



CANDID CONFESSION

Deepika Padukone speaks about her battle with mental illness and credits her mom for identifying the symptoms

LEISURE P2



IRAN IS BURNING

Protests ignited by the death of a young woman in police custody continues across Iran despite a fierce crackdown

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA LEVEL SERIES

Shreyas Iyer's unbeaten ton helps India restore parity in the 3-game T20I series against South Africa

SPORTS P12

STAGE SET FOR FIFA U-17 WWC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Refurbished seats, new pitches and world-class facilities - the stage is set for FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup (WWC) at Kalinga stadium, here.

The stadium will host five Group A matches, in which four countries - India, the US, Morocco and Brazil - will be playing each other, and one Group B match between Nigeria and Chile.

The event will kick off at the

venue from Tuesday with an opening ceremony and two matches.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealed to everyone to watch the sporting extravaganza.

"The magnificent #KalingaStadium is all set to host the #FIFA U-17 #WomensWorldCup. Appeal everyone to come in large numbers and witness the sporting extravaganza," he tweeted Sunday.

Odisha Sports Secretary Vineel Krishna said the administration had taken up many projects to up-

grade and renovate the stadium, including the entire stand, for the tournament, which will go on till October 30. "A main pitch and four practice grounds with natural grass have been set up as per the standards of the world football governing body FIFA. We've also constructed two football training centres," Krishna told PTI.

He said that the seats have been replaced with new chairs, but the seating capacity is the same as earlier - around 12,000. **Contd...4**

DHAMNAGAR BYPOLL

BJP fields late MLA's son Suraj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The Opposition BJP Sunday named Suryabanshi Suraj as its candidate for the November 3 byelection to the Dhamnagar Assembly constituency in Odisha.

The BJP Central Election Committee announced the name of Suraj, the son of late BJP MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi, as there was a consensus over his name in the saffron party, a senior party leader said.

Suraj was looking after the constituency with his late father, who had defeated ruling BJD candidate Rajendra Das by over 4,000 votes in the 2019 elections.



Suraj has already started campaigning in Dhamnagar after BJP president JP Nadda attended Sethi's memorial meeting September 30.

The byelection was necessitated after the untimely demise of Sethi September 19. BJD and Congress are yet to announce their candidates for the bypolls where the last date for filing nominations is October 14.

462 spurious drug samples detected during 2019-21

5,149 medicine samples were declared as not being of standard quality, while 384 persons were arrested during the two years

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 9: While the authorities have swung into action and ordered a detailed investigation into the cough syrups produced and exported to Gambia by an Indian company, government data revealed that 384 persons were arrested after 462 samples of medicines were declared adulterated or spurious during 2019-21.

A total of 81,329 drug samples were tested in 2019-20 out of which 2497 samples were declared as not being of standard quality and 199 were declared of spurious nature. Similarly, in 2020-21, out of the total 84,874 samples lifted for testing, 2652 samples were declared not of standard quality while 263 were found to be spurious. A total of 220 and 164 people were arrested

Alarming scenario



Over 60 children have died in Gambia after consuming cough syrup manufactured by a Haryana-based pharmaceutical company, prompting the WHO to issue a warning

In September this year, Cuttack police had arrested two dealers and seized spurious Telma 40 and Telma AM tablets worth ₹82 lakh from them following a raid by officials of the Directorate of Drugs Control of Odisha

In June 2021, the Directorate of Drugs Control of Odisha had seized 17,000 spurious Favipiravir (used in Covid-19 treatment) tablets worth ₹69 lakh from a medicine wholesaler in Cuttack

in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

Officials said that the government has taken a series of measures including strengthening of legal provisions, workshops and training programmes for manufacturers and regulatory officials and steps such as risk based inspection.

As per a recent Parliament reply, the government has taken various regulatory measures since 2019 to ensure the quality of medicines in the country. The Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended providing that every Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient

(bulk drug) manufactured or imported in India shall bear Quick Response Code on its label. The stored data or information shall include the minimum particulars including unique product identification code, batch number, manufacturing date, expiry date.

The Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended providing that any person who sells or distributes any drug shall be responsible for the quality of that drug as well as other regulatory compliances along with the manufacturer under these rules. **Contd...4**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm here just to check on his health. We haven't got any 'letter' from him for the last 2 days

Minor dies after eating lollipop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Oct 9: In a shocking incident, a 10-year-old boy died reportedly after eating a lollipop from a neighbourhood shop at Dimbirjhuli village under Mohana police limits in Gajapati district, police said Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Baikuntha Sabar, 10, son of Basudev Sabar. Reports said that the boy visited the shop at the

crossroads of the village to buy a lollipop, Friday evening. However, the shopkeeper instead of giving one from his shop called him home and gave him a lollipop there. Frothing at the mouth, the boy died, Saturday

Suspecting foul play, family members alleged that the accused shopkeeper killed their minor son through sorcery. They said that the boy was in good health. However, his con-

dition deteriorated hours after eating the lollipop. They paced the body outside the house of the accused and staged a demonstration.

Police registered a case and detained the shopkeeper for questioning. The lollipops were also seized for examination.

IIC Prashant Nisika said the body has been sent to Berhampur for post-mortem, while a probe was on.

SHORT TAKES

Nadda irreplaceable

New Delhi: BJP president JP Nadda is likely to continue at the helm at least till the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as the party brass believes that a sense of organisational continuity will help it in a string of key assembly polls in the coming months before the general election. Nadda's three-year term will end in January next year, and the BJP parliamentary board, its apex body, is expected to endorse an extension for him before that, sources said. With organisational polls in BJP state units yet to start, it is obvious that he will continue at the helm, they noted. **P7**

2 killed in lightning

Sundargarh: Two football players were killed while 18 others were injured after lightning struck them during a football match at Baneilata village under Nuagaon block of Sundargarh district, Sunday afternoon. The deceased were identified as Michael Surin, 15, and Ajay Lakhua, 24, of Baratagutu village. The injured players were rushed to the Hatibari community health centre where doctors pronounced the two dead and referred the rest of the injured players to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH). A pall of gloom descended on the area after reports of the deaths spread. **P3**

Delhi minister quits

New Delhi: Delhi minister Rajendra Pal Gautam resigned from his post Sunday amid a controversy over his presence at a religious conversion event where Hindu deities were allegedly denounced. The BJP had used the issue to attack Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal during the election campaigning in Gujarat and accused him of being 'anti-Hindu'. In a letter shared on Twitter, Gautam said he is resigning as minister as he does not want his leader or AAP to be in trouble because of him. **P7**

Giant impact may have formed Moon within hours, says study

AGENCIES

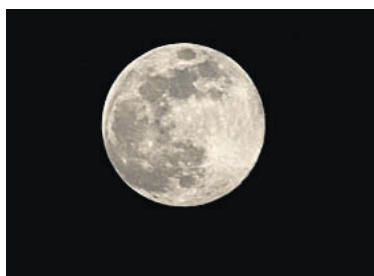
London, Oct 9: A giant impact could have formed the Moon more rapidly within hours, scientists have revealed, opening up a whole new range of possible starting places for the Moon's evolution.

The Moon is thought to have formed following a collision 4.5 billion years ago between the young Earth and a Mars-sized object, called Theia.

Most theories create the Moon by gradual accumulation of the debris from this impact.

However, this has been challenged by measurements of lunar rocks showing their composition is like that of Earth's mantle, while the impact produces debris that comes mostly from Theia.

Scientists from Durham University's Institute for Computational Cosmology in the UK used the most detailed super-computer simulations yet to reveal an al-



ternative explanation for the Moon's origin, with a giant impact immediately placing a Moon-like body into orbit around Earth.

The research team included scientists at NASA Ames Research Centre and the University of Glasgow, UK, and their simulation findings have been published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.

"We went into this project not knowing exactly what the outcomes of these

very high-resolution simulations would be. So, on top of the big eye-opener that standard resolutions can give you wrong answers, it was extra exciting that the new results could include a tantalisingly Moon-like satellite in orbit," said Jacob Kegerreis, lead researcher of the study.

Depending upon details of the subsequent solidification, these theories should predict different internal structures for the Moon.

"This formation route could help explain the similarity in isotopic composition between the lunar rocks returned by the Apollo astronauts and Earth's mantle," Vincent Eke, co-author of the study.

Furthermore, they found that even when a satellite passes so close to the Earth that it might be expected to be torn apart by the 'tidal forces' from the Earth's gravity, the satellite actually can not only survive but also be pushed onto a wider orbit, safe from future destruction.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE POWER OF YOUTH

Inviting **youth** working actively (independently or through groups) on **climate action** to send us **entries** of their work with a narration within **150 words** (About the problem their community is facing and their action) and **4 High Resolution Photos** (1MB and above) showcasing their work to get a chance to be exhibited at the **Dharitri Youth Conclave in November 2022** in Bhubaneswar.

Selected entries can attend the Youth Conclave and interact with **young climate champions** and **experts**.

Last date of entry: **30th October 2022**
Please send details to: youthconclave@धारitri.com immediately
Visit: www.dharitriyouthconclave.com

leisure



MILA KUNIS WAS VERY KEEN ON GETTING A COLLEGE DEGREE

Hollywood star Mila Kunis briefly attended UCLA and Loyola Marymount University because she was very keen on getting a college degree. *The Luckiest Girl Alive* star admitted feeling the pressure to head to university because her whole family was college educated.

'THE ROCK' NOT TO RUN FOR US PREZ

Hollywood star Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has dismissed the idea that he will run for US President, much to the disappointment of fans. Despite saying last year that he would enter the race, the wrestler-turned-actor said that it is now 'off the table' for the sake of his family, reported *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Emotions always pose obstacles. When things go wrong, life seems dispirited. But Ganesha advises you to look at the positive side of things, like the food on the dining table or the clothes in your wardrobe, and you will thank God for granting you a blessed life.

TAURUS

This day you could be wasting your time and energy in thankless activities. You are not likely to get the result you seek, says Ganesha. This is mainly because you will be trying to play the good guy and going out of your way to make everyone happy at the same time. That is not likely to happen. You should not waste time and energy and, instead, concentrate on doing things that are useful and beneficial for you.

GEMINI

Your enemies could try to harm your person or image. You need to avoid getting into arguments with anyone today, because small debates could blow up into explosive confrontations. The latter half of the day will see you able to unwind and in a much better frame of mind, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Try focusing on achieving immediate goals today. Although, it is always beneficial to see the larger picture, there are days like today when working on short-term goals makes more sense. Later, you can cumulate these gains and complete the holistic picture.

LEO

You will desire to do some creative work today. You will try to bring your inner creativity to the fore. The matters in which you lag behind people will be brought into focus today. You need to be more active in dealing with these issues to progress in life, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Ganesha foretells that your professional life will get a boost today. There will also be some perks coming your way. You have the ability to execute your plans to perfection. Your family members will shower their unconditional love on you in the evening.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will be more careful about your personal appearance and outward beauty. This is a good time to be cautious in maintaining and perusing personal relationships with other people.

SCORPIO

You feel like hibernating today, taking a day's off. But practically that's not possible. So, you think of doing things differently to entertain yourself. Besides a couple of favourable developments during the day, your performance at work is highly commendable, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Pack your travel bags; business trip on the cards. Money make the world go around and so it does for you. Consider financial matters as your priority today. In the evening, sit back, relax and bask in the glory of success, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You will be in a bad state of mind today, feels Ganesha. Just when you thought you are done with all the pending work, you will have a pile of files on your table. You will handle your money matters very wisely. You will wind up the day enjoying a romantic dinner or going out for a drive, and spending good amount of time with your partner.

AQUARIUS

Time is money, and today you will understand why it is said so. You will be conscious about the fact that if you fail to plan properly, you will never achieve your goals. As a result, you will now recalculate the risks and revise your 'to-do' list, says Ganesha. Make time management a part of your routine, it will help you forever.

PISCES

Ganesha wants you to have a new beginning in our area of interest. You have to use your capability to succeed in life. Fight all your fears with decisiveness. Your confidence and concentration will help you finish everything well.

Deepika talks about her battle with mental illness

Mumbai: Deepika Padukone does not need any introduction. She runs the Live Love Laugh Foundation, which aims to help those struggling with their mental health. Recently, the *Padmaavat* actress, who is currently in Tamil Nadu for a mental health program, spoke about her battle with mental illness. She credited her mother Ujjala Padukone for identifying her signs and symptoms. If her mother and her caregiver had not identified her symptoms, in her moment of vulnerability, she wouldn't know what state she would be in today, said Deepika.

"Ensuring, I was regular with my treatment, with my consultations with the doctors, and of course, it takes a toll on the caregiver as well and that's not something new. I think caregivers in general, whether it is mental illness or any other form of illness, it takes a toll on the caregiver," revealed the *Om Shanti Om* actress. Meanwhile,

on the work front, Deepika has many interesting movies in her pipeline. She will next reunite with Shah Rukh Khan for *Pathaan* alongside John Abraham. Next, she will star opposite Prabhas and Disha Patani in *Project K*. Apart from this, Deepika also has the American comedy film *The Intern* co-starring Amitabh Bachchan and Siddharth Anand's *Fighter* with Hrithik Roshan.



Sonal on cloud nine over success of *The Ghost*

Mumbai: Actress Sonal Chauhan is being lauded for her performance in *The Ghost*, which also stars Akkineni Nagarjuna in the lead role. Saturday, the Jannat actress took to Twitter and thanked fans for loving the film.

"Thank you all for the love that you've showered on *The Ghost*. I'm forever grateful to be a part of this dynamic project. I'm overwhelmed with all the positive comments and reviews about my stunt sequences. I tried something new and my biggest reward is the appreciation and acknowledgement that I received from all of you. Reading your comments makes all the sweat, blood and bones worth it," she posted.

Directed and produced by Pravin Sattaru, the film also stars Gul Panag, Anikha Surendran, Manish Chaudhari, Ravi Varma, Srikanth Iyengar, Vaishnavi Ganatra and Jayaprakash in crucial roles. *The Ghost* is bankrolled under Sree Venkateshwarra Cinemas LLP, Northstar Entertainment.

The movie was released in the theatres Oct 5 in multiple languages and clashed at the box office with Chiranjeevi's *GodFather*.

AGENCIES



Odia film *FOUR* bags honours at Indian Telly Streaming Awards

Bhubaneswar: *FOUR*, an original movie of Odisha's independent OTT platform AAO NXT, has bagged the Indian Telly Streaming Awards 2022 in two categories at Mumbai, Saturday. Abhishek Swain was awarded as Best Director and Abhishek Swain and Subhashree Pattanayak emerged as Best Screenplay Writers.

The movie, an anthology of different stories, talks about the mysterious journey of eight people.

Speaking about the success, AAO NXT founder Kaushik Das said, "As an early-stage platform we are trying to present our niche audience content that can match international standards. It is extremely challenging to keep up with the viewers' expectations and we're happy to manage that. Kudos to the entire team *Four* for the outstanding performance."

Co-Founder Ram Patnaik said, "Audience expectations have now reached their zenith following this success. We intend to keep up the good work in future also."

He went on to add, "Considering the success of *four*, we are eager to get the film licensed for its Hindi, Bengali and Malayalam versions to get wider reach."

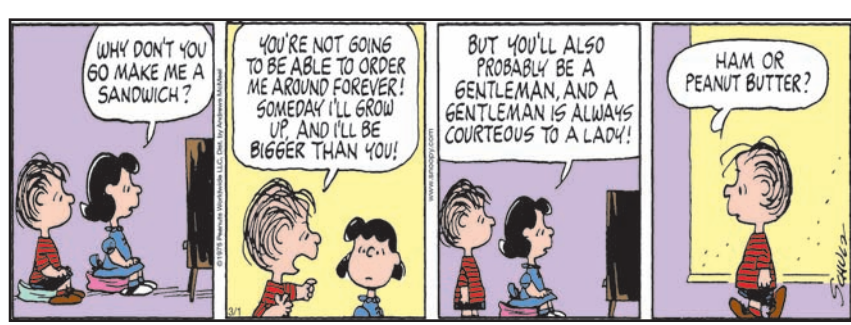
PNN

THEATRE TREAT

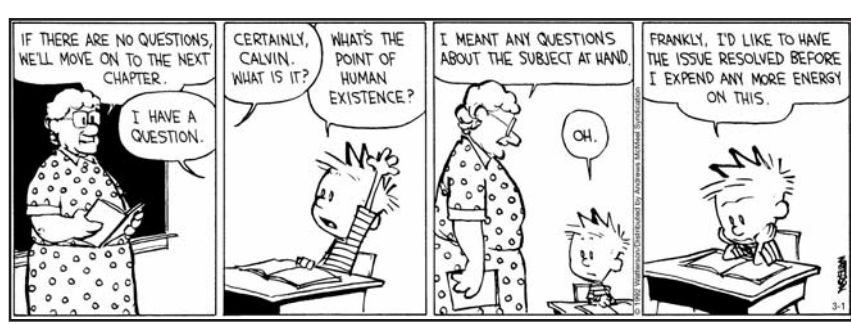
Rourkela-based theatre troupe Prayas Sunday presented Odia play *Hata* at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. The play, written by Nibedita Jena and directed by Prafulla Chandra Sethi, was staged under *Natyadhara*, a monthly theatrical event organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA), Odisha Natya Sangha (ONS) and Culture department. Bhubaneswar MLA (Central) Anantanarayan Jena, OSNA vice-president Manmath Satpathy, ONS President Haren Sahoo, theatre personalities Dhira Mallick, Shankar Tripathy and Prasanna Mishra were present on the occasion while ONS' souvenir *Sutradhar* was unveiled on the occasion.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

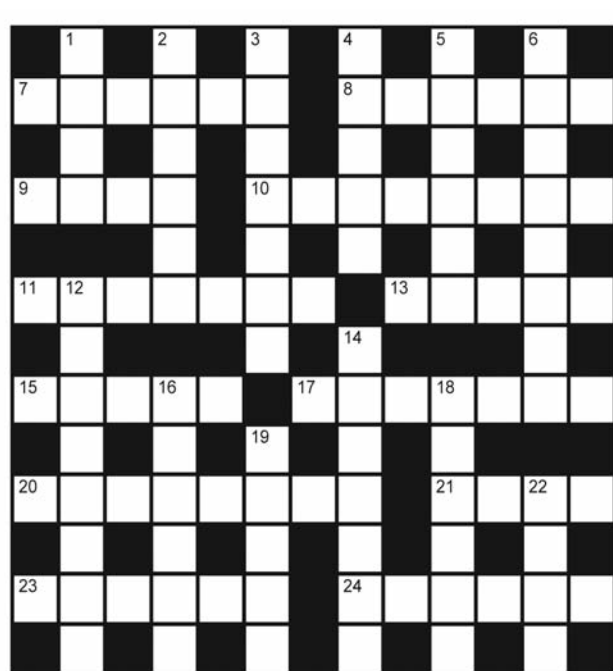


BREVITY



FUN post

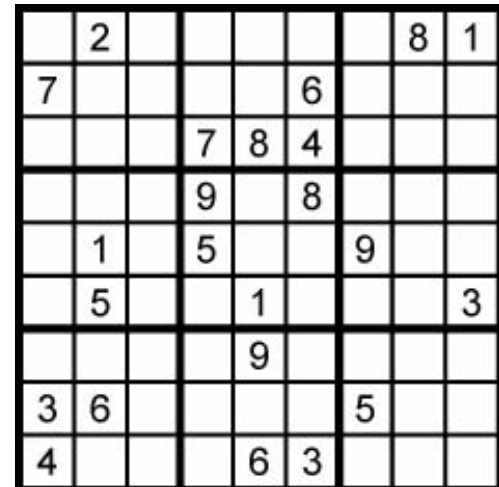
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Cause for glasses
 - 8 Health facility
 - 9 Elusive creature
 - 10 Outsider
 - 11 After suicide or combat
 - 13 Fore-and-aft-rigged vessel
 - 15 Modern letters (1-4)
 - 17 Hazelnut
 - 20 Eternal
 - 21 Musical composition
 - 23 Snare
 - 24 Carmaker's woe
 - 4 Cake topper
 - 5 *Aeneid* poet
 - 6 Swine (4,4)
 - 12 Close at hand
 - 14 It falls between Canada and the USA
 - 16 Brush aside
 - 18 Wild horse
 - 19 Afr. heavyweight
 - 22 Hideous
- Down
- 1 Orpheus's instrument
 - 2 Booty
 - 3 Nationalist

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.

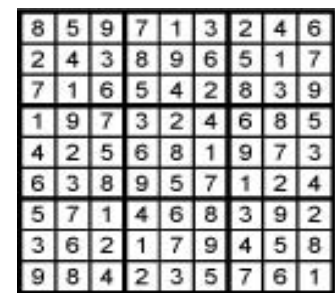


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



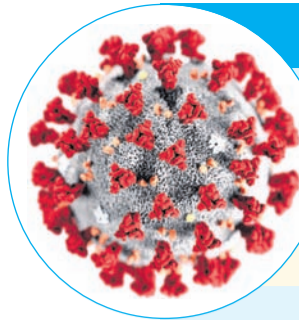
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



BRAVING RAIN

Commuters caught in rain near Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	62,65,23,809	60,61,08,941	65,60,801
India	4,46,12,013	4,40,54,621	5,28,799
Odisha	13,34,876	13,25,111	9,199

BJD leaders get new posts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The state government Sunday appointed over two dozen Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders as chairpersons, advisors, and vice-chairman of different boards and state-owned corporations.

Former Bhubaneswar MP Prasanna Patsani, who was denied a party ticket to contest the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, has been appointed as a member of the State Planning Board. He has been accorded the rank of a Cabinet minister.

Similarly, former Berhampur MLA Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik, who was also denied a party ticket to contest the Assembly elections in 2019, has been appointed as a member of the State Planning Board with a Cabinet minister rank.

Sadhu Nepak, a former MLA, was also appointed as a member of the State Planning Board with the

rank of a Minister of State.

Kasturi Mohapatra was appointed as Editor, Utkal Prasanga and Odisha Review while Minati Behera appointed as the new chairperson of Odisha State Commission for Women.

Pradip Majhi was appointed as Advisor of Special Development Council and Pabitra Panigrahi appointed chairperson of Ganjam Regional Improvement Trust.

Kalikesha Narayan Singh Deo is the new chairperson of Odisha State Housing Board and Pravat Aditya Mishra the new chairperson of Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd.

D Biswanath has been appointed as the chairperson of Odisha Rural Housing Development Corporation while former editor of Utkal

Prasanga Lenin Mohanty will be the new chairperson of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC).

Amresh Patri will be the new chairperson of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation and Subash Moharana the chairperson of Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Limited.

Bijaya Nayak has been named as the chairperson of Odisha State Seeds Corporation while Debasis Mohanty will be the new chairperson of Odisha Agro Industries Corporation.

Satyabrat Tripathy has been made the chairperson of Odisha Film Development Corporation (OFDC) while former OTDC chairperson Shreemayee Mishra will become the new chairperson of

Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (OB&OCWW)

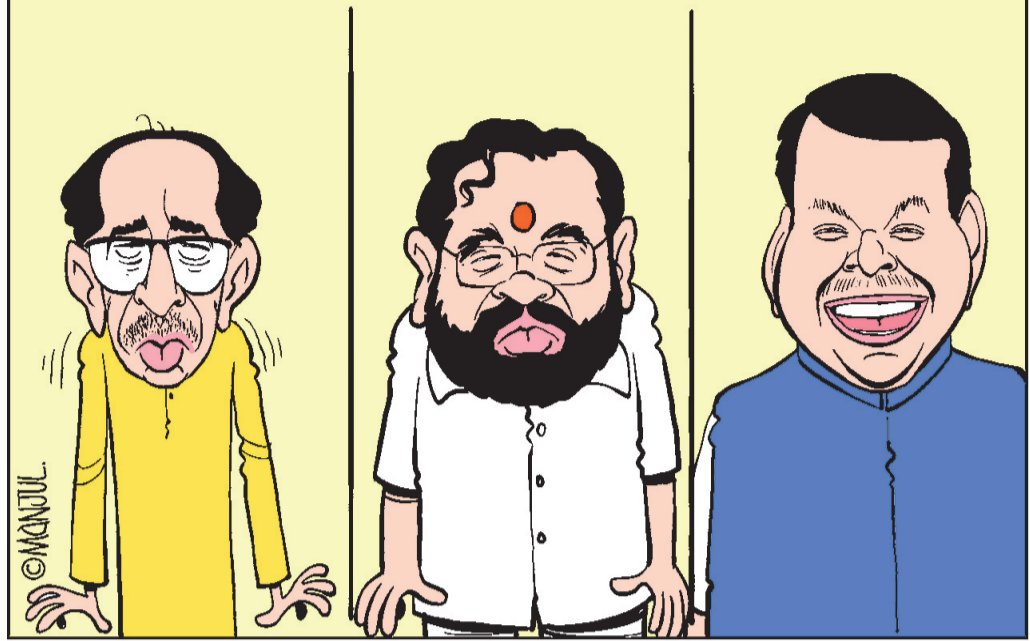
Student leader Chinmaya Sahoo will be the new chairperson of Odisha Small Industries Corporation Ltd (OSIC) while Sangram Paikaray will be the chairperson of Odisha Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Surendra Pradhan was appointed as the advisor of Odisha State Agriculture Marketing Board while Kuna Bihari Das will become the new chairperson of Odisha State Youth Welfare Board. Santosh Bej has been appointed as the vice-chairman of Odisha Agro Industries Corporation.

The other leaders appointed as advisors to different departments and schemes include Rama Chandra Panda (Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Department) and Anubhav Patnaik (E & IT Department).

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

REACTIONS AFTER ELECTION COMMISSION FREEZES SHIV SENA NAME AND SYMBOL



NHRC seeks ATR on overcrowding in Bhadrak jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action-Taken Report (ATR) from the Director General (DG) of Prisons in connection with overcrowding in Bhadrak jail.

The NHRC's move came September 27 while hearing a plea filed by rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy around four months ago.

Highlighting the precarious condition of the Bhadrak jail, Tripathy had informed the commission that although a female ward cell has

been designed to accommodate only two inmates, at least 12 prisoners are being lodged in it.

Sources said while responding to a plea of Tripathy, the Inspector General of Prisons had in 2012 assured that a modern jail for the Bhadrak district at Amargadia will come up at an expenditure of Rs 12,20,57,000. "However, it could not materialise for years now. As a result, inmates have to languish in overcrowded cells," Tripathy said. In 2015, Tripathy said, the OHRC had asked the state to take necessary steps in this matter.

There was a decision to

shift the jail. Tenders were floated subsequently. However, nothing has been done so far thanks to the bureaucratic juggernauts, he added.

Taking note, the NHRC asked the Director General of Prisons to come up with an ATR in this connection within four weeks.

In case of failure, the NHRC would 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, it said while posting the next hearing for November 9 this year.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP.	MAX	33.1°C	32.5°C
	MIN	25.0°C	25.0°C
	Humidity	91%	92%
	Rainfall	10 mm	0.0mm
	Forecast	Light rain very likely	

2 killed, 21 injured in Sundargarh lightning strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: At least two persons were killed and 21 others sustained burn injuries when lightning struck them during a football match in Odisha's Sundargarh district Sunday, police said.

The incident took place during a local football match at Baneilata under the Nuagaon block of the district, about 350 km from the state capital.

One of the deceased was a football player, the police said, adding

that most of the injured persons were spectators.

Though the sky was cloudy but there was no rain in the area when lightning struck the playground, the police said.

The two persons were declared brought dead by a doctor at the Hatibari Community Health Centre (CHC), police said.

They added that 17 of the injured persons were rushed to Rourkela Government Hospital while the remaining four were under treatment at Hatibari

CHC. Meanwhile, the IMD in its forecast said that the state will encounter rainfall activities for two more days due to a cyclonic circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal.

Weather scientist Umashankar Dash of the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar said that heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput.

7 critical in bus mishap

Parjang: Seven passengers of a bus were critically injured as the vehicle they were travelling in met with a mishap on NH-149 here, Sunday.

Cops break silence on Archana arrest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The Commissionerate Police Sunday finally broke its silence over the arrest of Archana Nag who reportedly extorted huge amounts of money from influential people by blackmailing them using intimate videos and photos. Speaking to media persons, DCP Prateek Singh said a lady has filed a case against Archana with the Khandagiri police.

The complainant claimed that she became friend with the accused Archana recently. Taking advantage of the complainant's faith in her, Archana managed to capture some of her obscene and intimate photos and videos.

"Archana blackmailed the victim to develop friendship with a movie producer and keep intimate and obscene photos of him. Later, she was also forced to ask money from the producer. When she refused, they threatened her of dire consequences. She accordingly acted as instructed by the accused. She became a victim of the plan hatched by the accused. A case (496/22) under sections 385,386,387, 420 and



the Immoral Trafficking Act has been registered in this regard at the Khandagiri police station," revealed Singh.

Police immediately initiated investigation under the personal supervision of the IIC. With prima facie culpability established, the main conspirator was arrested and forwarded to court following due process.

Investigation is on to ascertain the involvement of other persons in the case. The police team has visited her residence and seized all phones, tablets, laptops, pen drives,

passbooks and other incriminating documents. All the electronic devices have been sent to state forensic science laboratory (SFSL) for further examination, Singh informed.

"We have written to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to share details regarding all the accounts and fixed deposits in her (Archana) name and transaction carried out in those accounts during the last five years. The concerned authorities have been requested to ascertain landed properties in Archana's name. Latter have also been written to the Registrar of

Companies to know if she owns any company," added Singh.

It is pertinent here to mention that Archana and her husband are the only directors of two private limited companies, Additya Prestige Agro Private Limited and Golden Empress Private Limited, registered with the Registrar of Companies at Cuttack in 2021 and 2022 respectively. It has also come to fore that the Additya Prestige Agro Private Limited was struck off or closed due to unknown reasons.

Singh revealed that notice has been sent to Archana's husband Jagabandhu Chand for appearance. However, police has not interrogated Chand who is unwell and underwent a surgery recently. Singh revealed that Archana could be brought on remand if needed.

Notably, the cops who carried out a raid at Archana's residence at Satya Vihar in Mancheswar 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.

BCI backs top court judge over 'misuse of office'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Bar Council of India (BCI) has said the country and the Bar have complete faith in Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud, in line to become the next Chief Justice of India, following a complaint of alleged misuse of office against him, and condemned the 'deliberate attempt to malign Indian judiciary'.

The apex statutory body of lawyers assailed R K Pathan, who claims to be the chief of the so-called 'Supreme Court and High Court Litigant Association', for lodging a complaint with the President of India and others against Chandrachud, the senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court, widely tipped to be the 50th CJI when incumbent UU Lalit retires November 8.

It said, "Bar Council of India has strongly deprecated the modus of some people with vested interests for their unsuccessful attempt to tarnish the image of the Supreme Court and/or its Judges. Such a growing tendency is really a matter of serious concern for the country and it has to be checked anyhow."

The BCI statement said, "A post and letter of R K Pathan is being made viral by a few people (in which, we know that 2-3 Advocates of Mumbai are also there) deliberately on the eve of Justice Chandrachud's elevation as the Chief Justice of India."

The Bar Council of India, through its chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, said it has thoroughly examined the contents of the 165-page letter and found it nothing but a 'scurrilous and malicious attempt' to interfere with the functioning of the Judiciary and administration of Justice.

"The country and the Indian Bar has complete faith in Justice DY Chandrachud. Justice DY Chandrachud is an asset for the world's Judiciary and is known for his knowledge, honesty and integrity; but, surprisingly even such popular Judges are being attacked," it said.

The BCI said, surprisingly no details of R K Pathan have been furnished in the complaint, and there is no address or nature of body he claims to represent.

It said the Supreme Court had observed the complaints were scandalous.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY TODAY

We need more psychiatrists in India, say experts

Healthcare experts Sunday underlined the need for more psychiatrists and developing a support system to tackle mental health issues which they said worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic.

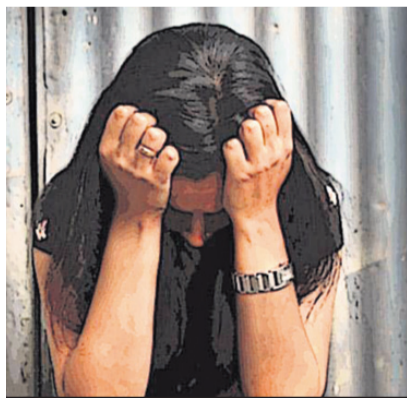
On the eve of World Mental Health Day, they said the problem has grown rapidly and Covid contributed in bringing the topic out of the closet.

Poonam Muttreja, executive director, Population Foundation of India, noted that although Covid contributed to bringing the topic of mental health out of the closet, the current crisis started developing well before the pandemic.

"Mental health problems have been growing rapidly over the last few decades, but our infrastructure has remained woefully inadequate," she told PTI.

The World Health Organization reported in 2017 that there were about 9,000 psychiatrists practising in India, which equates to 0.75 per cent per lakh of people.

WHO estimates that the ideal ratio is three psychiatrists for every lakh of people. Similarly, India has 1.93 mental health care professionals per 10,000 residents, compared to the global average



of 6.6, Muttreja said.

Calling Covid-19 a great disruptor of people's lives with its uncertainties and the economic recessions, Muttreja said women, young people and disadvantaged communities have been much worse hit due to the potential loss of income and work, school shutdowns and an increase in domestic violence and household work for women during lockdowns.

"Serious mental disease patients depend on routine care. For many who require such ongoing care, the shutdowns were disastrous. Although the full effects have not yet been documented, they seem to

be pervasive and quite palpable for many of us," she added.

World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10 every year for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma.

A 2022 WHO report mentioned that there was a 25 per cent increase in anxiety and depression among people.

Saurabh Mehrotra, senior consultant, Institute of Neurosciences at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram said when Covid caught people off guard, they were all taken aback by the rising mortality rate; it was portrayed as a deadly disease with

no effective treatment.

Anxiety about one's own and other family members' health became a prominent cause of anxiety increase.

Also, this was the first time we had been hit by a virus with such high mortality, and people had never experienced lockdown before. So we were forced to do things we had never done before, he said.

Mehrotra said Covid increased people's reliance on the digital world and social media and were exposed to a lot of unverified information which resulted in a significant increase in anxiety and depressive disorders. The transition from hav-

ing a routine, familiar school environment and playing, to having no friends to spend time with and being confined at home had a significant impact on children, he noted.

"We are also receiving reports of children suffering from psychological disorders. Furthermore, because all of their education was confined to on-line classes, most of the children were given devices for classes, and many of them became addicted to digital devices. Screen addiction in children increased dramatically," he said.

Shyam Bishen - head of Health and Healthcare at the World Economic Forum - urged stakeholders from the public and private sectors to come together and realise the vision of this year's World Mental Health Day - to "make mental health and well-being for all a global priority".

An estimated 15 per cent of working-age adults have a mental disorder at any point in time. Depression and anxiety are estimated to cost the global economy USD 1 trillion each year driven predominantly by lost productivity, according to the WHO.

State logs 89 new Cov cases

ODISHA NOW HAS 588 ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES, WHILE 13,25,036 PATIENTS HAVE RECOVERED FROM THE DISEASE, INCLUDING 124 IN THE LAST 24 HOURS



data updated at 8am stated. The active cases comprise 0.06 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate increased to 98.75 per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 658 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.15 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.28 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,54, 621, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent. India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 2020, 30 lakh August 23, 40 lakh September 5 and 50 lakh September 16. It went past 60 lakh September 28, 70 lakh October 11, crossed 80 lakh October 29, 90 lakh November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore May 4 and three crore June 23 last year. It crossed the four-crore mark January 25 this year. According to the ministry, 218.97 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive.

The five new fatalities reported in the last 24 hours include two from Maharashtra and one each from Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

19 cases, while 13,25,036 patients have recovered from the disease, including 124 in the last 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was at 1.01 per cent as 89 fresh cases were detected from 8,788 sample tests.

Meanwhile India added 2,756 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,46,12,013, while the active cases dipped to 28,593, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Sunday.

The death toll climbed to 5,28,799 with 21 fatalities which includes 16 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the



PEOPLE'S POET: Dignitaries paying tributes to Ganakabi Baishnab Pani by garlanding his statue on the occasion of his birth anniversary at a park named after him in Cuttack, Sunday

Smart approach key to my success: Sudeep

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: For Sudeep Mishra, OCS achiever of Jajpur district, rank 114, to excel in Odisha Civil Service examination was far from easy.

Born in Patana village of Ratnagiri panchayat under Bari block to a school teacher Sachikanta Mishra and homemaker Snehanjali Mishra, Sudeep had dreamt of be-

coming an OCS officer during his school time. To turn his dream into reality, after completing MSc in Agriculture from OUAT, Bhubaneswar, he decided to prepare for OCS.

He had first appeared for OCS examination in 2019 and cleared the prelims but could not appear for the mains due to inadequate preparation. However, he made it happen this time with flying colours.



Overwhelmed by the result, 26-year Sudeep said, "I can't express my feelings in words. It's happened due to my parent's blessings and support as well as my smart ap-

proach to hard work. In my first attempt, I could not make it to the final round but that failure taught me to adopt the smart approach in my preparation. And finally, I did this with flying colours."

Father Sachikanta Mishra said, "I am proud of my son. He has taken up our family's image. People from our village and nearby villages are expressing their best wishes to him. Could not be happier."

All set for ...

Continued from P1

The lighting system has been fully done anew. The Bermuda grass of the field has been imported, according to the sports secretary. "New functional areas have been created. VIP boxes and dugouts have also been upgraded. A lot of the renovation has been done in phases over the last two-three years," he said, estimating that the overall cost could be around Rs 90 crore.

Six gates are expected to be used for different categories of spectators. The beautification, wall painting and cleaning of the surroundings were taken up as part of the refurbishment, Krishna added.

The multipurpose venue, built in 1978, has facilities for athletics, football, hockey, basketball, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, climbing and swimming. The stadium has hosted several tournaments and is also the home venue for Odisha

Sixteen teams will fight for the top honours and 32 matches will be played across three venues - Bhubaneswar, Navi Mumbai and Goa. The final will be played at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.



MILAD-UN-NABI: A celebratory procession being carried out by people of Muslim community on the occasion of the birthday of the Prophet of Islam, Hazrat Mohammad at Satya Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

462 spurious...

Continued from P1

The rules were amended providing that "in case the applicant intends to market the drug under a brand name or trade name, the applicant shall furnish an undertaking in Form 51 to the Licensing Authority to the effect that to the best of his knowledge based on search in trademarks registry, central database for brand name or trade name of drugs maintained by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, literature and reference books on details of drug formulations in India, and internet, such or similar brand name or trade name is not already in existence with respect to any drug in the country and the proposed brand name or trade name shall not lead to any confusion or deception in the market," said the reply by the Ministry of Health. The regulatory control over the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs in the country is exercised through a system of licensing and inspection by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by the state governments.

Earlier this week, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a warning about drugs manufactured by a Haryana-based pharmaceutical company following which the Union government initiated a probe.

The pandemic fuelled a rise in first-time pet owners and people adopting puppies and kittens. While even inexperienced owners expect a new puppy will need some training, people rarely think the same applies to kittens.

But just like dogs, cats need support to adjust to living alongside us. Simple forms of training can be good for their wellbeing.

Compared to dogs, cats share different historic relationships with humans. Cats have never been selectively bred to enhance their ability to cooperate and communicate with us, or perform working roles such as herding, hunting or guarding. But research shows they can recognise and respond to our subtle social cues and be trained to perform similar tasks to dogs.

However, it's unlikely we would need a cat to "walk nicely" on a lead, or settle quietly at the pub. And cats typically need less support than dogs to master toilet training - providing the right litter tray is usually sufficient.

But we are missing a trick if we only think about training pets to make our lives easier. Myself

and colleague Daniel Cummings of animal charity Cats Protection would argue that there are many possible benefits to the cat also. In a rehoming shelter, for example, training can be a useful tool to increase a cat's exploratory behaviours, positive reactions to people and maybe even their chances of being adopted.

At home, we can use simple techniques to help cats with things like feeling comfortable in a cat carrier, getting used to car journeys, as well as tolerating being groomed and receiving basic health examinations and treatments. Such training can also help cats cope better with visits to the vet.

Cats are not born with an innate affinity towards humans and must be exposed to gentle, warm handling from two weeks old so they can learn we are friend rather than foe. There is limited evidence that younger cats are more attentive to our social cues, which could mean they are more amenable to training. Kittens should also be played with using cat wands or fishing rod toys so that they learn not to attack our hands or feet.

Cats are not born with an innate affinity towards humans



- Punishments such as shouting, rough handling or using a water spray can induce stress and compromise the quality of owner-cat relationships
- Reward-based techniques can be an excellent way to teach a cat to enter a carrier on their own or sit calmly whilst we deliver their flea treatment
- Signs to look for include the cat turning their head away, nose licking, head shaking, a raised paw, sudden bouts of self-grooming, looking hunched or tense, a twitching or thumping tail and rotated or flattened ears

Punishments such as shouting, rough handling or using a water spray can induce stress and compromise the quality of owner-cat relationships. Always use positive

reinforcement (such as treats and praise). This is not only the most effective way to train pets, but it's also better for their wellbeing. Reward-based techniques can

be an excellent way to teach a cat to enter a carrier on their own or sit calmly whilst we deliver their flea treatment. Some very friendly food motivated cats may enjoy being taught to give a high five, or to sit or spin.

But cats are often less motivated than dogs to pay attention to us, or do what we are asking, especially in situations where they don't feel comfortable. These factors may explain the high drop-out rates in studies that involve training cats to attend to human social cues.

It's important that we make sure the cat is somewhere they feel at ease when we undertake any training with them. Always ensure the cat has the option to walk away or end the session when they want and try to give them a break if they seem uncomfortable. Signs to look for include the cat turning their head away, nose licking, head shaking, a raised paw, sudden bouts of self-grooming, looking hunched or tense, a twitching or thumping tail and rotated or flattened ears.

Here's how to teach your cat enter a carrier and settle in five easy steps:

1. Lure them onto a blanket
In a place where your cat already feels safe, teach him or her to settle on a blanket. Do this by luring the cat onto the blanket using food.

Reward the cat for staying on the blanket with more treats, petting or verbal praise, depending on what your cat likes most. Feed treats at nose height to encourage them into a sit position, then feed treats at ground height to encourage the cat to crouch and then eventually lay on the blanket.

2. Introduce the carrier
Once your cat has mastered step one, place the blanket on the bottom of a carrier with the lid removed. Repeat the same luring and rewarding steps.

3. Take it slowly
When your cat is happily resting on the blanket in the carrier, place the lid on top of the carrier (without attaching the door) and repeat the luring and rewarding process.

4. Let your cat set the pace
After your cat has happily entered the carrier and settled inside, place the door on the carrier.

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SPLENDID PERFORMANCE: Artistes of Vijay Vikash Kadam, a troupe from Mumbai, performed traditional 'Lavani' dance at a cultural programme organised by Madhumaya Panigrahi Foundation at ITI auditorium in Berhampur on the occasion of Kumar Purnima, Sunday OP PHOTO

Helper jumps into river to avoid arrest, dies

POST NEWS NETWORK
Jaleswar, Oct 9: In a surprising incident, a truck helper died after he jumped into the Subarnarekha river from a moving vehicle to avoid arrest during a raid on vehicles smuggling cattle to West Bengal. The incident occurred at Naka point near the river bridge under this police limit in Balasore district, in the wee hours of Sunday.

Police detained seven other persons and was questioning them in this connection. Police also seized three container trucks and a pick-up van, and seized over 250 cattle

lice team over a tip-off was stationed on Jaleswar National Highway-60 to check on container trucks and vans smuggling cattle to the neighbouring state.

sardines in the carriages of the vehicles. Police were questioning the occupants of the vehicles when a helper of one of the vehicle jumped into Subarnarekha river to evade arrest. He crash landed on a river islet and sustained critical injuries. Police rescued him and rushed him to a nearby hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. A case of unnatural death was registered with seizure of the body.

CATTLE SMUGGLING

from their carriages. The seized cattle were later sent to the Goshala for rehabilitation. The incident occurred when a po-

The police team intercepted the three container trucks and the van for verification at Naka point and rescued over 250 cattle packed like

Man trampled as jumbos on rampage in Tarsingi

As many as 44 elephants, divided into four groups, are camping in different areas of the Tarsingi forest area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Berhampur, Oct 9: A 40-year-old man was trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants in Ganjam district, Forest officials said. The incident took place at Khetamundali village under Ganjam district's Tarsingi forest range Saturday night. Forest officials recovered the body early Sunday morning and sent it for post-mortem to the Sub-

Divisional hospital, Bhanjanagar. The deceased was identified as Pabitra Patra, a farm labourer of the same village. The deceased along with four others were in their farmlands of the village to protect their crops from the wild animals, including elephants, when the incident took place. Patra was trampled to death by a jumbo when he along with others attempted to chase away a 17-member elephant herd that entered their paddy field. The elephant herd attacked Patra after he fell down, while others fled from the spot, said Ghumusar North DFO Sudarshan Behera. One of the elephants took him about 25 feet away from the spot, the official said.

"We rushed him to the Bhanjanagar hospital, where the doctors declared him dead," said Tara Kant Udgata, range officer, Tarsingi. Forest officials, including the DFO, rushed to the village and visited the house of the deceased. The family members of the deceased were told that they would get compensation of ₹4 lakh as per the provision of the government. "We are trying to provide 10 per cent of the compensation immediately," the DFO said. Behera said a group of 17 elephants might have migrated from Kandhamal district. As many as 44 jumbos, divided into four groups, are holed up in different areas of the Tarsingi forest area. People of the area were panicked.



ANNUAL FESTIVAL: Villagers participated in a procession to celebrate the annual puja and Kumar Purnima festival of village deity Maa Bagadhar at Ranigoda village on the outskirts of Angul town, Sunday OP PHOTO

37 ill as diarrhoea spreads in Lathi

POST NEWS NETWORK
Berhampur, Oct 9: Amid continued torrential rain, diarrhoea has broken out at Lathi village under Kukudakhandi block in Ganjam district. Since October 1, as many as 37 people have been affected by the water-borne disease and are under treatment in local hospitals. It was alleged that the water being supplied through pipes has been contaminated, which has led to outbreak of the disease. ADMO R Jagdish Patnaik said that the pipe water supply to the village has been stopped. A medical team visited the village and checked health of some villagers. The staff of the Kukudakhandi community health centre has been asked to remain alert round the clock to provide healthcare services to the affected people. Notably, diarrhoea is also spreading in Bhismagiri under Digapahandi block. A medical team has visited the village and taken stock of the situation. Eleven people were affected by diarrhoea in the village, the ADMO said.

Kumar Purnima celebrated as Ganjam youths engage in gambling

IN THIS SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ODISHA, GAMBLING ON KUMAR PURNIMA NIGHT IS CONSIDERED AUSPICIOUS

PNN & AGENCIES
Berhampur, Oct 9: Kumar Purnima, the popular festival of the youths, was celebrated across Odisha including Ganjam district where youths engaged themselves in gambling despite police crackdown. The festival this time was observed with much enthusiasm Sunday after two years of Covid-19 restrictions. Despite rain and crackdown by the police, youths wearing new clothes engaged themselves in gambling, while the elders worshiped the Goddess Laxmi on the occasion. In Ganjam district, gambling on Kumar Purnima night is considered auspicious and people here believe that Goddess Laxmi blesses those who indulge in gambling. Even the elders of the family give money to their children for gambling, said Ramesh Panigrahi, a senior citizen.



The police have so far arrested 250 people in a span of seven days on the charge of gambling. However, police go slow on Kumar Purnima night as almost all families are engaged in gambling, a senior police officer said. Meanwhile, Janhi Osha, a month long ritual of young girls also ended on the day. Popular folk songs like 'Thia Puchi Narang' and 'Kumar Punei Janha Lo' of young Odia girls in rural villages came to vibrate when several young dancers and singers sang traditional song and performed dance in a cultural programme organised by Berhampur-

based Madhumaya Panigrahi Foundation on the occasion. The young artists from different areas of the state, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra performed folk and classical dances on the occasion. "In the last two years we have not organised cultural programme in physical mode due to the Covid pandemic situation," said Sudipta Panigrahy. As the situation improved, Kumar Punei Janhalo- the popular annual cultural programme of the foundation returned to its pre-Covid grandeur, she said. The event not only helped to revive the extinct folk and dance culture of the state, but it also helped the talented young artists to showcase their skill in the platform, said Prafulla Jagannath Padhy, the president of the organisation. The aim of the programme is to preserve the cultural tradition of the district, said Hrusikesh Panigrahy of the organisation.

ILLEGAL PARKING ON BIJU EXPRESSWAY

SPCB warns industries, asks to make own arrangements

Illegal parking leaves little space for vehicles to move on the highway causing traffic snarls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 9: Illegal parking of trucks on Sambalpur-Rourkela Biju Expressway in front of various industrial firms on the roadside has led to regular traffic jam on the highway here.

Taking cognizance of the matter, the regional office of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) here in a letter-3574/22 has issued notice to the industrial firms warning them of action if they do not make own arrangements for parking of the trucks visiting their firms for loading and unloading of goods. The copies of the notice have also been served to the Sambalpur Collector, the Works department and the consultancy agency engaged in road construction works.

Reports said that several industrial firms have come up in this district in front of the Biju Expressway connecting Sambalpur with Rourkela.

The establishment of these firms near the Biju Expressway has resulted in sharp increase in commercial activities following which several trucks visit these firms to load or unload cargo. However, due to lack of adequate parking



space, the drivers park the vehicles on the road leading to traffic snarls on the highway. The illegal parking leaves little space for other vehicles to move on the highway and leaves them stranded for long hours. Moreover, the illegal parking also leads to pollution in the area. Among the roadside farms are the JSW Bhushan Power and Steel, which has its plant at Thelkuli, Biraj Steel and Power Ltd at Gurupali, Aditya Alumina and Maa Samaleshwari Industry Pvt Ltd at Lapanga, Shyam Metallics and Energy at Pandloi, Aryan Ispat and Power Pvt Ltd at Bamaloi. Notably, traffic on the highway was disrupted for over four hours

Highway traffic was disrupted for over four hours September 27 with thousands of passengers and vehicles getting stuck on the route

due to this reason September 27 with thousands of passengers and commercial vehicles and two-wheelers getting stuck on the route and commuters having a harrowing time.

This sparked off tension among the commuters and police personnel had to struggle for long hours to clear the traffic jam. Police also collected penalty for illegal parking from over 40 trucks but that has failed to deter the truckers from illegal parking.

The commuters had then alleged that travelling on the highway has become a nightmare due to illegal parking of thousands of trucks which visit the industrial estate at Rengali.

Land sharks go on conversion spree

LARGE TRACTS OF FARMLANDS ARE SOLD OFF AND CONVERTED INTO HOMESTEAD LANDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pattamundai, Oct 9: Rampant conversion of farmlands for urbanisation in alleged violation of norms has sent the alarm bells ringing for the farmers under this block and civic body limits in Kendrapara district. Land sharks are said to be complicit in such activities.

Reports said that over 1,000 hectare of fertile farmlands have shrunk under this municipality limits between 2018 to 2021.

It is apprehended that if this trend continues then in the next two decades the area will be bereft of any land for cultivation. This will severely affect the farming and will result in loss of livelihood for farmers. The demand for homestead land has increased so much that various vested interest groups did not even hesitate to sell off a part of Pokhariapada minor canal. The canal that originates from Pattamundai main canal has now become extinct with several houses coming up on it. The Water Resources department has declared the canal dead.

The land grabbing has picked up in the area after various government and private establishments opened their offices in the area and the market which was very small some 20 years back. The town area has been expanding with passage of time, locals said. The area also witnessed the in-

BANE OF URBANISATION



flux of people from outside who started settling here and earned their livelihood by working in various offices and businesses. As a result, land prices in Pattamundai civic body limits and on its outskirts have skyrocketed with passage of time.

The land prices have gone up by several notches in these areas where a gunth of land is sold at ₹15 lakh to ₹30 lakh. It has become impossible for a small time official or person of lower middle class family to purchase land and build houses on it.

The establishment of various offices and rise in commercial activities have led to pressure on land following which farmlands

under Pattamundai civic body limits, the road connecting Rajnagar, the Pattamundai-Tatna road and from Pohala Square to Pattamundai Bypass Square were converted and sold off for house construction.

The farmlands on both sides of Balipatna, Chaudakulat and Nilakanthapur roads were also converted and sold off for house construction.

The vested interest groups after grabbing several patches of land in Pattamundai town area and on its outskirts have now set their sight on the land in villages like Chandannagar and Kakharuni under the block.

The land on both sides of the canal from Pokhariapada in the

town and on Tatna road has been sold off while houses have come up on it. Similarly, the land from MN High School to Baktharpur and Kakharuni bridge has been sold off.

The land near the Pattamundai water resources office, Praharajpur, Beltala, Dakhinadia and the lands on both sides of Gobari river have been grabbed by mafia who are converting the lands. Vested interest groups have allegedly manipulated the '1930 settlement' works and have grabbed high value government lands.

The encroachers have also not spared the Gobari river which has now become buried and is a national property. They have grabbed various parts of the river by claiming that they had taken lands on lease from former Zamindars and their descendants.

Land sharks have also encroached upon various water bodies in the town and sold off as homestead land. Parts of Gobari river, Pokhariapada minor canal and other water bodies have been grabbed.

Locals have questioned the encroachment of the buried river. Notably, a 20-km stretch of the river from Pattamundai to Gandakia has been buried due to lack of timely renovation.

Locals have demanded the state government and the district administration to stop the indiscriminate land grabbing in the area.

Gajalaxmi puja kicks off in Dhenkanal

Dhenkanal: The famous annual Gajalaxmi Puja kicked off with religious fervor and gaiety in Dhenkanal town and other parts of the district.

The puja is celebrated on 'Sharata Purnima' in the month of Ashwina for 11 days here. Century-old Gajalaxmi Puja is celebrated in a grand manner in Dhenkanal.

This year, Goddess Laxmi is being worshiped at 38 pandals in Jabahar chowk, Laxmi Bazaar, Ganesh Bazaar, Mahaveer Bazaar, Kanchan Bazaar, Ananda Bazaar, Karigarsahi, Bajichowk, Golden Street, Gudianali, Radhakrishna Bazaar, Station Bazaar, Sappeswar Bazaar, Gandhi Bazaar, College Bazaar, Chandan Bazaar, Banamali Prasad, Khamarsahi, bus stand



area, Kantanali bypass and Nehru Bazaar. The pandals have been decorated with attractive dazzling lights. Besides, 'meena bazaar' is the main

attraction of the pandals. The administration and organisers have roped in members of self help groups (SHGs) and traders at the fair to sell their products.

FOCUS CORPORATES

WHY BUSINESSES MISBEHAVE



Big Tech has benefited massively from unbridled data collection, which allows a dominant player to know much more about consumers than potential rivals do, and to mount formidable barriers to market entry. The result is not just market concentration but also the mass manipulation of users, sometimes through misleading product offerings and even more often through digital ads

data collection, which allows a dominant player to know much more about consumers than potential rivals do, and to mount formidable barriers to market entry. The result is not just market concentration but also the mass manipulation of users, sometimes through misleading product offerings and even more often through digital ads.

Fortunately, businesses do not have some incorrigible tendency to misbehave. From the fin de siècle industrialists to corporate bad actors today, the common denominator has been a system that lacks proper checks against abuse. If we want better behaviour and better innovation from companies, we need to provide the right institutional environment and the right type of regulation.

James A. Robinson and I tried to emphasise this point in Why Nations Fail, when we compared Bill Gates and the Mexican telecommunications tycoon Carlos Slim. Both men, we argued, had an interest in making as much money with whatever means they could; but Slim could get away with much worse behaviour than Gates, owing to the differences between the Mexican and US legal and regulatory regimes.

Looking back, I now think we were too generous to the United States. Though US businesses had a stronger incentive than their Mexican counterparts to innovate, there were plenty of ways that they, too, could get away with misbehaviour. Opportunities for exploiting the system were already multiplying by the time Microsoft had become a leading company, and they have since become much more endemic, with colossal costs for the US economy.

The tragedy of villainous business behaviour is that it is largely preventable. To create the proper balance of guardrails and incentives, we must both disabuse ourselves of the myth of the heroic entrepreneur and recognise that the gales of creative destruction do not blow automatically. Only with better regulations and stronger institutions can we achieve prosperity and hold the most powerful people in society accountable for their behaviour.

The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.
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Are successful business-people more like heroes or villains? In fictional accounts, one can find plenty of examples of each, from Charles Dickens' miserly Ebenezer Scrooge to Ayn Rand's rugged individualist entrepreneur John Galt. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, Tom Buchanan represents privileged old money, with its ruthlessness and incapacity for empathy, whereas Jay Gatsby is a self-made millionaire with no shortage of sentimentality and idealism.

One finds the same distinctions in social-science depictions of entrepreneurs. Joseph Schumpeter and his followers viewed entrepreneurs as the engines of growth, the heroic figures who delivered "gales of creative destruction." By contrast, Frederick Engels' The Condition of the Working Class in England heaped scorn on British industrialists who pushed their workers not just into poverty but into inhumane working and living conditions. But later, he and Karl Marx made the two roles an essential part of their theory of capitalism: ruthless businesspeople exploit workers but also unleash innovation and growth, ultimately transforming society.

These conflicting depictions reflect society's complex views of business. Obviously, it would be naive to expect all businesspeople to be either heroes or villains. Like most of us, they are often both.

Many names that we now associate with philanthropy or higher education originally belonged to the robber barons of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Industrial magnates like John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and Cornelius Vanderbilt showed no compunction about intimidating and acquiring rivals in order to monopolise their respective markets and increase prices. They were also downright brutal – and sometimes murderous – toward any workers who had the temerity to ask for higher pay or better conditions.

Leland Stanford, the founder of Stanford University, was probably even worse. Not only did he and his associates corner the railway construction industry on the Pacific coast; they also concocted a scheme to get American taxpayers to pay for it. Stanford also

savagely exploited migrant workers, especially Chinese, who laboured under conditions so harsh, and for pay so low, that very few Americans would work for him.

Stanford then jumped into politics to solidify his gains and benefit further at taxpayers' expense. He strong-armed California's state legislature and municipal governments into issuing bonds that provided more public money for his railroads. And as governor of the state, he organised murderous raids against Native Americans and whipped up hatred against the very Chinese who had been so crucial to his success.

Nowadays, the myth of heroic business no longer has much purchase. Johnson & Johnson, once praised for its proactive product recalls to protect customers, is using a dubious legal manoeuvre (the "Texas two-step" or "divisional merger") to avoid paying damages for its marketing and sales of contaminated talcum powder. The big oil companies, after decades of denying and sowing disinformation about climate change, are now pretending to be committed to environmental activism. But no one is buying the ruse.

And then, of course, there is the tech industry, where many en-

trepreneurs started as idealistic outsiders promising to make the world a better place. Google's motto was "Don't be evil." But now "Big Tech" is synonymous with market domination, consumer manipulation, tax avoidance, and other abuses. (In 2018, Google removed its motto from the preface of its Code of Conduct.)

For years, the sector's biggest players have been acquiring or simply copying new entrants' products to reinforce their own dominance. A telltale example is Facebook's purchase of Instagram, in 2012, and WhatsApp, in 2014. Internal documents have since shown that these acquisitions were motivated by top executives' desire to neutralise potential competitors.

Even more questionable are "killer acquisitions": a company purchases a new technology under the pretense of integrating it into its own ecosystem, only to de-commission it entirely. These monopolistic methods come on top of other tried-and-true tactics, such as bundling products to stop users from switching to rival services, as Microsoft did to kill off Netscape, and as Apple has done with its iOS ecosystem.

Last but not least, Big Tech has benefited massively from unbridled



Daron Acemoglu

ONLY WITH BETTER REGULATIONS AND STRONGER INSTITUTIONS CAN WE ACHIEVE PROSPERITY AND HOLD THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN SOCIETY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOUR

Women's Wordplay

This year marks a watershed for the power of the pen wielded by women the world over. It is a triumph of women's imaginative power to fathom the depths of reality and translate their realisations into words creating verbal magic. And the world's best forums are recognising the feminine talent. For, the Nobel Prize in Literature, 2022, has gone to the French author Annie Ernaux, the first French woman to win it, only months after India's woman novelist Geetanjali Shree won this year's International Booker Prize. Coincidentally, a common thread binds the two women as they weave their tales using human memories.

Ernaux's winning the Nobel Prize cannot come at a better time. She is one of the most powerful voices asserting women's rights and she bags the greatest literary award of the world at a time when Far-right forces are alarmingly rising across the world, including Europe. Rightly has she diagnosed that women's rights are curbed most ruthlessly under Far-right regimes. In fact, she is so disturbed by the rise of these forces in Europe - Italy and Sweden in particular - during the past few months that she remarked "the extreme Right in history has never been favourable to women." Her own country was dangerously close to embracing the Far-right in the Presidential race recently.

The 82-year-old Ernaux has been writing for the past 50 years from her deep convictions that one's personal memories can form the raw material for novels and not merely for autobiographies. It means one's personal experiences have the power to transcend the limited boundary of a single individual's life and become valid for the whole human race. Once she said that writing is a political act, opening our eyes to social inequality. "And for this purpose she uses language as 'a knife', as she calls it, to tear apart the veils of imagination," the Swedish Academy announcing the Nobel Prize for Literature said.

Her very first novel, "Les Armoires Vides" written in 1974, is born of this conviction. It deals with her own personal experience of abortion which was then illegal in France. It was an assertion of any woman's right to do with her body as she pleases. It is remarkable that nearly half a century later the apex court in India recently pronounced a landmark verdict on an unmarried woman's right to terminate her pregnancy as she thought it was the only way to stop her mental agony and tortured social life. She took the decision as the man, who had promised to marry her, ditched her after she became pregnant. The woman's plea had been rejected outright by the Delhi High Court which found the existing laws did not accord this right to unmarried women. But, the Supreme Court took a different view and granted her the right. However, the apex court's verdict does not give this right to all unmarried women since it is specific to this case only.

It is not without reason that Ernaux recently declared: "Until my last breath I will fight for women's right to choose whether they want to be a mother or not."

Ernaux was born to a modest family of grocers from Normandy in northern France. This background has shaped her mind and enabled her to write in a frank, direct style about class. She tried hard to adopt the codes and habits of the French bourgeoisie while remaining firmly rooted to her working class origin. She uses various angles of vision and consistently examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class.

The Swedish Academy has made a brave choice of someone who writes unabashedly about her sexual life, women's rights and her experience and sensibility as a woman. It is in the fitness of things that the Academy has termed her "a courageous woman" who has traversed a long path.

WISDOM CORNER

- Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. **ROBERT FROST**
- Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value. **DESMOND TUTU**
- The moment you are old enough to take the wheel, responsibility lies with you. **JK ROWLING**

WORDSWORTH

Caitiff

A caitiff is a contemptible or cowardly person. It's archaic, so if you say it with a straight face you might even get away with the insult. It's also a word that – like many in the lexicon – has come down in the world. It started out, sometime before 1300, to mean a captive. It came through French from Latin captivum, with the same sense (captive comes from the same Latin word by a later re-borrowing, again through French, so it and caitiff make a doublet). As captives were not in the best of circumstances, caitiff began to mean a wretched or miserable person. Chaucer uses it several times in the Canterbury Tales, as in the Knight's Tale: "And now I am so caitiff and so thrall / That he that is my mortal enemy / I serve him as his squier poorly". [thrall: enslaved; squier: squire]. The sense then shifted further towards contempt, implying a mixture of misery and wickedness, and then to the sense of cowardly. Later it became a staple of those historical writers seeking to gain some antique credibility through choice of language. Sir Walter Scott comes especially to mind: The caitiff villain yet seemed, amid his hardened brutality, to have some sense of his being the object of public detestation, which made him impatient of being in public, as birds of evil omen are anxious to escape from daylight, and from pure air (The Heart of Mid-Lothian, by Sir Walter Scott, 1818).

Callithumpian

Callithumpian refers to a band of discordant instruments or a noisy parade. It was first noted in America in 1836. It's possible it may have its origin in a southern English dialect word gallithumpian; the English Dialect Dictionary says this could refer to a heckler or someone who disturbs order at Parliamentary elections (which were then public events, not secret ballots), this probably derives from gally, "to frighten", which turns up in another dialect word gallicrow for a scarecrow. But it's also been said to be a blend of calliope and thump, which sounds plausible as an evocation of a noisy fairground atmosphere, except that unfortunately calliope, in the sense of the steam-driven musical instrument, is not recorded before 1858. The word survives, though it's now rather regional even in the US, for example in the Callithumpian Parade on 4 July every year in Biwabik, Minnesota, and in the names of the Callithumpian Consort, which performs avant-garde music, and Jack Maheu's Fire In The Pet Shop Callithumpian Jazz Band. It has a second meaning in Australia and New Zealand, referring to some unspecified nonconformist religious sect. This may be derived from the other meaning given in the English Dialect Dictionary of "a group of social reformers".

LOL

HE'S A DRUNK DRIVER

There was an inebriated driver who was pulled up by the police. When the cop opened the door, the driver fell out. "YOU'RE DRUNK!" exclaimed the police officer.



IN JEST THIS

It's never too late to strengthen muscles



Melvin Durai

YOU CAN LIFT OBJECTS AROUND YOUR HOME, PERHAPS AN APPLIANCE, BAG OF RICE, OR THE FAMILY DOG

About two years ago, I joined a gym and started pumping iron. I wanted to get stronger. The results have been amazing. People have been stopping me on the street and asking me if I'm Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Actually, no one has mistaken me for Arnold – not even the 75-year-old version of Arnold. But I have become significantly stronger and my muscles have become slightly bigger. It's not easy to gain muscle at my age. I consider myself "middle-aged," but if you ask my teenaged son, he'd say I'm somewhere between "old" and "ancient."

Running almost every day and lifting weights three times a week is part of my plan to feel young for as long as I can. The weight training has made other tasks easier; I can carry groceries into my home or luggage to the car without feeling exhausted. When my wife asks me to get the 10 kg bag of rice from the top shelf of the pantry, I do not end up with a sore shoulder for

a week. Just a day or two.

Weight training not only strengthens our muscles, it helps our muscles and nerves to continue working well together, according to a new study from the Center for Healthy Aging at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

"Our study shows that heavy weight training can strengthen the connection between the nerves in the spinal cord and the muscles. This will protect the body's functional ability and reduce the risk of motor neuron death in the spinal cord, which is key to having a well-functioning body," said Casper Sondenbroe, one of the researchers behind the study.

I have to admit that, until I read about this study, I hadn't given any thought to the "risk of motor neuron death in the spinal cord." But if we want to move around freely as we get older, being able to control our bodies is important. Otherwise, our bodies won't listen to us. This happens to me when

I need to climb over a wall. I can get to the top, but when I need to jump down on the other side, my body won't listen. "Jump!" I say, but it won't move. In my younger days, I'd be over the wall in an instant. And over the ankle sprain in two weeks.

The Denmark study showed not only that weight training strengthens the connection between nerves and muscles, but also that people of all ages can benefit from this. The researchers observed a group of older men (average age 72) who lifted heavy weights three times a week for four months. The men experienced significant gains in fitness and muscle size.

If you visit Copenhagen, don't be surprised if an old man at the airport is strong enough to lift your suitcase off the baggage carousel with one arm and fast enough to run off with it.

"We believe heavy weight training is one of the most effective forms of fitness training, regardless of whether you are young and

old," Sondenbroe said. "Your muscles and physical strength will increase, which will help you manage yourself in everyday situations."

You do not have to join a gym to lift weights, of course. You can lift your own weight by doing pushups, pullups, lunges and squats. You can also lift objects around your home, perhaps an appliance, bag of rice, or the family dog. If you're a grandparent, don't miss the opportunity to carry your grandchildren around, as long as they're under 20. (Kilograms, that is.)

Weight training helps you increase muscle mass, as well as bone density. It has also been shown to reduce the symptoms of chronic conditions such as arthritis, back pain, obesity, heart disease, depression, diabetes and laziness. I'm not sure if it actually helps with laziness, but ever since I started lifting weights, I've seen an amazing motivational change: my wife is considerably less motivated to call me "lazy bum."

Encourage science & tech

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, Bhubaneswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, The scientific community is dismayed by the shocking news that over a hundred awards in science and technology have been scrapped. So far, these awards have been given to faculty members and scientists who have achieved excellence in scientific research and encouraged young scientists to aspire a high degree of excellence. The decision is a part of the overall plan of the Union government to slash the support for science and technology. Earlier, the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), which was meant to financially support promising youngsters on the way to becoming scientists, was scrapped financial support for the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) has been stopped, and the INAE has been advised to function like a company. Scientific institutions have been asked to raise a major share of their budget from sources like students' fees. The GST on the purchase of scientific equipment has been increased from 5% to 18% in one stroke. In India, the financial support for science and technology, only around 0.08% of the GDP, is seriously inadequate. In fact these measures stand to demoralise the scientific community and weaken the pursuit of science in India. The government should think over this and allocate 3% of the country's GDP for scientific and technological research. **Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

SC status for converts

Sir, The centre has set up a panel headed by former Supreme Court Chief Justice KG Balakrishnan to ascertain the plight of Dalits who have converted themselves into other faiths other than Sikhism and Buddhism. Conversions are largely to Christian religion. Christianity has two sub-sects - Catholics and Protestants and there are Sunnis and Shias in Muslim religion. The converts into Christianity are called Dalit Christians and those into Islam region are called Dalit Muslims. Anyone who converts to other religion would automatically lose his previous caste or community status. There is no point in calling the converted person with prefix of 'Dalit'. Dalit Hindus are already in existence. The born Christians or Muslims may still look at the converted Christians or Muslims differently and may ostracise the new crop of people. The converted persons may like to retain the prefix 'Dalit' to their converted religion to retain the benefits extended by the government to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Most of the persons fall prey to the allurements and leave their parent community. Therefore it is unfair to extend the benefits to converts. **KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE**

of the day quote

A chargesheet was filed against me also. There is nothing in that. Till constitutional institutions are misused, such cases will be there. The CBI and the ED are there in the other case, in this case only CBI is there, now the ED will also come, it will investigate and file a chargesheet. Even kids will tell you that till the 2024 polls, this drama will continue

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

BJP is hell bent on destroying the lives of the people of Delhi through LG. Every day these people make a fuss about something or the other. I assure Delhiites that as long as this son of yours is alive, don't worry. I won't let any harm come to you

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

I really don't understand the reason as to why Arvind Kejriwal and his gang hate Hindu and Hindutva so much. I can understand about Rahul Gandhi but Arvind Kejriwal....

KIREN RIJUJU | UNION LAW MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

One dead, 8 hurt

Hazaribag: A 40-year-old man was killed and eight others were injured when a vehicle fitted with a loudspeaker came in contact with a high tension live wire during Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi procession in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district on Sunday, a senior police officer said. A tractor fitted with a loud speaker was crossing a road at Pagar Tola in Barkagaon, about 80 km from state capital Ranchi, when it came in contact with overhead high-tension wire and caught fire in which one person was killed and eight others were injured, Superintendent of Police, Manoj Ratan Chothe said.

Seven booked

Pilibhit (UP): Seven persons have been booked for allegedly barging into a house and sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl. The accused also threatened the victim with dire consequences. Station House Officer (SHO) Madan Mohan Chaturvedi said the accused have been booked under various IPC sections and the POCSO Act.

Two killed in TN

Chennai: Two construction workers were killed in an accident at an under-construction building in Tamil Nadu's Udhamandalam district on Sunday, police said. According to police, work was taking place at a building coming up at Maccherakorai in Udhamandalam, and workers were cleaning its front side when the earth caved in on them.

Bodies found

Jhansi: Bodies of three women were fished out of a dam located in the Mauranipur area in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi, late on Saturday night, police said. A senior police official said the bodies may have come from the bordering Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh.

Woman gangraped

Sultanpur: A young woman student was allegedly abducted and then gangraped by three persons in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district. The survivor, 21, had reached Sultanpur from Lucknow and was offered a lift in an SUV, which she accepted. The accused was joined allegedly by two of his associates and all three raped the woman by turns and then left her at a secluded place near a canal close to her house in an unconscious state.



The objective of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is not 2024 general elections but to unite the people of the country
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

BJP-SP FACE-OFF IN UP BY-POLL

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Samajwadi Party are preparing for another face-off in the Gola Gokarannath by-election in Lakhimpur Kheri, scheduled to be held November 3



Owaisi takes a jibe at Bhagwat's remark



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 9: Dismissing RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's talk of 'religious imbalance' in India, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said that the population growth rate of Muslims is actually on the decline and claimed that Muslims use condoms the most.

Owaisi's remarks came after Bhagwat expressed concerns over the population imbalance. In his speech at the annual Dussehra rally of the RSS, he also called for a comprehensive policy to check population rise. The Hyderabad MP alleged that Bhagwat is trying to create fears about Muslims population while the fact is that their population is coming down.

"Don't take tension. Muslim population is not rising. In fact, it is on the decline," he said while addressing a public meeting late Saturday night on occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. "The gap between two children is called spacing. Do you know who is maintaining that the most? We Muslims. Who is using condoms the most? We are doing the most."

Owaisi found fault with the RSS chief for speaking without data. He pointed out that Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the country has dropped to two per cent. Citing the national family health survey -5, he said the TFR fall was steepest among Muslims. Owaisi also asked RSS chief to break his silence on female

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ASADUDDIN OW AISI | AIMIM CHIEF

feticide among Hindus. He said 90 lakh Hindu girls were not allowed to be born between 2000 and 2019.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President also questioned Bhagwat's silence on the sex ratio at birth. "Among Muslims, there are 943 females for every 1,000 males while among our Hindu brethren there are 913 females for every 1,000 males," he said. He pointed out that in 2020 the Modi government gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court that it does not want to make family planning compulsory in the country.

The MP said Bhagwat out of his hatred towards Muslims was trying to create fear by claiming that population of Muslims was increasing. He said attempts were being made to demonise Muslims by calling them traitors, cow eaters and terrorist and by projecting madrasas as centres of terrorism.

Owaisi also took exception to Bhagwat using the term so-called minorities. "We are minorities under Article 30 of the Indian Constitution. I am not living in the country at the mercy of BJP and RSS," he said.

The MP said that the idea of 'Hindu Rashtra' is against Indian nationalism, and it shatters dreams of the great freedom fighters who fought for the country's Independence.



Artistes play instruments at a procession during the week-long Kullu Dussehra festival in Kullu

PTI PHOTO

AAP minister quits over conversion row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Delhi minister Rajendra Pal Gautam resigned from his post Sunday amid a controversy over his presence at a religious conversion event where Hindu deities were allegedly denounced.

The BJP had used the issue to attack AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal during the election campaigning in Gujarat and accused him of being "anti-Hindu". In a letter shared on Twitter, Gautam said he attended the event in his personal capacity and it had nothing to do with his party or the ministry. He lashed out at the BJP for targeting Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), alleging the saffron party was doing "dirty politics" on the issue.

Gautam said he is resigning as minister as he does not want his leader or AAP to be in trouble because of him. The controversy



erupted last week after a video went viral in which Gautam is seen at an event on October 5 where hundreds took a pledge to convert to Buddhism and to not consider Hindu deities as gods.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that Gautam had resigned due

to pressure from the BJP. He said that only the minister's resignation is not enough and legal action should also be taken against Gautam and he should also be expelled from the party for "condemning Hindu gods and goddesses".

"Apart from this, resignations should also be taken from the

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and minister Satyendra Jain who are involved in corruption," the BJP leader said. Gautam had accused the BJP of spreading "rumours" against him, and apologised to "anyone who has been hurt due to such propaganda".

"I do not want my leader Shri Arvind Kejriwal or the party to be in any trouble because of me. I am a true soldier of the party and I will follow the ideals shown by Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Gautam Buddh throughout my entire life," he said Sunday.

Sources in the chief minister's office said Gautam's resignation letter has been received by the chief minister and a decision on it is pending. Gautam was the Minister for Social Welfare, SC and ST, Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Gurudwara Elections. He is an MLA from Seemapuri constituency.

Mulayam 'quite critical': Hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Gurugram, Oct 9: Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav continues to be critical and on lifesaving drugs in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Medanta hospital in Gurugram said Sunday. "Mulayam Singh Yadav ji's condition is quite critical today and he is on life saving drugs. He is being treated in the ICU of Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, by a comprehensive team of specialists," the hospital said in a health bulletin.



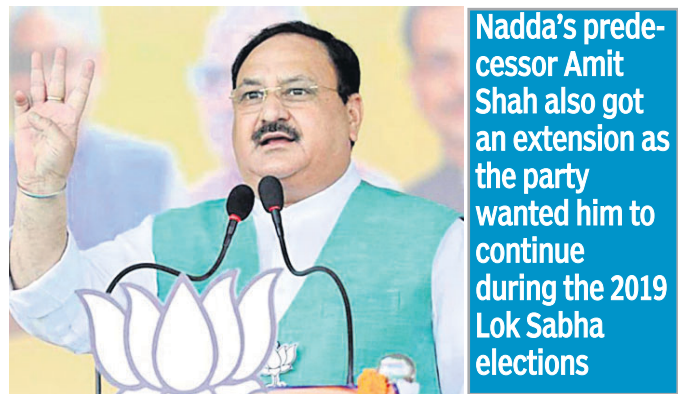
Nadda likely to continue as BJP chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: BJP president J P Nadda is likely to continue at the helm at least till the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as the party top brass believes that a sense of organisational continuity will help it in a string of key assembly polls in the coming months and the next general election.

Nadda's three-year term will end in January next year, and the BJP parliamentary board, its apex body, is expected to endorse an extension for him before that, sources said. With organisational polls in BJP state units yet to start, it is obvious that he will continue at the helm, they noted.

The party rules stipulate that organisational polls should be over in at least half of its state units before the election of its national president. His predecessor Amit Shah also got an extension as the party wanted him to continue dur-



Nadda's predecessor Amit Shah also got an extension as the party wanted him to continue during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections

ing the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. It was only after the parliamentary elections were over that the organisational polls began and Nadda was elected unopposed with Shah joining the Union Cabinet during Narendra Modi's second stint as the prime minister.

A Modi confidant who also shares warm ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leadership, he

is seen to have maintained the organisational momentum and dynamism that the BJP was infused with under his predecessor.

The low-key and affable personality of the Himachal Pradesh leader (61) is seen as an asset in terms of the BJP's organisational functioning and coordination that requires navigating a fresh set of challenges every

now and then, with the state poll cycle always on the move, party sources said. Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are among the important states where assembly polls will be held this year and the next.

With the prime minister keenly invested in the BJP's organisational functioning and Shah also playing a critical role, especially in some of the more politically crucial states, Nadda is credited for driving the coordination and implementing strategies for its expansion, they added.

The BJP has notched up several important poll successes with Nadda at the helm, including retaining power in states like Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and putting up an impressive show in Bihar. The big loss in West Bengal last year was, however, a low, while it has emerged as a strong force in Telangana.

STALIN ELECTED AS DMK CHIEF



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 9: DMK stalwart and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin was unanimously elected as party president at the party's general council meeting held here Sunday.

In his address following his election, Stalin asked office-bearers to take a vow to work towards securing a landslide victory for the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha (LS) polls and emerge in national politics as an unassailable force.

The party should win all the 39 Parliamentary constituencies in the state and the lone seat in neighbouring Puducherry as well, he said. This is the second time Stalin is being elected unopposed as party chief.

Exuding confidence that the DMK would win all the 40 Parliamentary segments, he tasked party functionaries to begin work right away to set up booth committees to face the polls and complete the work in two months.

Targeting the BJP and the AIADMK, Stalin said the saffron party is attempting to do politics in Tamil Nadu against the DMK through defamatory propaganda as it has no achievements to list.

"The BJP is trying to do politics by stoking religious and spiritual sentiments," he claimed. Since the people of Tamil Nadu have never mixed politics with spiritualism, the "BJP is suffocating". The AIADMK is a divided house, riddled with factional feud, and the national party is trying to use it to its benefit. "Do not forget that the BJP would go to any extent of cheap politics to win the next LS polls," he alleged.

The DMK chief told the party functionaries that the AIADMK and BJP would try to insult the party through a campaign of lies in the run up to the Parliamentary polls.

MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

MP villagers to be trained to scare away wild elephants

The state forest department has roped in NGOs to spread awareness among villagers about the tricks to drive away wild tuskers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 9: In a bid to prevent human-elephant conflict and crop destruction by wild jumbos, residents of Madhya Pradesh villages adjoining Chhattisgarh will be taught techniques like making bee buzzing sound and burning chilli powder-laced cow dung cakes to drive away the elephants, forest officials said.

Solar fencing would also be put up to keep the wild elephants away, Madhya Pradesh Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (wildlife) J



S Chauhan said. The state forest department has roped in Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to spread awareness among villagers about the tricks to drive away violent tuskers that enter their dwellings from neighbouring Chhattisgarh and cause loss of human lives and crop destruction.

"We will tell people not to hurl stones at the elephants or confront

them as this may agitate the animals," Chauhan said. According to the Population Estimation of Elephants in India, there were seven elephants in MP in 2017, an official said. "Now, the number has gone up to 60, apart from other animals straying occasionally," Chauhan said.

Fifty of these wild elephants coming from Chhattisgarh have

settled in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) and the remaining in the Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve (SDTR), another official said. Wildlife activist Ajay Dubey claimed the elephants have killed more than eight people this year in MP. But as per government records, the figure is three including two in Shahdol and one in Mandla district.

"We will have to learn to live with the wild elephants. With a little bit of understanding about the animals and exercising restraint, we can avoid loss of human life and property to a great extent," Chauhan said. It is believed that the elephants can be driven away using high intensity lights, bursting crackers, burning of cow dung cakes laced with chilli powder, making loud bee buzzing sound and beating drums, he said.

"Our department will share these

time tested techniques with locals. We will constitute 'hathi mitra dal' (groups to control man-elephant conflict) to bridge the gap and share information with our field staff," Chauhan said.

He said they have conducted the first round of training of their frontline staff and field officers in districts where the pachyderms enter from Chhattisgarh. In April this year, during incidents of elephant attack in Shahdol, the smell of Mahua flowers collected by villagers to brew liquor drew the jumbos to the area. The tuskers are also fond of eating maize, bananas and sugarcane, officials said. Forest personnel have been asking people not to go close to the wild elephants or confront them, they said.

The elephants usually venture into human habitats during summer in search of water and fodder.

Why Jharkhand is a horrific place for women

JHARKHAND COMPLETES 23 YEARS AS A SEPARATE STATE AND IN THIS PERIOD, MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE STATE ON SUSPICION OF BEING WITCHES OR EXORCISTS AND 90% OF THE VICTIMS OF THESE CRIMES ARE WOMEN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Oct 9: A 55-year-old woman who had gone to work in the field was gang-raped by two policemen in Serengdag village of Gumla region. The accused attacked her private parts with a sharp object. The woman is battling for life in Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Ranchi.

In Palkot town of the same area, 40-year-old Deepak Nayak lured a 9-year-old girl from the neighborhood to a nearby school and raped her. When her family went out in search of the girl, she was found unconscious lying in a pool of blood near the school.

In yet another incident, a minor girl was kidnapped and gang-raped by some men who visited a Durga Puja pandal in Saraidhohar village of China police station area of Garhwa district.

In Baredih village under Tamad police station of Ranchi, a 55-year-old woman was declared a witch and her own nephew, Jai Swansi, killed her with a sharp object. In Maranghada village of Khunti, Mangra Nag beat his sister-in-law to death with sticks on suspicion of her being a witch.

In Napo Khurd village under Barkagaon police station of Hazaribagh district, a person named Shashi Kumar shot and killed his newly married wife Pooja, who was pregnant.

These incidents of cruelty and violence against women and girls in Jharkhand were reported at a time when the mantras of worship of Goddess Durga were reverberating during the nine days of Navratri. The state seems to have turned into a dreadful place for women to live in.

Jharkhand was in the limelight recently after a minor girl was set ablaze in Dumka for spurning the advances of a man. In Dumka district alone, four horrific crimes were committed against women in last forty days. The series of such dreadful incidents in every corner of the state seems endless. Jharkhand completes 23 years as a separate state and in this period, more than a thousand people have



According to the data of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Jharkhand ranks eighth in the country in terms of rape incidents

Police data shows that in the last seven years, an average of 35 murders takes place in Jharkhand attributed to witch-hunting every year

been killed in the state on suspicion of being witches or exorcists. 90 per cent of the victims of these crimes are women. Police data shows that in the last seven years, an average of 35 murders takes place in Jharkhand attributed to witch-hunting every year. According to CID, 46 women were murdered in 2015 on suspicion of being witches. There were 39 murders in 2016, 42 in 2017, 25 in 2018, 27 in 2019, 28 in 2020 and 22 in 2021. So far this year, there have been 23 murders in the name of witch-hunting.

This way the figure for seven and a half years is more than 250. From 2015 to 2020, a total of 4,556

cases were registered for harassment of women by branding them as witches. That is, every day, two to three cases come forward. According to the data of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Jharkhand ranks eighth in the country in terms of rape incidents. In 2021, 1,425 rape cases were registered in the state. That is, on an average, one rape incident happens every 6 hours

cases were registered for harassment of women by branding them as witches. That is, every day, two to three cases come forward.

According to the data of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Jharkhand ranks eighth in the country in terms of rape incidents. In 2021, 1,425 rape cases were registered in the state. That is, on an average, one rape incident happens every 6 hours. These are only the figures that were registered in the police station.

Apart from this, 164 cases of assault on women were registered. Similarly, 1,805 cases of harassment for dowry and 164 cases of attempted rape were reported. Of

these, 55 cases were of gang rape. 46 other cases were registered in which women or girls became victims of rape for the second time.

In the year 2021, 720 people were sentenced in rape cases in Jharkhand, including 703 male and 17 female accused. The NCRB report shows that women in the age group of 18 to 30 years are the most vulnerable in Jharkhand. Of the total 1,425 cases of rape in 2021, there are 901 cases in which the victims were aged 18 to 30.

Yogendra Yadav, an advocate at Jharkhand High Court, is associated with several social organisations. He tells IANS that witchcraft and superstition are the biggest reasons for atrocities against women in the state. About 30 to 40 per cent of cases of witch torture do not reach the police. Due to the fear of bullies, many people, most of them being women, remain silent even after suffering atrocities.

Sometimes the harassers are people from their own household. Such cases reach the police only when atrocities get unbearable. Yogendra explains that ever increasing incidents in the name of witch-hunting even after the implementation of the Prevention of Witch (DAAIN) Practices Act, 2001, show that there is a need to make stricter rules, to ensure the availability of fast track courts to take quick decisions in such cases and to intensify the awareness campaign at the social level.

J'khand logs highest percentage of child marriage among girls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 9: Infamous for witchcraft killings, Jharkhand has earned the disrepute of having the highest percentage of underage girls getting married, according to the latest demographic sample survey by the Union home ministry.

The percentage of girls getting married before attaining majority is as high as 5.8 in Jharkhand, according to the survey brought out by the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The percentage of females who got effectively married before reaching 18 years of age is 1.9 at the national level and varies from 0.0 in Kerala to 5.8 in Jharkhand, the survey said.

In Jharkhand, child marriages accounted for 7.3 per cent of mar-

riages in rural areas and three per cent in urban areas, it said.

The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report contains estimates of various demographic, fertility and mortality indicators based on the data collected through one of the largest demographic surveys in the world covering about 8.4 million sample population.

The survey was conducted in 2020 and the report was published late last month.

Jharkhand and West Bengal are the only two states in the country where more than half of the women are married before attaining the age of 21 years.

The survey said that while 54.9 per cent of girls are married in West Bengal before attaining the age of 21 years, the figure for Jharkhand is 54.6 per cent as against the national average of 29.5 per cent.



Dengue figures skyrocket by 20K in Bengal in just a month

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 9: The hospitals across West Bengal, both public and private, are overflowing with dengue patients. According to an official in the state health department, 800-900 cases are being reported on an average daily. This could send West Bengal to the top of the list among the states in the country where dengue cases have been reported, in just over a month.

According to the figures released by the National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NVBDCP), West Bengal had reported only 239 cases till August 31. In the 40-odd days since, the number of cases in the state has surpassed 20,000, the state health department admits. Apart from Kolkata, most cases are from districts like North 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Siliguri and Darjeeling.

Lack of proper sanitation, clogged drainage systems, accumulation of rain water due to unplanned urbanisation are some of the reasons behind this spurt. There has certainly been some negligence on the part of civic bodies entrusted with monitoring the situation and combating the threat. Sufficient intervention was not carried out and efforts weren't made to prevent the accumulation of water near human settlements. The presence of cattle sheds, encroachments and the like in urban and semi-urban areas added to the mess, the offi-



Apart from Kolkata, most cases are from districts like North 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Siliguri and Darjeeling

cial in the state health department said.

There was hardly any activity by the civic bodies over the last fortnight due to Durga Puja celebrations across the state. State government offices - including civic bodies - have remained closed since October 1 and will open from Monday. Health

officials hope that measures will be taken on a war-footing thereafter to prevent further spread as hospitals have started running out of space, despite opening temporary wards for the dengue patients.

West Bengal's record hasn't been too good, so far as combating the disease is concerned. In 2015, it recorded fourth highest figures after Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. In 2016 and 2017, West Bengal was at the top of the list. No records were available for the next two years from the state. In 2020, West Bengal was again in second position after Punjab. Doctors say that more than the figures, people's suffering is what matters.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 9: Late Wednesday evening on the occasion of Dussehra, the plains in the Terai and Dooars regions in the northern part of West Bengal witnessed a tragedy because of a sudden flash flood.

So far eight people have been reported killed and several are missing following the flash flood in Mal river at Malbazar in Jalpaiguri district in north West Bengal.

During the last few years, the small and shallow rivers in the plains of north Bengal have witnessed several incidences of such sudden flash floods, which according to experts, is something unique. However, Wednesday's tragedy has resulted in the resurrection of certain questions.

Is this changing trend of frequent flash floods in the small and shallow rivers in north Bengal just a quirk of nature? Or is this basically a human-invited calamity resulting from abuse of nature like mass deforestation in the region and forceful diversion of river-flows through use of stone-boulders or sand embankments? IANS spoke to environmental experts and specialists on the changing behaviour of such rivers in north Bengal.

Environment activist and founder-secretary Jalpaiguri Science & Nature Club, Dr Raja Raut has been studying this trend for quite some time. Speaking to IANS, he said that for the sake of tourism and other trade related



activities, there has been massive deforestation and illegal cutting down of the trees in the region.

Water from rivers and springs flowing down from the hills of north Bengal, Sikkim and Bhutan is the main reason for the flash floods in the rivers in the plains of north Bengal. Now forest trees have the natural strength to control the speed of the flowing water. Because of the massive deforestation the speed of the water flow remains uncontrolled. Secondly, because of the massive deforestation the land connecting the rivers in plains is fast losing its capacity to absorb the flowing water. So, this is the first and primary reason why flash floods

have become so common in the rivers in the plains of north Bengal, Raut said.

Forest Minister Jyotipriyo Mullick admitted that cutting down of trees is a problem not just in the forest areas of north Bengal but also elsewhere in the state.

Another reason, according to Raja Raut, is the frequent diversion of the water flow of these rivers through the use of stone-boulders or sand embankments. This can be dangerous unless done with proper homework. Indiscriminate change in the river water flow can lead to a major mishap, which is exactly what happened on Wednesday leading to the loss of so many lives, he said.

Another expert Partha Pratim

Biswas feels that diversion of the river water flow has to be done keeping in mind a number of aspects. First is to identify the exact places where the boulders for diversion would be used. Second, the diversion should be avoided as far as possible when there is a forecast of heavy rain that will result in the fast flow of water from the uphill rivers or streams. During the rains these otherwise shallow and small rivers take a critical shape. In this case the forecast was there and still diversion was done to facilitate immersion. The diversion was done in a totally unscientific manner that ultimately led into the mishap, he stated.

Doorstep welfare schemes to mark 3 years of Hemant govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 9: To mark the completion of three years of the JMM-led Jharkhand government this December, an outreach programme aimed at taking welfare schemes to the doorstep of beneficiaries will be re-launched this week.

The programme, 'Aapke Adhikar, Aapki Sarkar, Aapke Dwar' (your rights, your government, at your door) will be launched in two phases - from October 12 to October 22 and from November 1 to November 14, 2022, an official statement said.

Last year Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the programme on Statehood Day November 15 and the government started holding camps for beneficiaries at the panchayat level from the next day.

The initiative aims at processing applications related to welfare schemes on the spot so that villagers start receiving benefits at the earliest. In 2021, out of a total of 35.95 applications, 35.56 lakh applications were



processed, the statement said.

By organising camps at the panchayat level, the public welfare schemes of the state government will be disseminated among the people and maximum benefits of the schemes will be given to the general public in the camp itself, the statement said.

Under the programme, applications will be received under schemes like Jharkhand State Food Security Scheme for green ration cards, Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana, Chief Minister's Livestock Development Scheme, Sarvajan Pension Yojana, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and other schemes.

Grand carnival showcases artworks of top Durga Pujas

UNESCO HAS ACCORDED INTANGIBLE HERITAGE STATUS TO DURGA PUJA IN THE CITY OF JOY

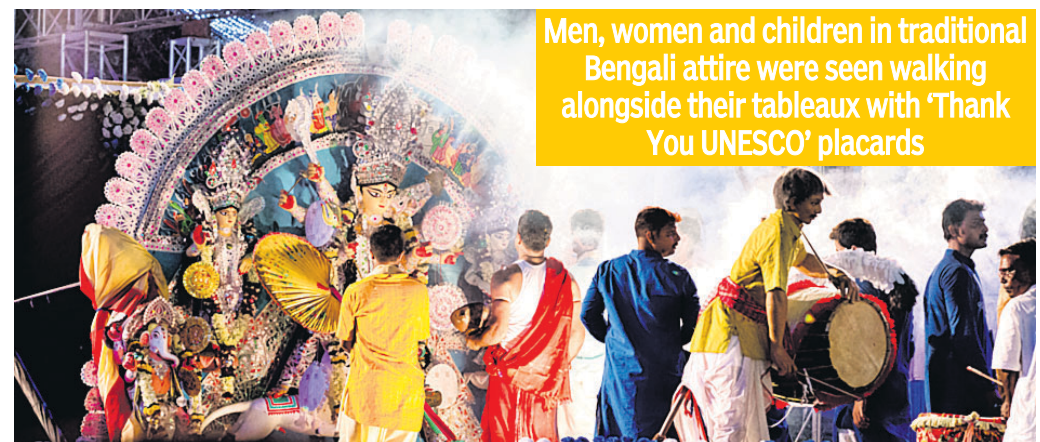
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 9: Idols of the top 95 Durga Pujas in Kolkata were showcased at a grand carnival in the heart of the city Saturday evening to toast the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage tag.

The community puja committees took part in a colourful parade on Red Road, showcasing the brilliant craftsmanship which was on display during the five-day festival before an audience led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, representatives of UNESCO and diplomats of different countries.

Puja committees such as College Square, Sreebhumi Sporting Club and Singhi Park displayed their traditional idols, accompanied by beats of dhak and cultural performances.

Crowd-pullers such as Suruchi Sangha, Chetla Agrani, Dumdum Park Tarun Dal and Behala Natun Dal showcased their theme-based



Men, women and children in traditional Bengali attire were seen walking alongside their tableaux with 'Thank You UNESCO' placards

idols along with artworks. All the 95 participating puja committees have received the state-sponsored 'Biswa Bangla' award.

The programme started at 4.30pm and went on till 9.15pm, because of which several major thoroughfares of the city were blocked, leading to road diversions and rush hour traffic pile-up.

Every puja committee was given three minutes for cultural performances near the main dais where Banerjee was sitting along with her Cabinet colleagues, top government officials and other dignitaries. Actors, singers and other eminent personalities of the city were also present at the programme.

Banerjee interacted with the participants, and also shook a leg with some of them.

Each puja committee was allowed a maximum of three tableaux, accompanied by a team, comprising the organisers and artisans.

Such carnivals were organised in every district of the state this year to mark the UNESCO honour. No

such programme was held in Jalpaiguri as the district mourned the deaths of eight people who were swept away by a flash flood in Mal river during immersion on Bijaya Dashami.

The carnival in Kolkata is being organised annually since 2016, except for the last two years because of the pandemic. However, more number of puja committees was invited to participate this time in view of the UNESCO honour.

In a good news, fine dining restaurants in and around Kolkata are witnessing record-breaking footfall in this festive season as the eateries have registered around 25 per cent rise in sales as compared to that during the Pujas in October 2019 in the pre-pandemic time.

Eateries had a tough time remaining in business during the two years of Covid-19 and now they are happy that eating out had become in-things again, owners of different restaurants said.

of the day quote

The vision of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri of a self-reliant and economically strong India is being realised in the last few years due to a series of affirmative steps in governance

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

During the pandemic, turmeric's power and potency was felt all over the world. For thousands of years, turmeric has played a significant role in our daily lives

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

No party has the ideology, intention, and strength to fight the BJP. No party can organise such a large public rally as what BJP is doing with only its workers' meet. Nobody can stop this party

J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

34 injured in MP

Bhopal: At least 34 people were injured after a private bus they were travelling overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district after hitting a buffalo on the road early on Sunday, police said. As per the police, nearly a dozen of the passengers have received severe injuries, and have been admitted to a government hospital in Dindori. The accident took place around 1.30 a.m. when the bus passengers were returning to Sakulpura from Raghopur Sakka village after taking part in a function. Police said that initial investigation suggested the vehicle was driven at a high speed, which resulted in the accident.

Smuggler killed

Kolkata: A member of a cross-border cattle smuggling racket was killed in firing by the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Nadia district on late Saturday night, officials said. A BSF jawan was also injured in the clash. The deceased has been identified as Muntaz Hossain, 32, resident of Choto Baldia village under Damurhuda sub-district in Bangladesh.

Ganja seized

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala's motor vehicle department seized 20 kg of ganja and hashish oil from a tourist bus that was coming to the state from Bengaluru. The driver of the bus Ananthu Nair, and two of his accomplices were arrested. In the wake of the recent Wadakkanchery tourist bus accident in which nine persons including five children lost their lives, state's motor vehicle department has stepped up vigil and has been conducting searches in all tourist buses.

Man shot dead

Chennai: A 53-year-old man was shot dead on Sunday in Tamil Nadu's Mettupalayam district after he alleged that a person had stolen his goats from the farm. The victim, identified as Chinnasami, according to Mettupalayam police was a farmer who reared cattle for a living. He noticed that some of his goats were missing and found that the goats were lifted by someone. Local people informed Chinnasami that a person, Ranjit (28) was behind this and that he was regularly stealing goats in the village. On hearing this, Chinnasami confronted Ranjit leading to an altercation between the two. Police said that Ranjit feigned ignorance and said that he had not lifted any goats belonging to Chinnasami.

Uddhav suggests three poll symbols

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 9: The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction has submitted to the Election Commission its three options of a trident, rising sun or mashaal (burning torch) for its poll symbol, sources said Sunday.

The Election Commission had Saturday barred the Shiv Sena factions led by former chief minister Thackeray and present Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde from using the party name and its election symbol 'bow & arrow' in the Andheri East Assembly bypoll scheduled on November 3.

In an interim order over claims by the rival factions for control of the organisation, the commission asked them to suggest by Monday three different name choices and also as many free symbols for allocation to their respective groups.

A source from the Thackeray faction said, "The Sena has submitted three options as an alternative before the Election Commission - a trident, rising sun or a burning torch, also known as mashaal in Marathi and Hindi languages."

The Thackeray camp has also given some options for its official name in polls, the source said



Let Prashant Kishor speak whatever he wants. Whatever he says, does not make any sense. Four-five years ago, he had told me to merge with the Congress. Now, he is working for the BJP

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

WELCOME MOVE

Starting next week, over 300 establishments ranging from hotels, restaurants, eateries to online delivery services of food, medicines, logistics and other essential commodities, transport and travel services, apart from KPOS and BPOs will be able to operate the business on a 24x7 basis in the national capital



PM unveils India's first solar-powered village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Modhera (Gujarat), Oct 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday declared Modhera in Gujarat's Mehsana district as the country's first 24x7 "solar-powered" village.

Addressing a rally after the function, Modi said Modhera was once subject to countless atrocities of all kinds committed by invaders in the past, but is growing now with modernity while retaining its ancient character.

He said Modhera, famous for the Sun temple, will also be known as a solar-powered village. On the first day of his three-day visit to his home state, where elections are due in December this year, the prime minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple projects worth over Rs 3,900 crore at the Modhera event.

The solar project, a first of its kind in the country, realises the Prime Minister's vision of solarisation of the sun-temple town of Modhera. It involves developing a ground-mounted solar power plant and more than 1300 rooftop solar systems on residential and government buildings, all integrated with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), as per a government release.

"Whenever there will be talks of solar power, Modhera will be the first name to emerge. Because here everything is running on solar power. Whether it is light, farm...Even effort is being made to run buses, vehicles on solar power. For a self-reliant India of the 21st century, we have to encourage such efforts for our energy needs. I am working day and night to take the country in the direction of providing (energy security) for Gujarat, the country, and to our coming generation," said the Prime Minister.

Cong prez polls: 67 booths set up



A CAMP BOOTH WILL BE SET UP FOR RAHUL GANDHI AND OTHERS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE BHARAT JODO YATRA

THE ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 17 IN EVERY STATE CAPITAL. TIME IS BETWEEN 10.00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.

THE VOTE WILL BE BY THE SECRET BALLOT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 9: After the date of withdrawal of nominations for the Congress presidential poll, the party now has two contestants -- Shashi Tharoor and Mallikarjun Kharge - for the October 17 polls, in which 67 booths have been set up in all the states, the party's central election authority (CEA) has said.

Madhusudan Mistry, Chairman of the CEA, said, "In AICC also there will be a booth, especially for all senior leaders, working committee members and all those whose identity card is from a different state but are staying in Delhi. If they write to us that they want to vote in Delhi then we will make arrangements here as well, they can also vote here in AICC."

A camp booth will be set up for Rahul Gandhi and others who are participating in the Bharat Jodo Yatra. "So the process of campaigning for these candidates starts from Saturday onwards, officially, although they have already started the campaign earlier, because, I mean, they seem to have decided not to withdraw from the contest. Technically, according to the constitution, we have to provide them with a seven day withdrawal period."

The election will take place on October 17 in every state capital. Time is between 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The vote will be by the secret ballot. All the ballot boxes will be brought to the AICC headquarters and then, on October 19 the counting of votes will start and the result will be declared as soon as the counting gets over.

Pregnant rape victim burnt alive in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mainpuri, Oct 9: A pregnant girl, who was allegedly raped three months ago, has been burnt alive in Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri district.

The police have lodged an FIR against three people and efforts are underway to arrest them. According to the girl's mother, her daughter was raped by one Abhishek, who lives in the same village, three months ago, but the victim did not reveal her ordeal to her family.



Later, the girl complained of severe stomach pain and it was found that she was pregnant.

The village panchayat was informed and on October 6, the panchayat asked the accused to marry the girl.

The mother of the accused then took the victim to their house, sprinkled petrol on her, and set her afire, victim's family alleged.

The victim, who suffered severe burn injuries, was admitted to a district hospital in Mainpuri and later referred to Saifai for advanced treatment.

The police have filed a case under sections 307, 376 of the IPC and relevant sections of the POCSO Act.

The accused are being searched for and arrests will be made soon, the police said.

Violence in Gujarat after attack on Congress MLA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Navsari (Gujarat), Oct 9: A huge crowd that gathered in Gujarat's Navsari district following an attack on Congress MLA and tribal leader Anant Patel, set fire to a shop and vandalised the fire tender which reached the spot. The violence broke out Saturday.

Congress MLA from Vandsa, Anant Patel was attacked by a group, in which he suffered injuries on his forehead. After this, his hundreds of supporters spilled over the road and resorted to violence. Reports said they set the shop of one of the attackers on fire. Congress party's national leaders, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra Gandhi condemned the attack and termed it a 'cowardice act'.

Anant Patel in his complaint with the Khergam police station alleged that he with his supporters had gone to Khergam to meet local leaders, when Rinku Aahir, Bhikhu Aahir, and Kirti Aahir with their supporters stopped his vehicle, tried to pull him out of vehicle. After they failed, they ransacked his vehicle and hit him on his forehead in which he suffered injury.

The Khergam police station officer said that the complaint has been lodged against all three accused for rioting, armed with deadly weapon, unlawful assembly with common intent to commit



Congress MLA from Vandsa, Anant Patel was attacked by a group, in which he suffered injuries on his forehead

crime, criminal intimidation, and sections of the Atrocity Act. The case is investigated by Deputy Superintendent of Police R.B. Faldu.

As the news of the attack on Anant Patel spread in his constituency, hundreds of supporters turned up at Khergam and resorted to violence. One supporter alleged that the police took three to four hours to lodge a complaint as the accused Bhikhubhai Aahir is BJP office-bearer and district panchayat member.

Congress MLA Anant Patel led a tribal movement against Par-Tapi-Narmada river linking project, because of which the ruling party had to drop the project. Congress state leaders led by leader of Opposition Sukhrum Rathwa will visit Anant Patel later in the day.

Autonomy for colleges; no nominee from UGC required

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 9: Colleges in India will now enjoy an autonomous status as a new draft regulation on Autonomous Colleges has been approved by the UGC.

The UGC is expected to make it public in a few days for stakeholder's feedback. After the autonomy, there will be no, or just a few nominees of UGC and Universities in the high level committees of the colleges. Also, there

will be less interference in the functioning of the college.

The regulations will be finalised after receiving feedback from the stakeholders. UGC chairman professor M. Jagadeesh Kumar said that the autonomous college may prescribe their own admission rules, evolve methods of assessment, conduct of examinations and notification of result, promote research in relevant fields etc. "We will finalize this regulation after receiving feedback from the stake-



holders," he said.

The University Grants Commission under the Regulations, 2022 bringing major changes.

Jagadeesh Kumar said that autonomous status would be granted initially for a period of 10 years and a further extension for five years would be done.

A college which has functioned as autonomous college for 15 consecutive years will be considered as autonomous college on permanent basis.

However, such permanent autonomous college is required to maintain the required grade of NAAC/NBA etc. as per the eligi-

bility condition for autonomy, and inform the same to the Parent University.

According to the guidelines made by the UGC, a college fulfilling the eligibility as per these regulations, intending to become autonomous shall submit the application on UGC portal anytime during the year. The College shall submit the proposal to the Parent/Affiliating University which may forward the same to the UGC within 30 days of the receipt of proposal.

Kuru Kolumn No hanging of boots for Doval The Prime Minister is understood to have told National Security Advisor Ajit Doval that there is no question of

relieving him. Doval joined as NSA in Prime Minister Modi's PMO in 2014 and never looked back. A top spy of his times has served governments since 1968 as an IPS officer and retired nearly two decades ago. His tales of heroism are shining examples for the entire fraternity. Lately, the 78-year old has been facing some health issues and is slowing down. Doval has had a spectacular stint at the National Security Council Secretariat. He is respected for his qualities by top foreign spy agencies and has the best of relations with them. This coordination has helped India in getting timely feedback from them. The situation in the neighborhood has largely been good except for the Chinese belligerence. He is

understood to have told Modi that time has come to find a successor as he would like to devote time to his health and family. But Modi shot it down saying he can't spare him.

BJP trying to gain paradise state

The BJP is working hard to install its own Chief Minister in Jammu & Kashmir. In its 'Mission Kashmir', the BJP is heavily banking on Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sajjad Lone and Altaf Bukhari. The frequent visits by top BJP leaders to J&K and Union Home Minister Amit Shah camping there for three days, is a clear

signal of the party's ambitious plan. Over a long period of time, the BJP has formed alliances with the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party and opted to be a junior partner in the state government. The BJP managers say that a lot has changed since then and the Modi-Shah-Nadha trio wants their own person as Chief Minister.

G-23 dead, long live Congress

With most of the dissidents and disgruntled leaders lending their support to the candidature of Mallikarjun Kharge for the post of

Congress presidential, the G-23 is virtually dead. It is all the more surprising that even Shashi Tharoor, one of the key members of the G-23 leaders, failed to get any support from them. Be it former Union Ministers Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari or Prithviraj Chavan or Mukul Wasnik, none of them proposed or seconded the name of Shashi Tharoor. They unitedly threw their weight behind 80-year old Kharge. Even former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was in the fore-front of battling for Kharge. Ghulam Nabi Azad has already quit the party to form his own political outfit while Kapil Sibal is happy to be an Independent Rajya Sabha MP with the support of Samajwadi Party.



The exclusion of migrants is scandalous. Indeed, the exclusion of migrants is criminal. It makes them die in front of us. The exclusion of migrants is disgusting, it is sinful. It is criminal not to open doors to those who are needy
POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

NEW INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION CHANCERY IN WELLINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Sunday inaugurated the new Indian High Commission Chancery in Wellington and said that playing with each other's strengths is a more sensible way of growing the important relationship between India and New Zealand



of the day quote

The claims peddled by the US State Department about the damage to the Ukrainian agro-industrial complex clearly play into the hands of those who benefit from rising food prices and disruptions in supplies
MARIA ZAKHAROVA | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, RUSSIA

I do not think any country provides India with the same level of technology. The progress is also due to the fact that we recognise that India wants to boost its strategic autonomy
EMMANUEL LENAIN | AMBASSADOR, FRANCE

It is necessary to reduce tensions immediately to open the way for decisive initiatives aimed at creating a viable political horizon between the two sides (Israelis and Palestinians)
TOR WEINELAND | SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, UN

SHORT TAKES

Singapore to lift Covid-19 curbs

Singapore: Singapore is set to lift the Covid-19 restrictions on non-vaccinated individuals from Monday but it is ready to step up such measures when necessary to lower infection rates and protect the unvaccinated, Health Minister Ong Ye Kung said Sunday. With vaccination-differentiated measures (VDS) to be fully lifted Monday, the minister noted that while such restrictions aimed at protecting the unvaccinated in crowded areas, had pushed many to get vaccinated, it is better to step them down given that they are now not as extensive. "Today VDS is very light and in restaurants is pretty much an honest system with random sporadic enforcement," Ong said while talking to the media at a club event. "It's not that VDS doesn't work. In its current form, which is light, I think it doesn't work as well. So, we might as well step it down with the understanding that we can step up to an appropriate level when we really need it."

Japan's H1 excess mortality surges

Tokyo: The number of excess deaths in Japan was estimated to have reached between 17,000 and 46,000 in the first six months of the year, the highest figure since the Covid pandemic began in early 2020. The estimates were compiled by organisations including the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, an institution under the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Xinhua news agency reported. According to statistics from the ministry and Kyodo News, Japan's total number of deaths during the six-month period came in at 777,000, and more than 12,800 people died from Covid infections, Kyodo News reported.

Roof collapse kills 9 of family in Pak

Peshawar: The roof of a home made of mud and wood in northern Pakistan caved in early Sunday killing nine family members, including eight siblings, police said. Police officer Imtiaz Khan said the incident in the town of Chilas in the Gilgit Baltistan region claimed the lives of four daughters and four sons of a restaurant waiter and his wife. Khan said the father was at work when it happened. Neighbours who heard the crashing sound of the house coming down rushed to the home but efforts to rescue the family were unsuccessful. Police said the siblings killed were ages 2 to 12.

CRIMEA BRIDGE BLAST

Russia ramps up security

The road-and-rail bridge to Crimea, which was damaged from a powerful blast Saturday, is an imposing symbol of Moscow's annexation of the peninsula and a key supply route to its forces battling in southern Ukraine

Kyiv, Oct 9: Russian President Vladimir Putin Saturday ordered tighter security for the bridge from Russia to Crimea as well as the infrastructure supplying electricity and natural gas to the peninsula, Interfax said. In a decree issued hours after the bridge was damaged by a blast, Putin said the FSB security service would be responsible for strengthening protection measures.

Saturday's explosion on the bridge over the Kerch Strait prompted gleeful messages from Ukrainian officials but no claim of responsibility. Russia did not immediately assign blame for the blast, which images showed blew away half of a section of the bridge's roadway, with the other half still attached. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said the divers would start work in the morning, with a more detailed survey above the waterline expected to be complete by day's end, domestic news agencies reported.

Russia's transport ministry said freight trains and long-distance passenger trains across the Crimea Bridge were running according to schedule Sunday. Limited road traffic resumed Saturday around 10 hours after the blast. Aksyonov said the peninsula had a month's worth of fuel and more than two months' worth of food, he said. Russia's defence ministry said Saturday its forces in southern Ukraine could be "fully supplied" through existing land and sea routes. Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and the 19-km (12-mile) bridge linking the region to its transport network was opened with great fanfare four years later by President Vladimir Putin. Kyiv demands that Russian forces



PUTIN ORDERS FSB TO OVERSEE THE KEY CROSSING TO CRIMEA
RUSSIA SAYS RAIL TRAFFIC ACROSS BRIDGE RUNNING ON SCHEDULE
BRIDGE ACROSS KERCH STRAIT VITAL TO SUPPLY RUSSIAN TROOPS
BLAST COMES AMID BATTLEFIELD DEFEATS FOR RUSSIA

The situation is manageable - it's unpleasant, but not fatal. Of course, emotions have been triggered and there is a healthy desire to seek revenge
SERGEI AKSYONOV | CRIMEA'S RUSSIAN GOVERNOR

leave the Black Sea peninsula, as well as Ukrainian territory they have seized in the invasion Putin launched in February. It was not yet clear if Saturday's blast was a deliberate attack, but the damage to such a high-profile structure came amid battlefield defeats for Russia, and for the port of Sevastopol where the Russian Black Sea fleet is based. The blast came a day after Putin's 70th birthday and also coincided with Russia's third senior military appointment in a week. Moscow designated Air Force General Sergei Surovikin to take charge of the invasion effort.

US issues four travel advisories for India this yr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 9: The United States has issued four travel advisories for India this year and since March 28 maintained the same Level 2 - exercise increased caution - for its citizens planning to travel to the country. Introduced several years ago, the American travel advisories maintained and issued by the Department of State is now broadly bifurcated into four different colour-coded levels from 1 to 4, with one (white) being the safest place to travel and four (red) being the no travel zone recommended for its citizens. Yellow-coloured Level 2 which advises Americans to exercise increased caution has been the travel advisory for India since March 28 of this year, when the State Department lowered it from Level 3 travel advisory of January 24. In Level 3, the US advises its citizens to reconsider their travel to that particular country.

The travel advisory for India has mostly been Level 2 and a few times Level 3. It was put into Level 4 category at the peak of the Covid-19 crisis in April 2021. In India's neighborhood, Afghanistan and Myanmar are placed in the highest Level 4 category, while Pakistan and China have been put in Level 3.



FESTIVE FERVOUR: Dancers perform during the Diwali on the Square celebration, in Trafalgar Square, London, Sunday
PTI PHOTO

N Korea fires 2 ballistic missiles; seventh in 2 weeks

REUTERS

Tokyo, Oct 9: North Korea fired two ballistic missiles early Sunday, authorities in neighbouring countries said, the seventh such launch by Pyongyang in recent days that added to widespread alarm in Washington and its allies in Tokyo and Seoul. Officials in the South Korean capital have said the uptick in the

North's missile launches could signal it is closer than ever to resuming nuclear testing for the first time since 2017, with preparations observed at its test site for months. Both of Sunday's missiles reached an altitude of 100 km (60 miles) and covered 350 km (218 miles), Japan's state minister of defence, Toshiro Ino, told reporters. They fell outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, and authorities



were looking into what type they were, including the possibility that they were submarine-launched ballistic missiles, he added. The US military said it was consulting closely with allies and partners following the launches, which it said highlighted the "destabilizing impact" of the North Korean nuclear arms and ballistic missile programs. Still, the United States assessed that the latest launches did not pose a threat to US personnel or

IRAN ON EDGE

Rights group reports 19 minors murdered



Demonstrations that began September 17 at the funeral of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in her Kurdish town of Saqez, have turned into the biggest challenges to Iran's clerical leaders in years, with protesters calling for the downfall of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

At least 185 people, including children killed by authorities
20 members of the security forces have been reported dead

Denying use of live bullets, authorities have described the protests as a plot by Iran's foes including the United States, accusing armed dissidents - among others - of violence in which at least 20 members of the security forces have been reported killed. Videos shared on social media showed protests continued in dozens of cities across Iran early Sunday with hundreds of high school girls and university students joining in despite the use of tear gas, clubs, and in many cases live ammunition by the security forces, according to rights groups. Some posts on social media said shops were closed in several cities after a call by activists for a mass strike. Amini was arrested in Tehran September 13 for wearing "inappropriate attire". She died three days later at a Tehran hospital. A state coroner's report Saturday said Amini had died due to pre-existing medical conditions. Her father has held the police responsible for her death with the family lawyer saying "respectable doctors" believe she was beaten while in custody.

REUTERS

Dubai, Oct 9: Protests ignited by the death of a young woman in police custody continued across Iran Sunday despite a fierce crackdown by the authorities, as a human rights group said at least 185 people, including children, had been killed in the unrest. "At least 185 people, including at least 19 children, have been killed in the nationwide protests across Iran. The highest number of killings occurred in Sistan and Baluchistan province with half the recorded number," said the Norway-based Iran Human Rights in a statement.

Iran state TV hacked

Paris: Digital activists supporting Iran's wave of women-led protests have hacked a state television live news broadcast, superimposing crosshairs and flames on the face of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The blood of our youths is on your hands," read a message on screen in the broadcast. The hack interrupted footage of Khamenei meeting state officials and was claimed by the Edalat-e Ali (Ali's Justice) hacktivist group, which added a slogan on the top right-hand corner of the screen: "Join us and rise up." The images beamed to Iranian viewers for a number of seconds also showed black-and-white pictures of Amini and three other women killed in the more than three weeks of unrest and crackdown by state security forces. The hackers added a message on screen, urging Ayatollah Khamenei to vacate his Tehran office and flee the country: "It's time to collect your furniture from Pasteur Street and find another place for your family outside Iran."



DEADLIEST MASS KILLING IN HISTORY

Families leave offerings for children slain at Thai day care

Ceremonies were held Sunday at three temples, where the 36 victims - mostly preschoolers - were taken ahead of funeral rites and cremation Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uthai Sawan, Oct 9: Families offered flowers and dolls, popcorn and juice boxes to children massacred at a day care centre in Thailand, part of a Buddhist ceremony held Sunday just paces from where the slaughter began that was meant to guide the young souls back to their bodies.

"Come back home" and "come back with us," the relatives called into the empty day care centre, many with tears in their eyes. The gun and knife attack on the Young Children's Development Centre in Uthai Sawan was Thailand's deadliest mass killing, and it robbed the small farming community of much of its youngest generation. The former police officer who stormed the building killed 36 people, 24 of them children at the day care, including his wife and child, police said. He then killed himself. Maneerat Tanonethong - whose 3-year-old Chaiyot Kijareon was killed at the day care centre - said the rituals were helping her with her grief. "I am trying not think about hor-



rible images and focus on how lovely he was. But I don't know what I will do with myself once this is all over," she said. "I am determined that I will try let go of this, that I won't

hold any grudge against the perpetrator and understand that all of these will end in this life." At Rat Samakee temple, family members sat in front of the tiny

coffins while Buddhist monks chanted prayers. They placed trays of food, toys and milk along the outside of the temple walls as offerings to the spirits of their slain children. Later, they headed to the day care centre and gathered in front of a makeshift memorial there to receive the slain children's belongings. They made offerings of their kids' favourite foods and lit incense and candles as they implored the children's souls to return to their bodies. Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha is expected to attend evening prayers at the three temples where bodies were brought later Sunday. Police identified the attacker as Panya Kamrap, 34, a police sergeant fired earlier this year after being

charged with a drug offense. An employee at the day care told Thai media that Panya's son had attended the center but hadn't been there for about a month. Police have said they believe Panya was under stress from tensions between him and his wife, and money problems. Mass killings in Thailand are rare but not unheard of. In 2020, a disgruntled soldier opened fire in and around a mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima, killing 29 people and holding off security forces for some 16 hours before being killed by them. Prior to that, a 2015 bombing at a shrine in Bangkok left 20 people dead. It was allegedly carried out by human traffickers in retaliation for a crackdown on their network.

of the day quote

The UAE's ease of doing business and a place in the Gulf Cooperation Council makes it an attractive proposition for Indian companies, especially start-ups

JEHIL THAKKAR | PARTNER & UAE CORRIDOR LEADER, DELOITTE INDIA

Fast-developing nations like ours are expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25 per cent. Given this premise, we aim to be a Euro 100 million company by 2030

JATINDER KAUL | MD, KARCHER INDIA

Investor confidence in Indian real estate is increasing steadily as a reflection of improvement in the Indian economy and state of real estate industry

SHOBHIT AGARWAL | MD & CEO, ANAROCK CAPITAL

SHORT TAKES

FY24 Budget making exercise from today

New Delhi: The government Monday will kick off its annual Budget making exercise for financial year 2023-24, that is expected to look at measures to revive growth amid a gloomy global outlook. The meeting would start with consultations with various ministries and departments on the revised estimates (RE) of expenditure for ongoing financial year and the fund requirement for 2023-24. On the first day Monday, RE meetings with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Labour And Employment, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports would take place.

SBI lines up NPAs over ₹746 crore

New Delhi: The State Bank of India (SBI) has lined up various non-performing assets up for sale this month and the next, including the fraud account of Sintex BAPL, to recover over ₹746 crore. In an auction scheduled for November 4, SBI will put up NPAs for sale to asset reconstruction firms (ARCs)/ financial institutions (FIs), banks or Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The auction of NPAs will include accounts of Sintex BAPL with an outstanding of ₹197.74 crore; Surat Hazira NH6 Tollway Pvt Ltd of exposure of ₹335.54 crore and Shreebhav Polyweaves Pvt (Rs 20.20 crore).

HUL, Godrej cut soap prices by upto 15%

New Delhi: FMCG firms Hindustan Unilever Ltd and Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) have cut prices of some soap brands by up to 15 per cent amid palm oil and other raw materials turning relatively cheaper. HUL has reduced prices of its offerings under popular soap brands Lifebuoy and Lux by 5 to 11 per cent in the western region. Godrej Group arm GCPL, which owns soap brand Godrej No 1, has also reduced prices of soaps by 13 to 15 per cent.

Steel output up 2.5% in July-Sept

New Delhi: India's crude steel output rose by 2.56 per cent to 30.06 million tonne during the July-Sept period of the ongoing financial year. As per research firm SteelMint, the top six steel makers -- SAIL, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSP, AMNS India and RINL, produced 18.29 MT steel, the rest 11.77 MT came in from the secondary sector. The country had produced 29.31 MT of steel during the same quarter in the preceding 2021-22 financial year.



India's performance will stand out as being perhaps the strongest of any major economy in the world with around 7 per cent GDP growth rate in current fiscal year nonetheless

SANJEEV SANYAL | MEMBER, EAC-PM

HYUNDAI POSTS HIGHEST PAT IN 4 YEARS

Hyundai Motor India Ltd recorded a 55 per cent rise in its profit after tax at ₹2,861.77 crore in the fiscal ended March 31, 2022, its highest in four years, according to financial data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler. The company, which is an unlisted entity, had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹1,847.16 crore in 2020-21, down from ₹2,355 crore that it had recorded in 2019-20



India-UK FTA talks face deadlock over data

The likelihood of a so-called "thin" trade deal within the symbolic Diwali or Oct 24 deadline and further "iterative" deals at a later stage is now looking like a likely outcome

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 9: Data localisation and UK companies being allowed to bid for Indian government contracts are among the issues causing a possible deadlock in the final stages of the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations towards a Diwali draft completion deadline, according to a UK media report Sunday.

"The Daily Telegraph" quoted a source close to the talks to say that data localisation rules that prevent foreign companies taking data out of India and allowing UK firms to

bid for public sector contracts are two key "sticking points" to a comprehensive deal. "The stumbling blocks are absolutely to do with digital. How ambitious and comprehensive this deal is in some way a function of time," the newspaper quoted an "insider" as saying.

It follows UK Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch indicating earlier this week that just because there may be an FTA struck with India, it did not mean "we can't do even more later".

The Department for International Trade (DIT) also reiterated the government stance that any FTA would be agreed only



if it meets the UK's interests.

"We remain clear that we won't sacrifice quality for speed and will only sign when we have a deal that meets the UK's interests," a UK government spokesperson said.

It follows a week of controversial interventions that cast a shadow over the prospect of a wide-ranging bilateral trade agreement, with UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman expressing "reservations" over

According to official UK gov't data, India-UK bilateral trade currently stands at around GBP 24.3bn a year and the aim is for that to be at least doubled by 2030

India being offered some sort of "open borders" visa concessions.

While India countered the minister's claims that a Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP) between the two countries had not "worked very well" in tackling visa

overstayers, strategic experts suggested that the wrangles may well end up in a diluted trade pact. The prospect of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's UK visit towards the end of the month to sign off on an FTA draft around Diwali is also seen as shaky at this stage.

The Diwali timeline for an FTA was announced enthusiastically by former prime minister Johnson during his visit to India in April. The governing Conservative Party in the UK has since been thrown into turmoil and his embattled successor at Downing Street, Liz Truss, is believed to be very keen to score her big win by clinching a trade deal with one of the world's fastest growing economies -- a process she had initiated as former trade secretary.

The focus of the FTA negotiations is on reducing the barriers to trade, cutting tariffs, and supporting easier imports and exports into each other's markets.

Seven of top-10 firms add ₹1L-cr in mkt valuation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: The combined market valuation of seven of the 10 most valued firms climbed ₹1,01,043.69 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and TCS emerging as the biggest gainers.

Last week, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 764.37 points or 1.33 per cent.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) climbed ₹37,581.61 crore to reach ₹16,46,182.66 crore. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) added ₹2,082.37 crore, taking its valuation to ₹11,21,480.95 crore.

The market valuation of Infosys jumped ₹16,263.25 crore to ₹6,10,871.36 crore and that of ICICI Bank went higher by ₹13,433.27 crore to ₹6,14,589.87 crore.

The market capitalisation (m-cap) of HDFC advanced ₹6,733.19 crore to ₹4,22,810.22 crore and that of HDFC Bank surged ₹4,623.07 crore to ₹7,96,894.04 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 companies, Reliance Industries remained the most valued Indian firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, SBI, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel and HDFC.

Nomura: India's GDP optimism misplaced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 9: Japanese brokerage Nomura has projected a sharp moderation in India's growth rate for FY24 to 5.2 per cent as compared to FY23, saying Indian policymakers are "misplaced" about their optimism on the country's growth prospects.

After a week-long meetings with policymakers, corporates, commercial banks and political experts, its economists said its FY23 GDP growth estimate is at 7 per cent -- at par with the RBI's revised down forecast -- but it expects a sharp moderation to 5.2 per cent in FY24.

"While we broadly agree with our interlocutors on the growth prospects in FY23, we believe the optimism in FY24 may be misplaced and that the spillover effects from the global slowdown are being underestimated," its economists Sonal Verma and Aurodeep Nandi said in a note. The economy grew at 4 per cent in FY20 in a multi-year low. The estimated slowdown in growth in FY24 will come ahead of the next general elections.

FPIs invest ₹2,400cr in first week of Oct

SO FAR THIS YEAR, FOREIGN INVESTORS HAVE WITHDRAWN ₹1.66 LAKH CRORE FROM INDIAN EQUITIES, DATA SHOWED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: After withdrawing over ₹7,600 crore last month, foreign investors have resumed buying Indian stocks and have invested more than ₹2,400 crore in the domestic equity markets in the first week of October.

FPI flow is expected to remain volatile in the coming months on a slew of global and domestic factors, experts said.

"The fall in job openings in the US and lower-than-expected rate hike by the Australian central bank imbued hope among investors that global rates may peak soon. However, till then it seems FPI flows will remain volatile in the coming months," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head-Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities.

According to data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) invested a net ₹2,440 crore in equities during October 3-7, after pulling out over ₹7,600 crore in September; on hawkish stance by the US Federal Reserve and sharp depreciation in rupee.

Prior to this, FPIs made a net investment of ₹51,200 crore in August and nearly ₹5,000 crore in



July. Before July, foreign investors were net sellers in Indian equities for nine months in a row from October last year.

FPIs have turned marginal buyers in early October but there is no consistency in their activity, said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. They will turn sustained buyers only when dollar peaks and shows a sustained downtrend, he added.

"With the pick-up in government expenditure on the back of higher GST and direct tax collections, growth is expected to accelerate. This has led to positive stance by FPIs on Indian markets," said Anita Gandhi, Whole Time Director and Head, Institutional Business at Arianth Capital. However, rising global yields need to be closely watched, she added.

On the other hand, foreign investors have pulled out ₹2,950 crore from the debt market during the period under review. Apart from India, FPI flows were positive for Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand during this period.

FIRST HALF OF FY23

Direct tax mop-up jumps 24%

Tax collection is an indicator of economic activity in any country. But in India, the robust tax collection was despite a slowdown in industrial production and exports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: The gross collection of tax on corporate and individual earnings jumped nearly 24 per cent so far in the current fiscal year to ₹8.98 lakh crore, the tax department said Sunday.

This includes a 32 per cent growth in personal income tax (including Securities Transaction Tax) mop up and 16.73 per cent increase in corporate tax revenues over the same period last year.

After adjusting for refunds, the net direct tax collections between April 1 - October 8 stood at ₹7.45 lakh crore, which is 52.46 per cent of the Budget estimates (BE) for the full year tax collection target, the department said.

The Budget had estimated direct tax collection at ₹14.20 lakh crore this fiscal, higher than ₹14.10 lakh crore collected last fiscal (2021-22). Tax on corporate and individual income makes up for direct taxes.

"Direct Tax collections up to 8th October, 2022 show that gross collections are at ₹8.98 lakh crore which is 23.8 per cent higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year," the tax department said in a statement.

Refunds amounting to ₹1.53 lakh crore have been issued between April 1 - October 8, an increase of 81 per cent over the corresponding period last year.



Strong economic growth coupled with better reporting seems to be supporting the collection figures. While collections remain strong the same also need to be supported by corporate investment cycles reviving post Covid

ROHINTON SIDHWA | PARTNER, DELOITTE INDIA

After adjusting refunds, net direct tax collection stood at ₹7.45 lakh crore, 16.3 per cent higher over the year-ago period. This includes a 16.25 per cent increase in PIT (including STT) and 16.29 per cent in corporate tax.

Some analysts believe that the

economic growth has lost momentum but corporate profits are keeping the engine running.

Merchandise exports have lost on the momentum of last year's surge and shrunk by 3.5 per cent in September. Trade deficit has nearly doubled in the first six months.

IIP growth was subdued at 2.4 per cent in July while 'core sector' hit a nine-month low of 3.3 per cent in August. Collection from levy of tax on goods and services sold (GST) has flattened at around ₹1.45-1.46 lakh crore per month.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last month cut its production of India's GDP growth in the current fiscal to 7 per cent from 7.2 per cent previously estimated.

RECESSION CLOUDS LOOM OVER EU

Exporters keeping fingers crossed

India's exports to the EU stood at \$30.8bn during April-Aug 2022. It was \$65bn in 2021-22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Exporters are keeping their fingers crossed due to "visible" recessionary trends in the European Union (EU) as it could affect demand for domestic goods in that market in the coming months.

The EU is one of major export destinations for Indian exporters, accounting for about 15 per cent of India's total outbound shipments.

"There are visible symptoms of recession in the EU. Energy crisis is looming there. Buyers are delaying orders from India. They are concerned but hopeful," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)



Director General Ajay Sahai said. He, however, added that the situation in the EU provides an opportunity for Indian exporters to enhance efforts to boost exports to countries like Russia.

"Sanction of Russia gives us an opportunity to tap that market," Sahai said, expressing confidence that India's total merchandise exports would reach \$470 billion in 2022-23 as

against \$420 billion in 2021-22.

Sharing similar views, Technocraft Industries founder and chairman Sharad Kumar Saraf said EU buyers are cancelling orders and it would affect the country's exports in the coming months.

A decline in exports of sectors such as engineering, ready-made garments and rice led to a contraction in the country's overall outbound shipments by 3.52 per cent to \$32.62 billion in September, while the trade deficit widened to \$26.72 billion.

The Russia-Ukraine war is severely affecting global supply chains. Russia has also slashed the flow of natural gas to Europe.

7th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair-2022 inaugurated

Bhubaneswar: The most renowned multi sector B2B & B2C exhibition "7th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair-2022" was inaugurated in the City by Padma Vibhushan Sudarshan Sahu; Sulata Deo, MP, Rajya Sabha; Susant Kumar Rout, MLA, Bhubaneswar. The event was organised by Gupta Event Management Pvt Ltd Bhubaneswar, and will run from October 8 to 18 at Janta Maidan. The timing of the trade fair is set between 02:30pm to 10:00pm. There are participants from 20 states and 7 countries. The products displayed at the event range from real estate, construction, banking, furniture, interior, home decor, electronics, antique products, kitchen appliances, automobiles, carpet, paintings, crockery, boutique & beauty, health products, fashionable jewellery, Thailand flowers & dress, Pakistani & Rajasthani marbles, Afghanistan dry fruits, Bangladeshi products, all India handicraft & handloom products, gents' & ladies' apparels and 35,000 national & international products. Approximately, more than 3 lakh consumers will take part in this 11-day event. The trade fair will enhance the business opportunity for both consumers and traders. The organiser of the event is Gupta Event Management Pvt Ltd, a professional event management firm since last decade under the leadership of Sujeet Gupta and Payal Acharya Gupta with a motto to provide a unique platform to both traders and consumers around the globe.



No material impact of rate hike on demand for home loans

Even in the first five months of the current fiscal, home loan outstanding of banks has clocked double-digit growth in five years, despite RBI raising the key interest rate four times by a whopping 190 basis points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

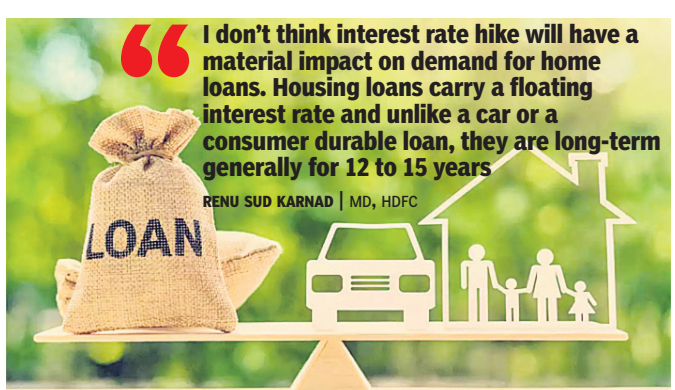
New Delhi, Oct 9: Interest rates do not seem to have a material bearing on people who buy their dream residential properties on borrowed funds as the home loan outstand-

ing of banks almost doubled to Rs 16.85 lakh crore in the last five years, shows Reserve Bank data.

As per the RBI data, the housing loan outstanding of the banks was at Rs 8,60,086 crore at the end of fiscal 2016-17, and the same has increased to Rs 16,84,424 crore at the end of 2021-22.

Experts from banking and real estate industry are of the opinion that though interest rates are important, they do not deter a home buyer as the decision is based on current income and future prospects.

Also people are becoming increasingly aware that interest rates would move up and down during the life cycle of a loan, which is typically for around 15 years.



Commenting on the banks' rising loan portfolio, HT Solanki, General Manager -- Mortgages and Other Retail Assets at Bank of Baroda,

said affordability is an important factor since home buying typically takes place on borrowed funds. "However, home loans are also

a long-duration product and customers do expect changes in interest rates during the tenure of the loan. Further, the average pay increases in the range of 8-12 per cent in the country also help to mitigate the impact of a rate increase to a certain extent," he said.

The RBI data revealed that banks' housing loan outstanding increased in the range of 13.7 to 16.4 per cent year-on-year in each of the first five months of the current financial year. The outstanding at end-August 2022, has risen to Rs 17.85 lakh crore.

The consultant tracks primary sales of seven major cities -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune.

Sales stood at 1,45,651 units in the January-September period of 2021. The January-September figure of this calendar year is higher than the 2,61,358 units sold during the entire 2019.

Sales of residential properties plunged to 1,38,344 units in 2020 due to the adverse impact of the Covid-19 induced lockdowns.

India's primary housing market revived last year on pent up demand and sales rose to 2,36,516 units in 2021. The strong momentum has continued till September this year.

Realtors are hoping that sales momentum will continue despite the rise in mortgage rates. Property experts are banking on pent up and festive demand to sail through.

Eves ready for challenge: Dennerby

HEAD COACH CONFIDENT THAT INDIAN SQUAD WILL SURPRISE STRONG OPPONENTS WITH TACTICAL PLAY

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: India are clearly one of the underdogs of the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup (WC) beginning Tuesday. However, head coach Thomas Dennerby said Sunday that the hosts have nothing to lose and they are ready for the age-group showpiece.

India begin their campaign against USA at the Kalinga Stadium here Tuesday and Dennerby said it is time the team show that they can compete against the best in the world.

"It's not only about the result now. It's the time to show the world that Indian girls can play football. But of course, inside the group, we have our own goals, and we are ready to fight for them," Dennerby said. "Against the USA, Brazil or Morocco, we are determined to earn points and score goals. And we're going to show to the Indian fans that we have a good team."

India play Morocco and Brazil on October 14 and 17 in their other group matches. The top two teams in each of the four groups will qualify for the quarterfinals.

"We want to dish out good performances. We want to prove that India really can challenge the best teams in the world. And hopefully,



GUNNING FOR GLORY: The Indian eves during a training session Sunday in Bhubaneswar; (Inset): Thomas Dennerby

some of these girls, in a couple of years from now, can take the next step to the senior team and then you can keep on having them as role models for many years. Young girls

should know they can have a successful career in football," Dennerby pointed out. The Swede also said his team had good preparations ahead of the tournament with exposure

tours to Italy, Norway and Spain. Dennerby was then asked whether he is under pressure. "Of course, all coaches are under pressure when it comes to World Cups

We want to dish out good performances so that the world will know that Indian girls can also challenge the strongest teams in the world

THOMAS DENNERBY | HEAD COACH

or other big tournaments. Everybody expects you to have a successful team and so on, sometimes you put more pressure on yourself. However, I have gone through this before. So, I don't get stressed easily," Dennerby stated. "The key is not to panic at any stage and change plans," he added.

Dennerby stated that fitness is one of the strong points of the Indian team. "We are going to this tournament with very good fitness level. All the training, running sessions and other aspects have helped," the head coach said. "We have also developed our tactical abilities, how to get the ball quickly back once we lose it," he added.

Dennerby is also hoping the girls are a bit nervous as it is a part of concentration. "When the referee blows the whistle, you have to forget everything else. It's only you, the ball and teammates and opponents," he signed off.

'SKY' banking on basics, routine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brisbane, Oct 9: He has enjoyed a lot of success in his short international career, but star India batter Suryakumar Yadav believes that following his process and routine will be the key to a good campaign in his maiden T20 World Cup outing in Australia.

Since making his T20 debut in March last year, Suryakumar, popularly referred to as 'SKY', has evolved as one of the most destructive batters in the format. He has risen to the No. 2 spot in the ICC T20I rankings after briefly becoming the No. 1 batter in the world.

"I was really looking forward to come here and attend the first practice session, go on the field, have a run, have a feel how it is (the atmosphere) like here. The first net session was also really amazing, just wanted to see how the pace of the wicket is, how the bounce is," the 32-year-old said in a video posted by the BCCI.

Suryakumar had his first practice session Down Under here Sunday, and the batter said his main focus going into the nets was to judge the conditions.

"You need to look for ways to blend with the atmosphere. I am just assessing that right now.



I am assessing the conditions in Australia, the size of the grounds and other factors so that I am ready for the tournament

SURYAKUMAR YADAV

"Excitement is there but at the same time you need to follow your process and routine as well," SKY said.

"During practice, the pace and bounce of the wicket, the dimension of the grounds, I took those into consideration. People say the grounds here are big, so you need to be ready with your game, how you plan to make runs here, all these things are very important. Good conditions and I am really looking forward to it (the T20 World Cup)," the Mumbaikar added.

SHORT TAKES

Nadal turns dad

Madrid: Rafael Nadal's wife Mery Perelló has given birth to the couple's first child, Spanish media reported Sunday. Reports said that Perelló gave birth to a baby boy in a clinic on the island of Mallorca where they live. Nadal and Perelló got married in 2019 after dating for many years. Nadal's public relations firm said it would not comment on his personal affairs. However, Twitter was abuzz with congratulatory messages for Nadal who has won a record 22 Grand Slam titles.

Title for Tiafoe

Tokyo: Taylor Fritz defeated Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2) in an all-American final of the Japan Open tennis tournament here Sunday. It was a perfect five days for Fritz, who arrived here at the tournament just after the end of his seven days of quarantine in Seoul following a positive Covid-19 test. "(It is) crazy, I don't even think it's set in just how fast the last four or five days have been," Fritz said after becoming the first American to win the Japan Open since Pete Sampras last won it in 1996. Tiafoe had come into the final on the back of winning 13 straight singles tie-breakers, but Fritz dominated the summit clash with his aggressive hitting.

Arjun shines

Bangalore: Arjun Deshwal put up a superb show to guide Jaipur Pink Panthers to a comprehensive 35-30 win over Patna Pirates in the Pro Kabaddi League here Sunday. Deshwal picked up 17 points, while Rohit Gulia emerged as the best player for Patna with 11 points at the Shree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium. It was a pulsating match with the lead changing hands frequently. However, Arjun managed to tip the scales in favour of the Panthers with some super raids. At the end of the first half, the Panthers led 18-14 and they maintained it in the second half. It was their defence that helped Panthers to close out the match after taking the lead.

Easy for Novak

Astana (Kazakhstan): Novak Djokovic needed only 75 minutes to win his 90th tour title, overcoming third-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the Astana Open tennis tournament here Sunday. It was his fourth title of the year, including Rome and Tel Aviv. The Serbian dominated his Greek opponent from the start, winning the first game in little more than a minute. He did not face a breakpoint in the match and hit 15 winners with only seven unforced errors. Djokovic converted his third match point with a backhand winner to emerge champion.

Hyderabad, MCFC share points in 6-goal thriller

AGENCIES

Pune, Oct 9: Defending champions Hyderabad FC (HFC) played out an entertaining 3-3 draw with Mumbai City FC (MCFC) in their opening match of the Indian Super League (ISL) here Sunday.

Joao Vitor (45th minute, penalty and 76th) and Halicharan Narzary (51st) scored for Hyderabad. Defender Chinglensana Singh's 23rd minute own goal before Greg Stewart (68th) and Alberto Noguera (85th) scored a goal each to level the match. Twice in the match, HFC had the lead, but they failed to hold on to it.

The match started at a hectic pace with MCFC starting on an aggressive note. They nearly took the lead early on when Jorge Pereyra found Bipin Singh inside the box with a well-timed through ball but the winger could only ripple the side netting. In the 15th minute, Hyderabad got their first shot on target when Joel Chianese's free-kick was headed straight at Phurba Lachenpa by Chinglensana Singh.

Chinglensana was rue that miss in the 23rd minute as MCFC drew first blood on the counter. Bipin blitzed down the left flank before whipping a low ball into the box that was deflected into the back of his own net by Chinglensana. HFC pulled level in the last minute of first half added on time after Lalengmawia Ralte brought



Joao Victor of HFC looks heavenwards after scoring his first goal of the night

Bartholomew Ogbeche down inside the box and conceded a penalty. Victor sent the keeper the wrong way from the spot to restore parity.

Five minutes into the second half, the game turned on its head as Chianese took advantage of a mid-field mix-up and played the ball through to Mohammed Yasir. The 24-year-old winger played an inch-perfect pass to Narzary who made no mistake in slotting the ball past the keeper. Less than five minutes later, Bipin's effort was brilliantly saved by Laxmikant Kattimani, denying MCFC an equaliser.

Seven minutes past the hour mark, it was all square again. Substitute Ahmed Jahouh played a sublime pass through to Greg Stewart who slotted the ball home to restore parity for the mariners.

India ride on Iyer, Kishan knocks

ALL-ROUND DISPLAY BY BATTERS AND BOWLERS HELP HOSTS LEVEL T20I SERIES AGAINST PROTEAS

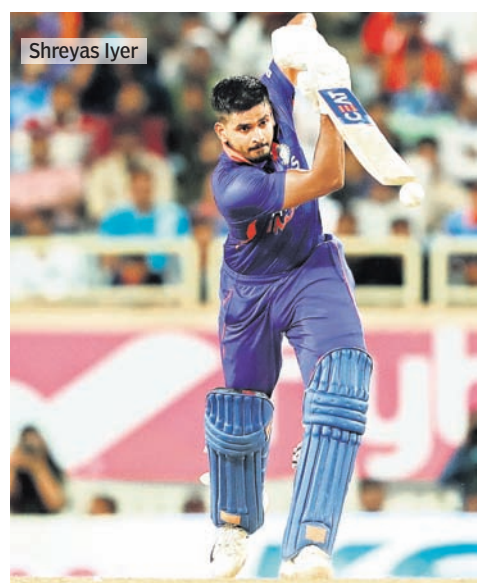
AGENCIES

Ranchi, Oct 9: Man of the Match, Shreyas Iyer's (113 n o, 11b, 15x4) second ODI ton and Ishan Kishan's (93, 84b, 4x4, 7x6) blitzkrieg helped India beat South Africa by seven wickets with 25 balls to spare in the second ODI here Sunday. The hosts thus restored parity in the three-game series after losing the first match. However, before the histrionics of Iyer and Kishan, the bowlers did a terrific job to restrict South Africa to 278 for seven after the visitors had opted to bat.

Such was the dominance of Iyer and Kishan that the South Africa bowlers became mere passengers in the game. The two put on 161 runs for the third wicket to seal the match for India. Left-handed Kishan was distinctly unlucky to miss out on his maiden international ton. Trying to hit a long hop from left-arm spinner Bjorn Fortuin, the batter hit the ball down deep mid-wickets throat.

However, that did not bother Iyer, who duly completed his ton and also hit the winning runs to achieve a thumping victory for the Men in Blue. While Kishan was especially aggressive to anything bowled short, Iyer was content to play second-fiddle initially. However, a dab to third-man, a drive to long-on or through the covers showed that he was in good nick.

Kishan was severe on Keshav



Maharaj, hitting the left-arm spinner for three sixes in four balls in a couple of overs. It was this assault that opened the floodgates for India.

Earlier when South Africa batted the Indian bowlers did well at the death to restrict them. In the last 10 overs, India gave away only 57 runs and even David Miller (35 n o) failing to take the attack to the bowlers. Mohammed Siraj (3/38) was outstanding for India. Not only did he dismiss Quinton de Kock (5) early, he also broke the dangerous third wicket partnership between Markam and Hendricks

BRIEF SCORES

South Africa 278 for 7 (Aiden Markam 79, Reeza Hendricks 74, David Miller 35 n o, Mohammed Siraj 3/38) lost to **India 282 for 3** in 45.5 overs (Shreyas Iyer 113 n o, Ishan Kishan 93) by seven wickets.

after the two had added 129 runs and were looking to take the game away from India.

Once that partnership was broken India managed to enforce the brakes due to some clever captaincy by Shikhar Dhawan who

nicely rotated the bowling. At 40 for two, South Africa were on the backfoot, but what followed was a composed and calculative approach by the middle-order duo of Markam and Hendricks who were happy to bide time, play out dot balls and forge a partnership.

From 20th over onwards, they stepped up the pace, picking odd boundaries every over and in no time they reached their respective 50s - Hendricks in 58 balls, and Markam in 64. However, after that the Indian bowlers staged a remarkable comeback.

Verstappen retains F1 title

3RD DRIVER TO WIN CHAMPIONSHIP WITH 4 RACES TO SPARE

AGENCIES

Suzuka (Japan), Oct 9: Max Verstappen was declared Formula One (F1) World Champion Sunday after winning a dramatic rain-shortened Japanese Grand Prix. Red Bull's Verstappen crossed the line first and he was then awarded the title when second-place finisher Charles Leclerc was given a five-second penalty, dropping him to third. The result gave Verstappen an unassailable 113-point lead in the F1 championships, making him only the third driver after Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel to clinch the title with four races to spare.

Ferrari's Leclerc finished the race second in front of Red Bull's Sergio Perez, but he was hit with a penalty after squeezing Perez wide and leaving the track in a late surge for the line. Verstappen was informed he had retained his title midway through the post-race TV interview, and even the driver himself was not sure if he had sealed the deal.

"It's a crazy feeling of course as I didn't expect it when I crossed the line," said a shell-shocked Verstappen. "Was it going to be half points? I didn't know how many points I was going to get. I was happy with the race we had," the Dutch driver added. The race got off to a chaotic



ON TOP: Max Verstappen celebrates with the Red Bull team after winning the Formula One title Sunday in Suzuka, Japan

start in heavy rain, with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and Williams' Alex Albon exiting on the first lap prompting a safety car. A red flag soon followed and forced the drivers to wait for more than an hour before the action restarted, again under a safety car.

Verstappen resumed with a lead over Leclerc and Perez, and extended it as conditions gradually improved during the race.

Verstappen has won 12 of 18 races in 2022 and thanked his team

for an 'incredible' year. "The first (championship) is a little more emotional, the second one is beautiful," he said. "It's been a special year, and you need to remind yourself as these kinds of years you don't have very often," he added.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said Verstappen had 'grown' as a driver. "Carrying that No.1 tag this year, he's done it with a lot of pride," Horner said. "He's proved that he has the mettle to be at the top," Horner added.

MILITAO ENSURES 3 POINTS FOR REAL

AGENCIES

Madrid, Oct 9: Eder Militao's early goal earned Real Madrid a comfortable 1-0 win Saturday over Getafe to take them on top of the La Liga points table. Carlo Ancelotti's side lead Barcelona by three points, ahead of Celta Vigo's visit Sunday to Camp Nou.

Elsewhere Angel Correa's brace gave Atletico Madrid a 2-1 win over Girona, while new Sevilla coach Jorge Sampaoli earned a credible 1-1 draw against third-place Athletic Bilbao.

Real Madrid secured their first clean sheet of the season in La Liga at the Coliseum as they took home the three points. "It's clear that we want to score more than one, two, or three goals, but keeping the clean sheet gave us the win," said defender Dani Carvajal. "Winning by the minimum and keeping the clean sheet makes it more valuable not to concede," he added.

Karim Benzema did not train Friday and was not included in Real Madrid's match-day squad. The club are hoping that the French forward will be back for the Clasico next weekend.

Real started on a bright note and Militao headed home from Luka Modric's perfect corner in the fourth minute. It was the ideal way for the Brazilian defender to celebrate his 100th appearance for the club. Borja Mayoral should have lev-



Eder Militao (C) is all smiles after scoring against Getafe

elled against his former side but was unable to turn home Fabrizio Angileri's cross-shot as Getafe hit back after Real's intense start.

Real put together a slick team move before the break which ended with David Soria saving a Rodrigo header, before Vinicius (Jr) drew a penalty - or so he thought. The Brazilian was clumsily felled in the area by Luis Milla but VAR spotted the ball had gone out of play in the build-up.

Meanwhile Argentine forward Correa was at his explosive best to help Atletico, fourth in the La Liga, recover from a chastening defeat by Club Brugge in the Champions League in midweek.

"We are working to get higher up in La Liga, which is a complicated competition," said Correa. "The Champions League is coming next and we want to win to bring our fans happiness."

Gunners pip Reds in close encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 9: Arsenal went atop the Premier League points table with a thrilling 3-2 win over Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium here Sunday. Gabriel Martinelli put the Gunners ahead in the first minute of the game while Bukayo Saka (45th and 76th) piled on the misery for Jurgen Klopp's men.

The goals for the Reds were scored by Darwin Nunez (34th) and Roberto Firmino (53rd), but in the end that did not prove enough. Arsenal now have 24 points from nine games and is a point ahead of Manchester City who have 23. Mikel Arteta's Arsenal are now improving with every game and they will certainly be a handful when the take on Pep Guardiola's City.

Arsenal deserved to win, such was their dominance in the game. They created more chances and could have added at least three more goals to the tally, if their players had been more proactive in the opposition penalty box.

Klopp will surely have to some rethinking regarding Liverpool's defence. It looked in shambles right from the start and only got worse as the game progressed. Also he has still not been able to fine a proper replacement for Sadio Mane. It means that Mo Salah is having to take the burden of leading the Liverpool attack alone, something which he definitely is not enjoying. Unless these deficiencies are worked out, more miseries await the Reds.