HIM TO WORK HARD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: India defender Harmanpreet Singh was Friday named the FIH 'Player of the Year' in the men's hockey category for the second successive time. In the process, the 26-year-old became just the fourth player to win the 'Player of the Year' award in consecutive years. He joined an elite list comprising Teun De Nooijer (the Netherlands), Jamie Dwyer (Australia) and Arthur van Doren (Belgium).

"Harmanpreet Singh is a bona fide modern-day hockey superstar. He is a terrific defender with a knack for being at the right place at the right time to breakdown the opponent's offence," the FIH said in a statement.

"He has great dribbling skills to carry the ball up the field from defence. And he scores goals, goals and more goals! To add to that impressive resume, he has now been voted the FIH 'Player of the Year', for the second year running," the FIH added.

Harmanpreet's got 29.4 points, followed by Thierry Brinkmann with 23.6 and Tom Boon with 23.4.

The India vice-captain has scored an incredible 18 goals from 16



HARMAN HAS PLAYED FOR INDIA IN 155 GAMES AND HAS SCORED 115 GOALS

HE IS THE 4TH PLAYER AND FIRST INDIAN TO WIN THE AWARD TWICE IN SUCCESSION

games, with two hat-tricks, in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22. His performances were also crucial to the Indian team that won a silver medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Harmanpreet who has so far represented India in 155 games and scored 115 goals said, the recognition will inspire him to work that much harder. "I am truly hum-

bled and honoured to have won the FIH award. This indeed is a big moment for my career and I am really happy," Harmanpreet added.

"However, I must say that this award is not mine alone even though it is an individual award. Without the help and support of my teammates, this would not have been possible at all. So, this is for the team," Harmanpreet added.

No retirement plans on Mary Kom's mind

LEGENDARY BOXER RECUPERATING FROM SURGERY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 7: India's legendary boxer MC Mary Kom might be recovering from a surgery, but the ace athlete made it clear that she is in no mood to 'retire' and will surely make a comeback. The six-time boxing World Champion had undergone surgery for anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury and is currently recuperating.

"I don't want to retire at all, because of the age limit I've been not able to play. I want to make a comeback, I have got the guts. So many people love and support me and I am certain that I will make a comeback," Mary Kom told reporters at a promotional event here Friday.

"At least before retirement, I want to do something for the country again so I will plan and think that which competition I should play. I want to compete in a major competition," the boxer added.



I've the guts, the support of the people and so I am certain I will make a comeback again and make India proud

MARY KOM

Earlier this year, Mary Kom was ruled out of the Birmingham CWG due to a knee injury. The London Olympics bronze medallist, informed that she has started her training and will soon deploy some innovative methods to return to the boxing ring again.

Pakistan stun India in women's Asia Cup game

BATTERS BUNGLE IN CRUCIAL ENCOUNTER AGAINST ARCH RIVALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sylhet, Oct 7: A fine all-round performance by Nida Dar (56 n o, 37b, 5x4, 1x6 and 2/23) helped Pakistan beat India by 13 runs in a match of the women's Asia Cup here Friday. This was the first victory for Pakistan over their arch rivals in six years. Prior this game, India enjoyed a 10-2 record over Pakistan whose previous win over the arch rivals came way back in the 2016 T20 World Cup in New Delhi.

However, the Indian batters must take responsibility for the loss. India, the most formidable team in Asia by some distance, batted poorly to be all out for 124 in 19.4 overs after Pakistan posted a modest 137 for six.

At 65 for five, India were in all sorts of trouble with majority of the batters including star player Smriti Mandhana (17), throwing their wickets away. Pooja Vastrakar (5) got herself run out after attempting a run off a misfield while Dayalan Hemalatha (20), Deepti Sharma (16) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (12) failed to capitalise on their starts. That India got close to the Pak total was due to the efforts of Richa Ghosh (26, 13b, 1x4, 3x6). Her dismissal, the ninth wicket to fall, effectively ended India's hopes.

"In the middle overs we were trying to give other batters a chance. That cost us today. It was a chaseable target. We were not able to rotate the strike to the best of our abilities," a dejected Harmanpreet said after the match.

Earlier, Pakistan, who were shocked Thursday by Thailand put an improved batting performance against the Indians but it still seemed below par.

Dar and skipper Bismah Maroof (32, 35b, 2x4) shared a crucial 76-run stand off 58 balls to give the Pak

innings a much needed move on after they had been reduced to 33 for three in the sixth over.

Brief scores
Pakistan 137/6 (Nida Dar 56 n o, Deepti Sharma 3/27) beat **India** 124 in 19.4 overs (Richa Ghosh 26; Nida Dar 2/23) by 13 runs.



IN FINE NICK: Pakistani batter Nida Dar hits one down the leg-side during her match-winning knock against India in Sylhet

1 dead as soccer fans, police clash in Buenos Aires

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires, Oct 7: At least one person died while police clashed with soccer fans trying to enter in to a stadium to witness an Argentine league match Thursday night, and the referee stopped the game as clouds of tear gas spread inside the venue.

Authorities and witnesses said fans of the home team, Gimnasia y Esgrima, struggled to enter an already full stadium, and police fired rubber bullets and tear gas trying to get the crowd to retreat.

The incident comes less than a week after the use of tear gas inside a soccer stadium in Indonesia set off a crush that left 131 people dead.

Nine minutes into Thursday night's match between Gimnasia and Boca Juniors, referee Hernan Mastrangelo suspended play. The league committee said on Twitter that he acted because of the lack of security. Players retreated to their changing rooms, and many spectators flooded onto the field trying to escape the tear gas.

"Unfortunately there is one person dead. He died of a heart problem," Sergio Berni, security minister of the province, told 'Todo Noticias'.

Some fans claimed there had been overselling of tickets for the match between teams fighting for the league title. They said people got angry when they could not get into the stadium.

Binny in fray for top BCCI position



Roger Binny

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: Roger Binny currently serving as president of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), has been named in the BCCI draft electoral rolls ahead of the elections in India's cricket governing body October 18. Sources also said Friday that Binny, a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning squad, in all likelihood will replace Sourav Ganguly as president in the BCCI.

A report in 'Sportstar' says Binny may land a top role in the BCCI after he was named to represent Karnataka in the upcoming annual general meeting (AGM) in Mumbai, the very same day when the elections result will also come out.

"Earlier, Santosh Menon would

represent the KSCA in the BCCI AGM. But Binny will represent KSCA this time, while Ganguly will represent the Cricket Association of Bengal," said the report.

The report added that with questions over Ganguly's future as BCCI president, buzz has been there of Binny, also a former senior men's selector, getting an important role. "It is too early to predict anything. The nominations will be filed next week, only then things could be clear," a BCCI source was quoted as saying in the report.

Current BCCI secretary Jay Shah is set to represent Gujarat Cricket Association and treasurer Arun Dhumal is nominated by the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association to represent the state body in the AGM.

Strangely however, Shah is not being tipped to become BCCI president, if Ganguly seeks greener pastures elsewhere. It is expected that he will continue in his present position as secretary.

There are two other aspirants for the top post. They are Anirudh Chaudhary, a former BCCI treasurer, representing Haryana and ex-ICC chairman Shashank Manohar's son Adwait Manohar who will be representing the Vidarbha Cricket Association in the AGM. The BCCI elections will happen for the posts of president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary and treasurer.

KBFC start on winning note

AGENCIES

Kochi, Oct 7: Before he took charge of the East Bengal team, coach Stephen Constantine had clearly said that it will be a 'miracle' if the squad qualify for the play-off stage in the Indian Super League (ISL). His prophecy turned out to be true as Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) hammered East Bengal 3-1 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here to start their 2022-23 campaign on a winning note. This year, the ISL has once more reverted to the home and away format and the KBFC supporters must have felt happy at the way their side have started in the ISL.

Adrian Luna's opener and Ivan Kaliuzhnyi's brace in the second half were enough to secure a 3-1 win for KBFC. Alex Lima was on the scoresheet for East Bengal FC.

However, more than the defeat, the way the East Bengal defence shaped up will certainly be a worrying factor for Constantine. There were no coordination between the defenders and that led to the second and third goals.

Both teams had opportunities



Ivan Kaliuzhnyi of KBFC celebrates with a teammate after scoring his 2nd goal against East Bengal

to break the deadlock in the first half which was clearly dominated by the home side. In the seventh minute, Lima cut onto his left foot and attempted to place the ball into the bottom left corner, but Prabhukhan Singh Gill was at full stretch to palm the Brazilian's shot behind for a corner.

In the 42nd minute, Luna tested Kamaljit Singh with a free-kick. The ball bounced awkwardly right in front of Kamaljit, who managed to parry it behind the goal and only conceded a corner.

KBFC picked up the pace in the second half leaving the East Bengal

Sajan, Ramachandra continue gold rush

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, Oct 7: Seasoned Sajan Prakash from Kerala and the young Hashika Ramachandra of Karnataka claimed two more gold medals each in swimming competition at the National Games here Friday. Sajan and Hashika thus took their gold medal haul to five and six respectively to pull away from the rest of the aspirants and almost seal the coveted honour of the Games' Best Athletes.

However, in hockey it was bad news for Odisha as they were beaten 2-4 by Madhya Pradesh. The winners set up a semifinal battle with star-studded Haryana, who scored half a dozen goals against hapless Karnataka. Jharkhand, who beat Uttar Pradesh 6-1 will take on Punjab in the other semifinals.

At the top of the medal tally, Services remained unchallenged with 41 gold, 31 silver and 27 bronze for a total of 99 medals.

In shooting, Rajasthan's Vivaan Kapoor, third in qualification, shot superbly in the final of the men's Trap event to win gold.