



STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

Actress Priyanka Chopra unfollows comedian-actor Hasan Minhaj on social media for mocking Nobel Peace winner Malala

LEISURE P2



GUNMEN KILL 11

Two men fire at soldiers on a Russian military firing range near Ukraine, killing 11 before being slain in return fire

INTERNATIONAL P10



TOUGH MATCH

Indian football team will get a rare opportunity to rub shoulders with the mighty Brazil, in the FIFA U-17 WWC

SPORTS P12

2 women crushed by speeding truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhole/Chhatia, Oct 16: In a tragic mishap, two women from Bhubaneswar were crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding truck on NH-16 at Bhatia Square near Chhatia under Bairi police limits in Jajpur district, Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Geetanjali Padhi, 66, wife of Rajankant Padhi and Suchismita Padhi, 53, wife of Abanikanta Padhi. Both were sisters-in-law in relation and residents of Saheed Nagar area in Bhubaneswar. The two were also relatives of former minister and BJP leader Surama Padhi.

As per reports, the two were travelling to Goddess Biraja shrine in Jajpur town in a car. They stopped the vehicle at Bhatia Square to have tea and asked the driver to bring pancakes from a shop. The driver went to the opposite side of the road to bring pancakes allegedly without applying the hand brakes following which the car started moving on the road.

Fearing for their lives, the two opened the door and jumped out to their right from the vehicle. Meanwhile, a speeding cargo laden truck ran over them and crushed them to death on the spot.

The truck driver tried to flee the scene after the mishap but was overpowered by the locals. Bairi IIC Sanghamitra Nayak and Chhatia outpost police rushed to the spot and seized the two vehicles.



EXAM RUSH: Massive crowd of candidates on a platform at the Varanasi Railway Station a day after the UPSSSC Preliminary Eligibility Test (PET) 2022, Sunday

5G in 8 Odisha cities by March

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Come March, the much-awaited 5G network services will be available in as many as eight cities of Odisha.

According to what Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while attending a programme here Sunday, high-speed 5G services will be rolled out in a few big cities of Odisha by March 2023.

Speaking to mediapersons, Vaishnaw said the 5G services will be rolled out in about 200 cities of India under the first phase. In this phase, eight cities of Odisha will also be connected with 5G network by the end of March 2023, he said.

"By the end of 2023, under phase-II, around 80 per cent of the state will be covered under the high-speed internet service," he informed.

All the big cities will be covered in phase-I and the service will be subsequently extended to semi-urban areas and then, rural areas across the country, said Vaishnaw.

Vaishnaw also reviewed several ongoing railway projects in the



In the first phase, eight cities of Odisha will get 5G service. By the end of 2023, around 80 percent of the state will be covered. All the big cities will be covered in phase -1 and the service will be subsequently extended to smaller ones and rural areas

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION IT MINISTER

state. The work for the Khurda-Bolangir rail line has made "impressive progress", he said, adding that there were some problems as railway tracks of over 100 kilometre pass through forest areas in the route.

On the development of Bhubaneswar Railway Station as a world class station, Vaishnaw, who is also the railway minister, said he has requested his elder brother and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to perform the Bhumi Puja. After that physical work will begin for the mega project, he informed.

It is pertinent to mention that,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G service October 1 on the occasion of 6th India Mobile Congress at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. In the first phase, the fifth generation network has been launched in 13 cities like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Jamnagar, Kolkata, Chennai, Lucknow, Pune, Delhi and Mumbai. Once launched, users will get internet services 10 times faster than that of 4G and 30 times faster than that of 3G.

Along with it, the users will no longer face downloading issues as 5G would enhance the overall download speed.

CONGRESS PREZ POLL It's Kharge vs Tharoor today

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 16: Senior Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor will face off in an electoral contest Monday for the post of AICC chief, as the party gets set to have a non-Gandhi president in over 24 years.

Over 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates form the electoral college to pick the party chief



in a secret ballot.

Voting would also take place at the AICC headquarters here and at over 65 polling booths across the country in an elec-

toral contest which is taking place for the sixth time in the party's 137-year history.

While party chief Sonia Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are expected to vote at the AICC headquarters here, Rahul Gandhi will be voting at the Bharat Jodo Yatra campsite in Karnataka's Sanganakallu in Ballari along with around 40 other Bharat Yatris who are PCC delegates. Kharge is con-

sidered the firm favourite for his perceived proximity to the Gandhis and backing by senior leaders, even as Tharoor has pitched himself as the candidate of change.

During the campaign, even though Tharoor has raised issues of uneven playing field, both candidates and the party have maintained that the Gandhis are neutral and that there is no official candidate. **Contd...P4**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Opposition is saying our 'hunger for power' is responsible for such poor ranking

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
MAX	32.6°C 33.0°C
MIN	24.8°C 24.6°C
Humidity	85% 82%
Rainfall	0.0mm 0.0mm
	Forecast
	Light rain likely

GOVT NOT TO PROCURE FRESH COVID VACCINES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: The government's Covid vaccination programme is in its final leg with the Health Ministry deciding against procuring more vaccines as of now and surrendering Rs 4,237 crore, or nearly 85 per cent of the 2022-23 budget allocation for inoculation purposes, to the Finance Ministry.

Official sources told PTI that more than 1.8 crore doses are still available with the governments at the Centre and in states and the stock is sufficient to continue the vaccination drive for around six months, given the low uptake of vaccines among



people due to declining Covid case burden.

Even if the government's stock gets exhausted, Covid vaccines will be available in the market.

Any decision on whether to procure Covid vaccine doses through the government channel or get (fresh) budget allocations for the

purpose after six months will depend on the coronavirus situation prevailing in the country at that time, an official source told PTI.

As part of the nationwide vaccination drive which began on January 16 last year, the Government of India has been supporting states and Union territories by providing them COVID-19 vaccines free of cost.

Since the Covid cases have been low, a sense of complacency has grown among people and there has not been much demand of vaccines even though the government conducted a 75-day drive - 'Covid Vaccination Amrit Mahotsava' - to administer booster doses to all adults free of cost. **Contd...P4**

NASA set to break sound barrier again

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 16: NASA aeronautical innovators are poised to break the sound barrier again, this time in a very different way that could make it possible for all of us to one day travel by air just as fast as any of the X-1 pilots who flew supersonic.

NASA's X-59, the centerpiece of the agency's Quesst mission, will enable commercial supersonic travel over land. Lockheed Martin has designed, built and conducted initial flight tests with the aircraft and the first flight is targeted for 2023.

"That first supersonic flight was such a tremendous achievement, and now you look at how far we've come since then. What we're doing now is the cul-

FUTURE OF AIR TRAVEL



Lockheed Martin has designed, built and conducted initial flight tests with the aircraft and the first flight is targeted for 2023

mination of so much of their work," said Catherine Bahm, an aeronautical engineer at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in California.

Through Quesst, NASA plans to

demonstrate the X-59 can fly faster than sound without generating the typically loud sonic booms that led to supersonic flight over land being banned in 1973.

The plan includes flying the X-59 over several communities to survey how people react to the quieter sonic "thump" it produces - if they hear anything at all. "Their responses will be shared with regulators who will then consider writing new rules to lift the ban," said NASA.

"And when that happens it will mark another historic milestone in flight, potentially opening a new era in air travel, where airline passengers might hop on a supersonic jet at breakfast time in Los Angeles to make a lunch-time reservation in New York City," it added. **Contd...P4**

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leisure

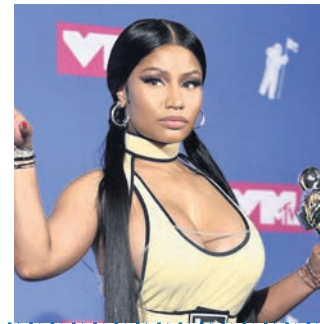


HARLOW TO DO DOUBLE DUTY AS HOST, MUSICAL GUEST ON SNL

American rapper Jack Harlow is set to serve as the host and musical guest on the next episode of *Saturday Night Live (SNL)* which is set to air October 29. *SNL* announced the booking on this week's episode, which also features Megan Thee Stallion as both host and musical guest.

NICKI MINAJ SECURES GRAMMY POP BALLOT

Rapper Nicki Minaj's *Super Freaky Girl* was shifted out of the Grammy's rap categories and into the pop division on a preliminary ballot. It nearly resulted in an international incident, given the ensuing publicity and controversy as voting began this week.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are creative, and today you will prove to be resourceful and thereby successful! Okay, you are ambitious, says Ganesh, but don't bite off more than you can chew. Be confident of your abilities, work hard and have faith in providence.

TAURUS

You will feel the burden of financial responsibilities on your shoulders today, says Ganesh. Do not let expenses bother you. Money will come to you from unexpected sources later in the day. If you can maintain an impartial judgement, then you will yield wonderful results on the financial front, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today, you would love to spend as much time alone as possible with your sweetheart, says Ganesh. A casual conversation between the two of you may culminate into a sensuous consummation. In the evening, you will keep people charmed with your wit and wisdom, feels Ganesh.

CANCER

There is a fat chance that you will take pleasure in the company of your close friends and relatives, predicts Ganesh. You may have an awesome time with your mate. There may be a few minor problems here and there, but your family will rally behind you and will help you in solving your problems.

LEO

The travel bug inside you is itching to be let loose, but things are not so simple when it comes to finding new destinations, says Ganesh. With you, holidaying goes hand in hand with delays. So, although you might be excited at the prospect of going to new places, this excitement will be somewhat curtailed thanks to postponements of travel plans.

VIRGO

Today you may understand the utter uselessness of your dogged efforts and feel extremely anxious about success eluding you constantly. However, Ganesh advises you not to lose hope, but to re-energise your mind, give a boost to your curiosity and pay attention to long-term goals.

LIBRA

It sure is tiring to run with the herd. You may feel the desire to get away from the rat race at work today. Maybe it is the monotonous and stressful environment in office that is pushing you to your limits. But you may seek a new direction and lifestyle, one that is less taxing.

SCORPIO

You shall be completely immersed in your routine today. It's the same old humbug of a day for you, says Ganesh. But this exhausting day may transform into an exciting evening - so be prepared to get surprised.

SAGITTARIUS

Cupid is hunting and you are the game today. Cupid's arrows will have you adrift on the ocean of love and turbulent emotions. Your rescue is imminent, when a member of the opposite sex answers your SOS calls. But use your discretion as to which boat you hitch a ride back home, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

It's a lucky day for your sweetheart! Wonder why it's written in your horoscope? You will pamper him/her to the hilt, take them out on a shopping spree and buy whatever they lay their eyes on, even if it's way beyond reasonable, says Ganesh. You will go overboard to make your love feel that nothing else matters, and although this lavish outing will serve the purpose, you may later regret not keeping a count of your cash.

AQUARIUS

You find solace in travel today. But if you plan to include others, beware, as you may end up doing all their dirty work too. But, you will find fulfillment even in that, which, says Ganesh, is your strong point. You know how to turn a weakness into strength.

PISCES

Today just might be the day when you invent a better mousetrap. However, your ideas have a propensity to wane and wax at the same speed, says Ganesh. Hence, keep a notebook handy to jot down all your earth-shattering revolutionary ideas.

3-day IDFFB comes to an end

'All that Breathes', event's last film, follows two brothers who run a bird hospital dedicated to rescuing injured black kites, a staple in the skies of New Delhi



Filmmakers attended the closing ceremony

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The third and final day of the 3rd Indian Documentary Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IDFFB) kicked off with the screening of Kashmiri movie *Ghar Ka Pata* by Madhulika Jalali here at Odissi Research Centre, Sunday.

The film attempts to weave a narrative of the place and of time gone by juxtaposing a string of short conversations, with a series of anecdotal experiences with my family when my father took us back to Kashmir 24 years after we had to leave the valley of mist.

This was followed by *Trans Kashmir* by Surbhi Dewan which is a film about the extreme hardships, resilience and beauty of Kashmir's transgender commu-

nity and their growing movement for basic human rights.

After that the viewers were treated with *Sindhustan* by Sapna Bhavnani which includes many stories of the largest migration a culture in history - the Sindhi migration, some from India and some from Sindh (now in Pakistan) along with the director's, illustrating her journey on her skin.

After being a successful entrepreneur; writing multiple columns, authoring a self-help book, acting in award-winning plays, Sapna has



A scene from All That Breathes

been using filmmaking to give her activism a new voice.

The closing film of IDFFB 2022 was *All That Breathes* by Shounak

Sen. The film follows two brothers who run a bird hospital dedicated to rescuing injured black kites, a staple in the skies of New Delhi, India. As environmental toxicity and civil unrest escalate, the relationship between this family and the neglected kites forms a poetic chronicle of the city's collapsing ecology and deepening social fault lines.

At the closing ceremony filmmakers Sapna and Surbhi were felicitated. The volunteers and interns of the festival were also honoured by the filmmakers.

Comedian Hasan Minhaj mocked the Nobel winner

Priyanka stands up for Malala

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has unfollowed comedian-actor Hasan Minhaj on social media. Minhaj had earlier mocked the Nobel Peace Prize winner and female education activist Malala Yousafzai for following him on Instagram.

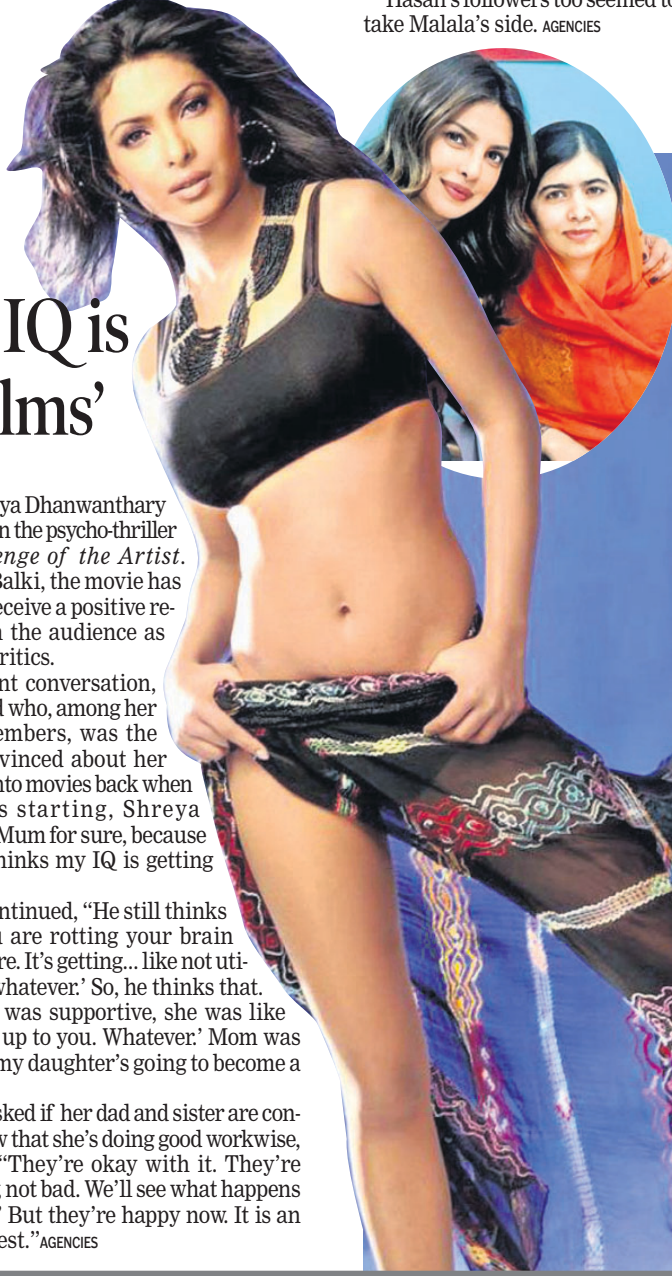
Recently, Hasan shared a video of what looks like a promotion of his upcoming show, on his Instagram with the caption: "Okay, it's getting' outta hand @malala!"

The video begins with the title Malala claps back and features Hasan in the video as he says: "On

October 4th, I made a joke about Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala. I said she follows me on Instagram and I don't follow her back. Then on October 5th, she retaliated (asking who is this man?). Instead of doing a runoff, she unfollowed me on Instagram. I am sorry Malala, follow me back. I don't know if I'll follow you though. I am that petty."

Now, showing her support for Malala, PC shared a screenshot of Hasan Minhaj's Instagram profile, thereby showing that she has unfollowed the comedian after the incident.

Hasan's followers too seemed to take Malala's side. AGENCIES



TV star Vaishali Takkar dies at 29



Mumbai: Television actress Vaishali Takkar, who is known for her work in shows like *Sasural Simar Ka*, *Yeh Rishita Kya Kehlata Hai* and *Super Sisters*, passed away at her Indore residence Sunday. She was 29 years old.

The actress is believed to have died by suicide. A case is registered in Tejaji Nagar police station.

Indore police recovered her hanging body from her flat located in Sai Bagh area of the city Sunday morning. They claimed to have recovered a suicide note from the crime spot, however, the details of the note are not yet disclosed.

"We are investigating the case. A suicide note has been found in her mobile phone. Body has been sent for postmortem. However, it is yet to be known why she took this extreme step. We are investigating the matter," said a senior police official.

In April 2021, Thakkar got engaged to the Kenya-based surgeon Dr. Abhinandan Singh and shared a video on her Instagram handle with the caption: "What's yours will ultimately find you even from another end of the world."

However, later she deleted the video and stopped posting anything about her fiancé, which also led to speculations about trouble in her love life.

'Dad thinks that my IQ is getting wasted in films'



Mumbai: Actress Shreya Dhanwanthary has recently starred in the psycho-thriller *Chup: The Revenge of the Artist*. Directed by R Balki, the movie has managed to receive a positive response from the audience as well as the critics.

In a recent conversation, when asked who, among her family members, was the most convinced about her getting into movies back when she was starting, Shreya replied, "Mum for sure, because dad still thinks my IQ is getting wasted."

She continued, "He still thinks 'Aye you are rotting your brain over there. It's getting... like not utilized or whatever.' So, he thinks that. My sister was supportive, she was like 'Yeah, it's up to you. Whatever.' Mom was like, 'No, my daughter's going to become a star.'"

When asked if her dad and sister are convinced now that she's doing good workwise, she said, "They're okay with it. They're like 'Okay, not bad. We'll see what happens in future.' But they're happy now. It is an ongoing test." AGENCIES

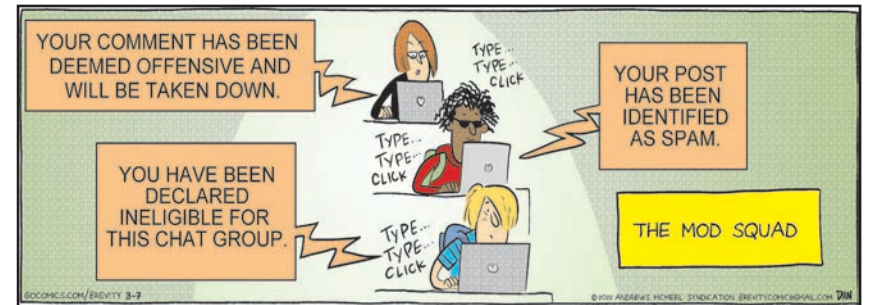
PEANUTS



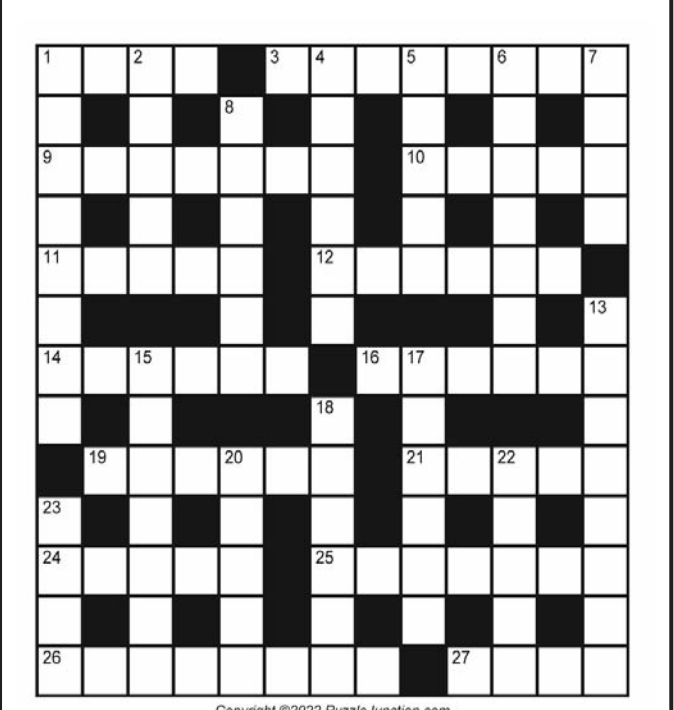
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Mission
 - 3 Bomb fragments
 - 9 Employer's handout
 - 10 Bury
 - 11 Classic theatre
 - 12 Fairness
 - 14 Thomas a Becket, e.g.
 - 16 Dried fruit
 - 19 Large lizard
 - 21 Sign of life
 - 24 Place to lounge
 - 25 Orator's forte
 - 26 Guessing game
 - 27 Seed cover
 - 7 Tackle box item
 - 8 Bligh's ship
 - 13 Inherent
 - 15 Boat race
 - 17 Fund-raising letter
 - 18 Injure badly
 - 20 Plato's plaza
 - 22 Large-eyed primate
 - 23 "Beowulf," for one
- Down**
- 1 Pubs
 - 2 Fashion
 - 4 Bisects, e.g.
 - 5 Gallic goodbye
 - 6 Writes down

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

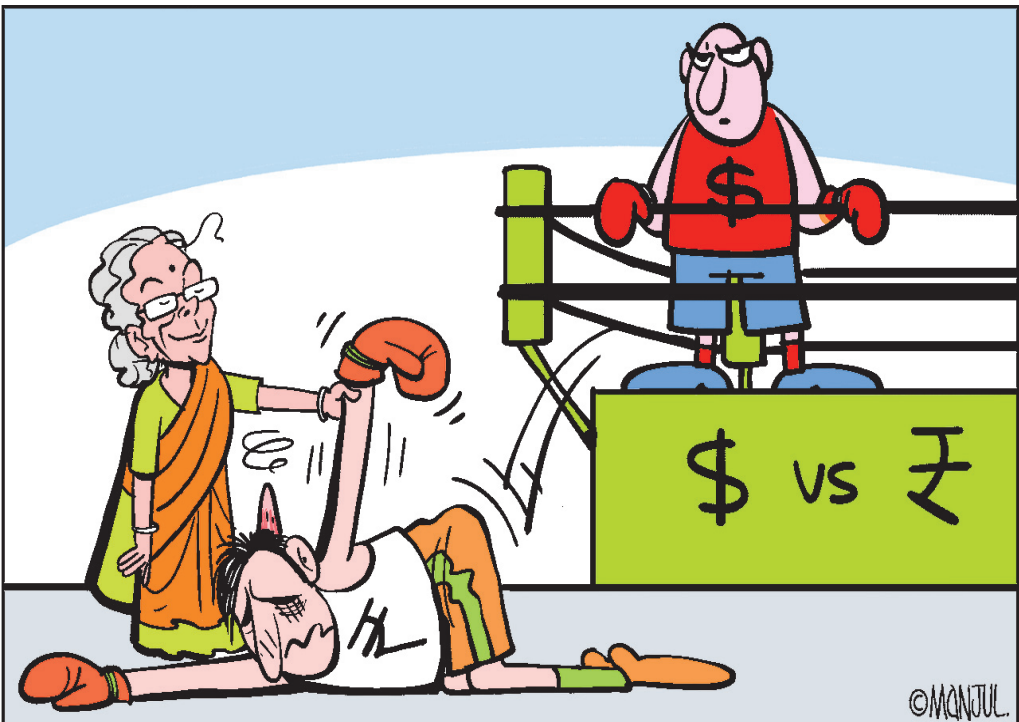
R	E	C	L	U	S	E	T	O	M	E	S	
I	R	S	N	A	I	U						
P	S	Y	C	H	O	C	R	O	C	U	S	
E	S	E	N	C	R	P						
N	E	T	A	R	T	I	C	H	O	K	E	
A	L	H	A	W	C							
P	O	L	I	T	E	I	M	P	A	C	T	
L	P	H	A	I	V							
A	M	A	R	Y	L	L	I	S	E	L	F	
Y	L	A	N	D	E	O	E					
B	R	A	N	D	I	C	L	E	V	E	R	
O	C	L	E	E	R							
Y	I	E	L	D	M	A	S	O	N	E	R	Y

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



State fast emerging as tech resource hub: CM

Naveen inaugurates IBM's Client Innovation Centre in Bhubaneswar

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Most of the IT companies have set foot in Bhubaneswar, and Odisha is now fast emerging as a technology resource hub, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said while inaugurating IBM's Client Innovation Centre (CIC) here Sunday.

"Over the years, the resurgent Odisha has scripted success stories in many spheres. It is marching ahead with renewed confidence towards a 'New Odisha' adopting new ideas, innovation and entrepreneurship," he said.

The enabling environment, facilitation service and huge talent pool available here have turned Odisha into a destination of choice, he said.

"Opening up of the IBM Client Innovation Centre adds yet another watershed moment, signifying the fast changing IT ecosystem in the state," the CM added.



The CIC, Bhubaneswar, is set up in line with the forays IBM has been making into emerging cities to get access to the diverse and rich talent available across the country. The centre will fast-track the digital transformation and economic growth of the region, as IBM Consulting continues to strengthen its Hybrid Cloud and AI Consulting capabilities delivered to global clients out of India, the company said.

"The expansion of our network of CICs is integral to supporting the growing needs of our clients as they accelerate their business transformation journey. Our teams will utilize their end-to-end delivery capabilities throughout the entire system development life cycle, from design to architecture to creation," said Amit Sharma, managing partner - global delivery, IBM Consulting. He said Bhubaneswar is fast emerging as a key talent hub in

PATNAIK TO WOO INVESTORS IN HYD

The CM left for Hyderabad on his birthday Sunday to attend the last investors' meet, the curtain raiser event for the third 'Make-in-Odisha' Conclave to be held in the state from November 30. During his two-day visit to Hyderabad, Patnaik will hold one-on-one meetings Monday with business tycoons to highlight investment opportunities in Odisha. The Hyderabad meet aims at attracting investments in IT, ITeS, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, textiles and apparel, electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM) besides food processing and renewable energy sectors.

the country and this Centre will provide these technology professionals with the opportunity to do impactful work for clients not just in India but across the world.

The new CIC will leverage the IBM Garage method of delivery, an approach that helps IBM 'co-create', 'co-execute', and 'co-operate' transformative business and complex technology solutions with its clients and ecosystem partners, he said.

BJD to propagate 'Naveenism' to counter oppn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The BJD seeks to inculcate the principles of 'Naveenism' in Odisha by spreading Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's message of tolerance, 'noiseless' hard work and dedication from October 16, the occasion of the 76th birthday of the party supremo.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the party do not spend time engaging in verbal duels with opposition camps; rather they speak

ting provoked by any remarks made by the opposition.

"BJD's leaders at the grassroots were also given explanations about 'Naveenism'. They were asked to focus on development work, dedicate their lives to the service of humanity," Mishra said.

He also claimed that Patnaik is the 'lone chief minister in India, who has been seeking the inclusion of the word Ahimsa (non-violence) in the Preambles of the Constitution'.

People of Odisha ensured the end of Congress 'misrule'

'Naveenism' is all about tolerance, noiseless hard work and dedication. We are not afraid of the BJP or for that matter any other political party. BJD believes in 'talking less and working more'; it does not engage in war of words with opposition leaders

PRANAB PRAKASH DAS
BJD'S ORGANISATIONAL SECRETARY

Naveen Patnaik is said to be the number one chief minister, but his state Odisha remains at the bottom of the development ladder. What is there to talk about 'Naveenism'

JAI NARAYAN MISHRA
LEADER OF OPPOSITION

through their actions, said BJD's organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das.

The ruling party in Odisha was recently labelled 'corrupt' by BJP president JP Nadda.

Nadda, during his recent visit to the state, also accused the state government of harbouring ministers allegedly involved in murder cases.

Asked why the BJD maintained silence over the BJP leader's remarks, Das said the party believes in 'talking less and working more'.

"Naveenism is all about tolerance, noiseless hard work and dedication. We are not afraid of the BJP or for that matter any other political party. The BJD believes in talking less and working more; it does not engage in war of words with opposition leaders," he said.

"The party has decided to spread 'Naveenism' across the state from October 16, the day Patnaik celebrates his 76th birthday. He has been into politics for 25 years and held the post of CM since 2000. Over the past two decades, he has set his own model of governance," the Jajpur MLA said.

Echoing him, BJD's senior vice-president and MLA Debi Prasad Mishra said party functionaries, before the launch of the month-long 'padyatra' October 2, were told to avoid get-

and voted the BJD to power as they, too, want peace and non-violence to prevail, Mishra added. The ruling BJD, which has set a target of winning all 21 Lok Sabha seats and 110 of 147 assembly constituencies in Odisha in the 2024 elections, will be propagating 'Naveenism' to retain its vote bank and gain more support, party sources said.

"The BJD fears that some miscreants may attempt to instigate violence ahead of elections to defame the ruling party and the state government. 'Naveenism' would help discipline the party's rank and file," said a senior leader on the condition of anonymity.

BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty claimed that 'Naveenism' is not a new concept in Odisha. "The BJD president's ideologies have been reflected in Odisha politics since he (Patnaik) joined politics and became the chief minister," Mohanty said.

However, the opposition BJP dubbed the BJD's new strategy as an 'attempt to mislead people'.

"Naveen Patnaik is said to be the number one chief minister, but his state Odisha remains at the bottom of the development ladder. What is there to talk about 'Naveenism'," said Leader of Opposition JN Mishra.



LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL: State employees celebrate in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, as Odisha abolishes contractual recruitment system which had been in vogue since 2013

NCST summons CS: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has summoned the Chief Secretary to appear before it in connection with incidents of violence against its member Ananta Nayak during his Keonjhar tour in July-August.

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Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

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Rupees 16 thousand crore to be transferred to beneficiary farmers as the 12th instalment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

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- Rs. 6,000 transferred to beneficiary farmers every year in three equal instalments.
- 100% expenses of the Scheme borne by the Government of India.

Inauguration of 600 PM Kisan Samruddhi Kendras

- PM Kisan Samruddhi Kendras to fulfil all agricultural related needs of the farmers.
- More than 3.3 lakh Fertilizer Retail Shops to be converted into PM Kisan Samruddhi Kendras in a phased manner.

Inauguration of Exhibition of 300 Agri Start-up Stalls

- Approx. 1500 Agri Start-ups to participate in the Sammelan.
- Start-up entrepreneurs, Senior Scientists, Agricultural experts and policy makers to provide guidance.

Launch of PM Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Scheme - 'One Nation, One Fertilizer'

- Availability of 'Bharat' Brand Urea for all farmers of the country.
- Launch of 'Bharat' Urea Bag.

Launch of 'Indian Edge' - Fertilizer e-Magazine

- Information on Fertilizers' availability and consumption with domestic and international perspective.
- Success Stories of Farmers.

17 October, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.
Venue : Mela Ground, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi

Programme Live on
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India's 1st aluminium freight rake launched



tune of over 25 lakh tonnes, with say 15-20 per cent shift to aluminium wagons – a notable contribution to the country's sustainability goals.

Satish Pai, Managing Director, Hindalco Industries said, "The launch of the India's first aluminium freight rake is a testimony to our capability and commitment to offer smart and sustainable solutions for nation building. Hindalco is steadfast in bringing together the best of global technologies with local resources to make Indian Railways' logistics more efficient and contribute to the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat."

The new generation wagons, fabricated by M/S BESCO based on RDSO-approved design are made from high strength aluminium alloy plates and extrusions, indigenously made at Hindalco's state-of-the-art rolling facility in Hirakud, Odisha with extrusions from the company's Renukoot plant in UP, leveraging its global technology. These all-aluminium rakes offer 19 per cent higher payload to tare weight ratio, which will have a transformative impact on the Railways' logistics and operational efficiency.

The freight sector in India is expected to grow at more than 7 per cent CAGR to 15-billion tonnes by 2050, with the energy-efficient and eco-friendly Railways expected to notably increase its volume share from the current 18 per cent.

“This is a proud moment for the country and our drive for indigenization as these lightweight aluminium wagons are a big innovation for Indian Railways”

ASHWINI VAISHNAW
| UNION MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

carbon footprint measurably. For every 100 kg weight reduction of the wagon, the lifetime CO2 saving is 8-10 tonnes. This translates to a saving of more than 14,500 tonnes of CO2 for a single rake.

With the Railways planning to deploy more than one lakh wagons in the coming years, the potential annual CO2 reduction could be to the

of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, said, "This is a proud moment for the country and our drive for indigenization as these lightweight aluminium wagons are a big innovation for Indian Railways."

"These wagons save 14,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions, have more carrying capacity, consume less energy and are corrosion-resistant. They are 100 per cent recyclable and even after 30 years, they will be as good as new. These aluminium wagons will enable us to achieve our climate goals," he adds.

The bottom discharge aluminium freight wagon, specifically designed to carry coal, is tipped to reduce the



OPPOSING EVIL PRACTICE: Members of Satyarthi Foundation holding a demonstration to protect the childhood of vulnerable children at Master Canteen in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

National Intellectual Property Awards to KIIT

Bhubaneswar: KIIT Technology Business Incubator was conferred the 'National Intellectual Property Awards for 2021 and 2022' by the Controller General of Patents, Design, and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) Sunday. The awards for both years were presented under the category of 'Best Incubator for Nurturing the IP'. Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO of KIIT-TBI received the award during the 'National IP awards 2021&2022' ceremony in New Delhi recently. The award was presented in the presence of Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Anurag Jain, Secretary DPIIT, Shrutu Singh, JS-IPR, DPIIT and Unnat P Pandit, CGPDTM. Expressing his happiness Achyuta Samanta, founder, KIIT & KISS congratulated Suar for the achievement for KIIT School of Bio-Technology.

World Food Day observed by KVK and ICAR-CIFA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Khurda, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar in collaboration with Sambalit Farmer's Producer Company Limited, Balipatna, Khurda, celebrated World Food Day with the theme "leave no one behind" Sunday at KVK-Khurda, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar.

HK Dey, principal scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar highlighted the food security status, promotion of various agri-entrepreneurial activities for sustainable livelihood and various schemes implemented by the government of India for eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

AK Dash, senior scientist and head, KVK-Khurda, focused on the application of modern technologies in agriculture to enhance the production of agricultural crops. He also briefed about the activities undertaken by KVK-Khurda towards nutritional security and promotion of organic farming

practices in the district.

Kedareswar Choudhuri, secretary, Darbar Sahitya Sanshad, Khurda enlightened the women participants to consume balanced diet for better health and ensure healthy diet for their family.

PR Sahoo, subject matter specialist (SMS), fishery science, put emphasis on the importance of fish culture in diversifying the income source of the farmers. Harapriya Nayak, SMS (home science) highlighted the important contributions of women in post-harvest management, food processing and value addition of farm produce for ensuring food security and income generation.

Eight progressive farmers from Khurda district were felicitated on this occasion for their outstanding contribution to agriculture and allied sectors. A total of 75 participants from Bhakarsahi, Haladibasanta, Naranpur; Bandha Sahi, Mendhasala, Rajas and Route Deuli villages of Balipatna and Bhubaneswar blocks of Khurda district participated in the programme.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Hindalco launched India's first all-aluminium freight rail rakes, helping fast-track the country's ambitious plan to modernise freight transportation and enable large carbon savings for Indian Railways.

The gleaming rakes are 180 tonnes lighter than existing steel rakes, can carry 5-10 per cent more payload, consume less energy with relatively negligible wear and tear to rolling stock and rails.

Flagging off the new 61-wagon rake from Bhubaneswar station, which will carry coal for Hindalco's Aditya Smelter in Lapanga, Odisha, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister

Continued from P1 Its Kharge ...

Asked about the significance of the polls, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh told PTI that he has always believed in the Congress model of evolving a consensus for such positions.

The most famous practitioner of this approach in the post-Nehruvian era was K Kamaraj, he noted.

As we approach E-Day tomorrow this belief has become even more stronger. The reasons for this are pretty obvious, Ramesh said without elaborating.

I am not at all convinced that organisational elections actually strengthen the organisation in any way. They may serve individual purposes but their value in building a collective spirit is doubtful, he said. Even so, the very fact that elections are taking place are of some significance, he added.

NASA set to...

Seventy-five years ago, a sonic boom thundered for the first time over the high desert of California, when the thunder came from the Bell X-1 rocket plane flying faster than the speed of sound.

It was October 14, 1947, and the joint X-1 team of NACA, Air Force (newly formed that year), and Bell engineers and pilots had broken the sound barrier – an imaginary wall in the sky some said was impossible to penetrate.

Govt not to ...

Considering this and the vaccines in the stockpile nearing their expiry date, the decision has been taken not to procure any more vaccines for now. Also, the Union Health Ministry has surrendered to the Finance Ministry the balance of Rs 4,237.14 crore from its 2022-23 budget allocation of Rs 5,000 crore for inoculation purposes, the source said.

The cumulative Covid vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 219.32 crore.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

As per the affidavit of SK. RIYA, prove that her Father name is SK. HAIBUR REHAMAN, my Father name wrongly mentioned in his (Aadhaar Card No.) SK. HABIB instead of SK. HAIBUR REHAMAN. As such SK. HABIB and SK. HAIBUR REHAMAN is same and one person.

Netizens seek preservation of iconic Gajapati Palace

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The iconic Gajapati Palace in Paralakhemundi should be preserved and developed as a museum as it has rich history behind it. It was the nerve centre for the formation of Odisha and hence has historical value as per the opinions of many social media users. They have requested Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to look into the matter as the decades-old structure is in dire need of restoration. Many have tagged their tweets to the CMO's office seeking prompt action.

Prasanna Mishra, a former civil servant said the Gajapati Palace needs to be preserved at any cost. Another user said, "Hopefully before it's too late, if not already, this iconic heritage is given the pride of place it deserves by immediately taking over, renovating and restoring it to make it a treasure house of Odisha's history."

The Gajapati Palace is considered the fort of Gajapati rulers where they resided. The palace has both



architectural and cultural importance. The palace was built by Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati. It is believed that he built the palace to enhance the beauty of Odisha. The plan was finalised May 20, 1835 after which construction work began.

Meanwhile, the Tourism department's plans to convert the BN Palace (also known as Basanta Nivas and Brundaban Palace) in Gajapati district into a heritage hotel have remained a non-starter despite the building turning dilapidated by the day.

In 2020, the Tourism department floated a tender to lease out the palace and develop it as a heritage hotel with adherence to guidelines for classification of heritage hotels issued by the Ministry of Tourism. It was called the 'Restore, Refurbish and Operate' project entailing designing (for augmentation, refurbishment and restoration), building (including repair), financing and operation of the heritage project for a period of 30 years. However, two years have elapsed but no company has shown interest towards the project.

How our data could help us spot aliens beyond solar system

Are we alone in the universe? This is a question that has intrigued humans for centuries and inspired countless studies and works of fiction. But are we getting closer to finding this out? Now that the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is in operation, we might have taken one giant leap in being able to answer this one day.

One of the four main objectives of the JWST is to study exoplanets – planets which reside outside of our solar system – and determine what gases their atmospheres are composed of. Now our new research into the variation of oxygen on Earth over geological time has offered clues about what to actually look for.

To try and comprehend how, when and why life might evolve on other planets, it makes sense to look to the only planet we currently know of which hosts life: Earth. Understanding our own planet's complicated evolutionary history might provide the key to finding other planets capable of supporting life.

Life and oxygen We know that animals require oxygen in order to survive, although some, such as sponges, require less than others. Yet, while oxygen is readily available today,

making up 21per cent of the atmosphere, we also know that this was not true for the majority of Earth's history.

The current thinking is that oxygen levels have risen in three broad steps. The first, called the "great oxidation event", occurred around 2.4 billion years ago, transforming the Earth from a planet essentially devoid of oxygen in the atmosphere and oceans to one with oxygen as a permanent feature of it. The third occurred around 420 million years ago and is called the "Paleozoic oxygenation event", which saw a rise in atmospheric oxygen to present day levels.

But in between, some 800 million years ago, lies the second step: the "Neoproterozoic oxygenation event" or NOE. Initially, information extracted from sedimentary rocks formed on the ocean floor suggested that it was during this time that oxygen rose to something like modern levels.

However, more data gathered since has suggested a more intriguing oxygen history. Importantly, the NOE occurred just before evidence of the very first animals, appearing around 600 million years ago.

Modelling oxygen levels We investigated carbon-bearing



rocks, deposited worldwide, to calculate ancient photosynthesis rates. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants and microbes use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide

to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugars – the main source of oxygen on Earth.

We looked at isotopes of carbon known as carbon-12 and carbon-13,

ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE IS TO STUDY EXOPLANETS – PLANETS WHICH RESIDE OUTSIDE OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM – AND DETERMINE WHAT GASES THEIR ATMOSPHERES ARE COMPOSED OF

ALIEN LIFE MAY BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO LIFE ON EARTH. FOR EXAMPLE, IT COULD WELL EXIST ON PLANETARY BODIES SUCH AS TITAN – ONE OF SATURN'S MOONS – WHICH HAS SEAS OF LIQUID METHANE AND ETHANE

which do not undergo radioactive decay. Plants prefer to use carbon-12 – the lightest isotope – during photosynthesis, leaving the seawater and subsequently the rocks which form on the ocean floor enriched in carbon-13 instead.

When we analyse these rocks, millions or even billions of years later, if we find more carbon-13 than carbon-12 we can predict that more photosynthesis, and thus more oxygen production, occurred. We then modelled volcanic activity, which can release gases that react with oxygen, removing it from the atmosphere.

Searching for alien life These results are intriguing for a number of reasons. We have often thought that the relative stability that Earth has experienced for much of the last 4.5 billion years is necessary for life to flourish. After all, when big events, such as asteroid impacts, have occurred it has not gone well for some of Earth's inhabitants (sorry, dinosaurs).

Our results suggest that periods of low atmospheric oxygen levels could have been important for developing more complex life by driving the extinction of some simple organisms and allowing the survivors to expand and diversify when oxygen levels rose again. So, we should not rule out taking a closer look at exoplanets that have a poorly oxygenated atmosphere.

Of course, this is a very Earth and even animal-centric view. Alien life may be completely different to life on Earth. For example, it could well exist on planetary bodies such as Titan – one of Saturn's moons – which has seas of liquid methane and ethane. But as a starting point in our search for extra-terrestrial life, understanding the history of atmospheric oxygen on Earth is a useful guide.

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PMAY in doldrums

OVER 22,000 APPLICANTS ARE STILL WAITING FOR HOUSING UNITS IN SAMBALPUR WHILE ONLY 145 UNITS HAVE BEEN ALLOTTED TO THE DISTRICT IN LAST THREE YEARS; BJP HAS ACCUSED THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF GIVING SHORT SHRIFT TO PROPER EXECUTION OF THE HOUSING SCHEME



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 16: The Central government had set a target to provide pucca houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to all the people eligible for housing benefits in the country by 2022. The target stands in sharp contrast with ground reality of the PMAY implementation in Sambalpur district. In the last three years, only 145 housing units under PMAY have been allotted to the district while over 22,000 people are still waiting for such houses. According to reports, ensuring concrete houses to all the poor people by 2022 was one of the poll promises made by the BJP Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP's Central and state leaders had reiterated the housing promise at rallies and meetings before the 2019 elections. However, the deadline for the housing target has lapsed while the achievement in the PMAY implementation in

Sambalpur is quite discouraging with locals alleging that the PMAY has been given short shrift due to administrative apathy in the district.

Till date, scores of poor families have not been able to register their names for the housing scheme. Official data say, 22,498 poor families who have applied for housing benefits, have been facing hardships without pucca houses.

In 2017, nearly 85,000 people had applied for PMAY houses, but names of many applicants had been struck off from the list for various reasons during verification. Some applicants had later withdrawn their names on their own. Besides, some people have got houses under other housing schemes of the state and Central governments.

The number of housing units that had been allotted to the district between 2016 and 2018, was deceased later.

Many of the applicants demanded that they should be provided houses

under other housing schemes.

On the basis of the 2011 census, families eligible for the PMAY were enlisted with target to provide houses to them in five years (between 2016 and 2021). About 85,000 families had applied for housing benefits. However, 39,456 of them were finally enlisted after verification.

The government had sanctioned 39,348 houses while work orders were distributed to beneficiaries in a phased manner in the five years. Till date, 39,123 houses have been completed while work of 225 houses is at different stages for various factors.

However, fund crunch has been a major problem for new applicants.

Executive officer of the Zilla Parishad, Dilip Kumar Bal said that the target in the PMAY housing in the five years has almost been achieved, except a few incomplete houses.

"New houses have not been allotted. Those waiting for houses will be provided after further allotment, but it will be done only after verifying the eligibility criteria of the applicants," he added.

However, Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Jaynarayan Mishra said that the housing target was to be met by 2022, but it could not be achieved due to negligence of the state government. The target is now reset at 2024.

"In the last three years, a major portion of the housing units has been allotted to coastal districts while the western Odisha districts have been neglected in the housing allotment," Mishra observed.

No let-up in elephant deaths in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Oct 16: Days after the death of two tuskers in Dhenkanal and Angul districts, the decomposed carcass of yet another tusker was recovered near Mahulpada village under Sadar forest range and Sadar police limits in the district, Sunday.

Forest officials suspect that the animal aged around 20 might have died after a fight with another tusker. However, what is surprising that one of its tusks was missing when the carcass was recovered. On being informed, forest officials reached the spot and launched an investigation into the death of the animal and its missing tusk.

When contacted, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Prakash Chand Gogineni confirmed the development stating that the animal might

have died after a heavy fight with another tusker.

The incident might have occurred three days back when the tusker trespassed into the Sadar forest range from the Kapilash wildlife sanctuary.

A formal investigation will be conducted Monday which will help in ascertaining the death of the animal, he added.

Notably, there is no let-up in elephant deaths in the state. Two days back an elephant was electrocuted after coming in contact with live wires laid to kill wild boars and other animals at Rankia under Bhuban forest range in Dhenkanal district while the carcass of another tusker was recovered from a jungle near Mundapada village under this forest range of Athamallik forest division in neighbouring Angul district, Saturday.



Gritty girl from Bondaghat to study in RD University

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 16: It's like a dream come true for Karama Muduli, a girl of primitive Bonda tribe in Malkangiri district. She will soon set off for Bhubaneswar to study Plus-III Commerce in Rama Devi University in the state capital.



Karama, a girl of primitive Bonda tribe in Bondaghat, where development is a misnomer, has beaten all the odds to study at Rama Devi University, courtesy a voluntary outfit Maira Charitable Trust in Bhubaneswar. The gritty tribal girl has proved her mettle by excelling in her studies. Recently, she secured the highest marks in Plus-II Commerce examination in the district. But financial crunch of her parents was a hurdle for her dreams.

The district administration facilitated her and provided her with financial assistance after her success in Plus-II examinations. She was interested to go outside for higher education.

SHGs to display millet biscuits, laddoos at food fair in Paris

AGENCIES

Berhampur, Oct 16: Four members of a Women's Self Help Group (SHG) from Odisha are participating in a five-day international food innovation exhibition in Paris where they will display millet biscuits and laddoos and describe its nutritional values, an official said.

The food products of millets, especially from ragi will be presented at the five-day SIAL (Salon International de l'alimentation), which kicked off Saturday.

Around 7,200 participants from 200 countries are taking part in the fair, where they will display the latest trends and innovations in the food industry. The women participants from Odisha will display a variety of products made from millets and describe their nutritional values, the officer said.

Chandana Sahu of Chirikipada Sasan under Polasara block in Ganjam district, Prema Das of



Sundargarh district, Padmalaya Mohanty and Reena Bohidar of Khurda district are participating in the event.

The participants from the state will display the 'mandia' (millet) biscuits, 'pakoda', soup, laddoos and other items besides the 'chuna (powder) and raw ragi, said a senior officer of the Mission Shakti.

Notably, the Odisha government has decided to celebrate November 10 as Millets Day.

"Chandram Sahu, the president of a WSHG, is an expert in preparing different cooking products from millets. She has received training for it three years ago," said Kiran Kumar Sahu, Polasara

block project coordinator, Mission Shakti. Besides she prepares various millet items and also cultivated the ragi in around an acre of land, he said.

Before she left for Paris Thursday, Labour and Employment Minister Srikant Sahu wished her success at the International event. "The state government has been laying much importance on the promotion of millets. We wish our participants at the International food fair will do well and bring pride to the state," said Sahu, who is from Polasara.

Besides to celebrate Millets Day, the state government has also included millet snacks in all official meetings.

BDO treks 17 km to reach remote Malkangiri villages



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chittrakonda, Oct 16: The block development officer (BDO) here got a taste of the bad road conditions and other problems faced by the people living in remote and inaccessible parts of Malkangiri district as he trekked for over 17 km to reach five tribal-dominated areas under Papluru panchayat of this block, Saturday.

BDO Raghunath Mundari walked to five remote villages and interacted with the people about their problems. He took stock of basic problems at Burudamma, Nagluru, Karselbandh and Kataguda under Papluru panchayat and noted down demands of the villagers about roads, drinking water facilities, power supply, Anganwadi centres and availability of basic welfare schemes.

Reports said, except two or three out of 18 panchayats under Chittrakonda block, the rest of the human habitats in other panchayats are inaccessible. These villages are cut off from the outside world by hills, forests and streams with many places under the grip of Maoists. The administrative officials choose to stay away from these areas due to their inaccessibility and also due to fears of Maoists. However, the difficulties did not deter the BDO from trekking to these villages to know the misery of the villagers.



MYTHICAL CHARM: A tableaux depicting the 'Setu Bandha' construction in the Ramayan was put on display by Lakshmi Bazaar Puja Pratisthan in Dhenkanal to commemorate its platinum jubilee celebrations on the occasion of ongoing Lakshmi Puja festival

3 arrested as STF seizes 3 leopard hides

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Oct 16: Acting on a tip-off, a Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police seized three leopard hides and arrested three persons on the charge of smuggling wildlife body parts from Malidihi Square on Jharsuguda-Kuchinda road near NH-49 under Kolabira police limits in Jharsuguda district, an officer said, Sunday. The STF team assisted by the Jharsuguda and Sambalpur



police conducted the raid Saturday and arrested Sumit Kumar Patel of Jogiadihi village, Krupa Sahu of Sudupada in Bolangir district and Aditya Patra of Palsamal village in Sambalpur district.

A case was registered in this connection under various sections of IPC and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Youth held for rape

Berhampur: Sadar police in Ganjam district arrested a youth from Lathi village on charges of abducting a minor girl and raping her in captivity. The accused identified as Narayan Goud, 28, was arrested following registration of a case. A medical examination was conducted on the accused and the survivor before producing the two in court. Police recorded the statement of the survivor in the presence of a magistrate. Police said, Goud abducted the minor, the daughter of a co-villager October 10 and raped her in captivity.

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MOBUS ROUTES TO REACH KALINGA STADIUM

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OIPR-29001/13/0021/2223

FOCUS CLIMATE CHANGE

COP OF NO RETURN



President Xi Jinping (center) and other world leaders at the opening ceremony of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on November 6, 2022.

Developed countries must honour the pledge they made last year to double adaptation finance by 2025, and they should provide the assurances needed for the Green Climate Fund's new replenishment

renewable power added in G20 countries in 2021 cost less than the cheapest coal-fired options. My country, Egypt, is on track to produce 42% of its energy from renewable resources by 2035.

At the same time, civil society is devising mechanisms for holding companies and governments to account, guarding against greenwashing, and ensuring a just transition. There is a new focus on restoring nature.

More ambition, scale, and speed are needed, and the rules remain unclear or contested. But a process is underway, and there is no going back. Even in countries that might seem to be wavering in their commitments – say, by investing in fossil-fuel infrastructure – officials insist that stopgap measures necessitated by immediate challenges should not be mistaken for long-term strategies. No one doubts the greener road ahead.

The question for those of us who will participate in COP27 is straightforward: How can we seize the opportunity the conference offers to create a sense of common endeavor, prevent backsliding, and inspire an approach based on

science, trust, justice, and equity? At its heart, climate action is a bargain. Developing countries have agreed in good faith to help tackle a crisis they did not cause, on the understanding that support – particularly financial support – would be provided to complement their own efforts, which are often limited due to their scarce resources and competing development needs. Developed countries must uphold their end of that bargain, by supporting both mitigation and adaptation, thus fulfilling their envisaged responsibilities in the Paris agreement.

On the mitigation front, we must move from rhetoric to action in cutting our greenhouse-gas emissions and removing carbon from our atmosphere. All countries must embrace more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, and then translate those pledges into programs. We must act now to ensure appropriate resources are available to developing countries to unlock their potential.

At the same time, we must craft a transformative adaptation agenda, so that communities – especially in climate-vulnerable re-

gions – can protect themselves from the effects that are already unavoidable. The bill for this agenda must be divided fairly.

To date, a disproportionate share of climate finance has been directed toward mitigation, leaving developing countries largely to fend for themselves in financing adaptation investment. But even the finance provided for mitigation is far from sufficient and has not been delivered with the appropriate instruments.

In 2009, developed countries pledged to provide \$100 billion annually for climate action in the developing world by 2020. This is only a small portion of the more than \$5.8 trillion that is needed (up until 2030), according to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Standing Committee on Finance. And yet this amount has not been delivered. We need an increase in the scale of finance pledges – especially for adaptation – at COP27, compared to those made at COP26 in Glasgow.

Developed countries must also honour the pledge they made last year to double adaptation finance by 2025, and they should provide the assurances needed for the Green Climate Fund's new replenishment.

And the time has come to address the loss and damage suffered by countries that did not cause the climate crisis. This remains contentious, but I believe that we can approach it constructively, guided by the priorities of developing countries, for the benefit of all. As daunting as this challenge is, we have no choice but to confront it. We must negotiate with one another, because there can be no negotiating with the climate.

Sameh Shoukry is COP27 President-Designate and Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs.
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Sameh Shoukry

THE TIME HAS COME TO ADDRESS THE LOSS AND DAMAGE SUFFERED BY COUNTRIES THAT DID NOT CAUSE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Saudi Arabia swings toward Russia



Edoardo Campanella

HOWEVER FICTITIOUS THEY MAY BE, THE RECENT PRODUCTION CUTS AIM TO SHIFT THE MARKET NARRATIVE AWAY FROM DEMAND DESTRUCTION TOWARD UNDERSUPPLY AND TO SET A PRICE FLOOR OF \$90 A BARREL

The OPEC+ oil producers, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, surprised markets earlier this month by deciding to cut production by two million barrels per day – roughly the equivalent of 2% of the global supply. The decision, which briefly sent Brent crude climbing toward \$100 per barrel, signaled the cartel's resolve to boost prices in the face of a faltering global recovery. That put US President Joe Biden in a precarious position ahead of next month's midterm elections. But it also demonstrated Saudi Arabia's growing willingness to resume its swing-producer role and highlighted its newfound alignment with Russia.

The increase in oil prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, together with limited spare capacity, has made the cohesion of OPEC+ necessary and spurred its members to coordinate collective production targets more effectively. But cohesiveness alone cannot preserve the cartel's role as global price-setter. That role depends on the Kingdom's willingness to resume its traditional function as the market's swing producer, which it has been reluctant to carry out in recent years.

While the OPEC+ decision threatens to place additional strain on the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia, the production target is mostly illusory. The new agreement sets the cartel's November output at around 42 million barrels per day, but it already produces about 39 million barrels

per day – 4.5 million below the official October target – as 15 of the group's 23 members struggle to meet their quotas.

The discrepancy between targeted and actual production has widened over the last few months. Most countries – apart from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – lack spare capacity, owing to years of underinvestment. This is particularly true of Nigeria and Angola. Moreover, Western sanctions' effect on Russian exports has only been partly attenuated by diverting deliveries from Europe to Asia.

As a result, OPEC+ will most likely reduce production by one million barrels per day in November – half of the cut the group suggested in Vienna this month. The member countries that are already struggling to keep pace with output targets will most likely not cut production at all, thus bringing the target closer to the alliance's actual capacity.

This month's decision requires just eight OPEC+ countries to reduce oil production, with Saudi Arabia expected to shoulder much of the burden by cutting output by 500,000 barrels per day. Similarly, when OPEC+ slashed production by nearly ten million barrels per day during the pandemic to offset plummeting demand, Saudi Arabia voluntarily cut its production by an additional one million barrels per day beyond its group commitment.

But the Saudis have probably learned from their past mistakes.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Kingdom was the undisputed leader of a cartel plagued by cheating and infighting. But during the 2008 global financial crisis, the country refused to play the swing-producer role by adjusting its own production to maintain high prices. With OPEC's oligopolistic power eroded following the US shale-energy revolution, the Saudis feared that American producers would benefit from higher oil prices and expand their market share at the Kingdom's expense.

As a result, oil prices dropped from almost \$110 a barrel to \$29 between 2014 and early 2016, leaving every OPEC member worse off. As the public finances of traditional oil producers deteriorated, Saudi Arabia was forced into the uncomfortable alliance with Russia, a longtime ally of the Kingdom's archenemy, Iran. The enlarged cartel hurt US shale producers' profitability but failed to drive them from the market. The Russians and the Saudis struggled to form a common front and agree on a joint production strategy, resulting in an unprecedented price war that pushed the West Texas Intermediate benchmark deep into negative territory in the spring of 2020.

To be sure, Saudi Arabia's willingness to act as a swing producer is driven by pure self-interest. However fictitious they may be, the recent production cuts aim to shift the market narrative away from demand destruction toward undersupply and to set a price floor of

\$90 a barrel. But pushing oil prices higher would also undermine US attempts to cap the price of Russian oil, which the Saudis view as a dangerous precedent. After all, if Western countries leverage their demand power to impose price caps on oil from Russia, they could conceivably do the same to oil from the Middle East.

Consequently, Saudi Arabia may seek to consolidate its swing-producer role for the long term. The green transition will most likely lead to a structural decline in oil demand that would require the sort of swift output adjustments that only the Kingdom can coordinate and implement. OPEC+ members would expect the Saudis to lead by example and make greater sacrifices to offset surpluses and prevent prices from collapsing. But Saudi Arabia could also force them to cooperate by using its spare capacity to push down prices.

Western countries seeking to counter Saudi Arabia's swing-producer power have few good options. In the short term, they could release additional strategic reserves and increase shale oil production, which would require additional investment but may bring some price relief. In the medium term, however, the West is left with little choice but to accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels.

The writer is Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School.
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Hunger still a challenge

Sir, There are currently two billion malnourished people in the world, and to feed them all, we will need to produce 60 per cent more food. According to the FAO, estimates indicate that 670 million people will still be hungry in 2030. Currently, 3.1 billion people, or almost 40 per cent of the world's population, cannot afford a wholesome diet, and 828 million people are believed to be food insecure. A recent UNICEF research that focused on 15 poor nations found that one child will suffer from severe malnutrition every minute. Decades of progress in the fight against poverty and hunger have been reversed by global issues in low- and middle-income countries all over the world. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and economic shocks have all contributed to a rise in the world's hunger rates. India came in at number 107 out of 121 nations in the 2022 Global Hunger Index. The World Food Day is celebrated annually on October 16 to commemorate the day the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations was founded (FAO). The day's theme, "Leave NO ONE behind" through better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, aims to motivate action by bringing attention to those who are hungry. The day also highlights the need to guarantee everyone has a nutritious diet. Acute food insecurity is developing and intensifying as a result of numerous regional and global crises, threatening the Sustainable Development Goals. World Food Day offers the chance to spread awareness about adequate nutrition and make sure that everyone has access to enough wholesome food.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Ban Palm oil

Sir, Our country is the world's largest importer of palm oil, and recently, even after the import duty was cut, the price of palm oil has climbed. If you carefully read the labels, you'll notice that most fast foods, crisps, cookies, and many bakery products all use palm oil rather than healthy oils like coconut and olive oil. In India, palm oil is less expensive and has a lower production cost than other oils. Regular consumption of palm oil, which is known to contain a lot of saturated fat, can raise harmful cholesterol levels. As a result, heart disease risk is increased. Therefore, our government should immediately outlaw the use of palm oil in food products.

Vijaykumar HK, RAICHUR

Xi's Belligerence

On the first day of the 20th party congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) October 16, its general secretary and China's President Xi Jinping set the tone of the aggressive policies and programmes he intends to follow for the next five years. His inaugural speech iterates his resolve to carry on his crusade against assertion of individual freedom in Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet and Mongolia and corruption in party ranks is going to be used, in effect, to crush dissent. In the same breath, he articulated his resolve to expand China's areas of regional control and continue with his Zero-COVID policy. The speech was a celebration of the crushing of Hong Kong's autonomy and warning to Taiwan that Beijing is poised to take control of the island democracy. This is also intended to deliver a message to the USA that it would brook no "interference" with its "internal" affairs in Taiwan.

As was expected, Xi sought to glorify his leadership by claiming that China had increased its global influence over the past five years. In a self-congratulatory remark, he lauded the decision to crack down on Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement by bringing in national security laws that have virtually criminalised dissent. While people in Hong Kong fumed at the iron grip he exercised on them, Xi asserted the actions had restored order from "chaos" and marked "a turn for the better in the region".

He seems to have chosen the case of Hong Kong to put into the Taiwanese population the fear that a grim future lies ahead for them should they continue their resistance to come under Beijing's rule. China's communists have long maintained the position that Taiwan must be reunified with the mainland. This is at the heart of Xi's plan for China's "national rejuvenation". Predictably, his assertion that "the wheels of history are rolling on towards reunification and complete reunification can, without a doubt, be achieved," drew the strongest applause from the delegates.

But, in a sense this sound and fury is but a calculated move not to hurry things as China has been watching the heavy price Russia's President Vladimir Putin is paying for his misadventure in Ukraine. The latter has been fighting back Russian onslaught with arms and ammunition provided by the USA and other Western countries. Xi seems to be aware that any attempt to emulate Putin's example and forcibly take over Taiwan would meet with a similar counter-attack. US President Joe Biden has made it clear that he would rally behind Taiwan in case of use of force by China to take control of it. This explains Xi's remarks at the congress that China will continue to strive for peaceful reunification "with the greatest sincerity and utmost effort", but will never promise to "renounce the use of force and reserve the option of taking all measures necessary." This shows contrary to the perception that China may be emboldened by Russia's war in Ukraine and occupy Taiwan by force, Xi would rather follow a wait-and-watch policy for Taiwan and resort to military action only as a last resort. Perhaps, he would await the final outcome of Russia's invasion of Ukraine before planning a strike on Taiwan. This is a great take away from the CCP party congress so far.

But, the most important feature of this party congress is the likely removal of term limits of party leaders allowing Xi to get a third term in office cementing his position as the most powerful leader since Mao Zedong. After Mao's death, China's elite vowed never again to allow such concentration of power and set up an unofficial system of collective leadership, term limits and a retirement age for high office. For the past three decades the system worked smoothly until Xi took over and swept those norms away. The delegates at the congress are only to act as a rubber stamp to endorse Xi's plan.

Ironically, Xi's father had to quit his position in the top echelons of the CCP becoming a victim of Mao Zedong's purge. That he has been assiduously trying to step into Mao's shoes is clear from the fact he has not groomed anyone to take his place at the end of his second term as has been the practice for the past three decades.

It appears the speculation on Xi's waning influence is either exaggerated or, maybe, he has successfully cornered his detractors.

Piate
Tathagata Satpathy

WISDOM CORNER

- He who can listen to the music in the midst of noise can achieve great things. **VIKRAM SARABHAI**
- Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**
- Man needs his difficulties because they are necessary to enjoy success. **ABI ABDUL KALAM**

WORDSWORTH

Warchalking

The name refers to chalk symbols that indicate to those in the know that an unsecured wireless networking station is nearby that can be used to tap into a corporate network and get illicit free Internet access. The term and the code were created by Matt Jones in the UK, based on the symbols that tramps and hobos once chalked on walls and doors to pass on information to others about houses to avoid or where a meal was to be had. Within days of appearing on his web site, the idea had been picked up by SlashDot in the USA and his symbols had been seen in London, New York, and Seattle. This is just the most recent of a set of terms which is threatening to turn war into a geek prefix meaning something like "attempting to gain unauthorised network access". The first was the 1980s term war dialling for the way that hackers systematically dialled telephone numbers in search of a modem that might give them network access. More recent examples include war driving (driving around with a portable computer, looking for unsecured wireless networks) and warwalking (the same idea, but on foot). In a sign of its vitality, warchalking has already given rise to the parody terms chalkchalking, pubchalking, and blogchalking and it is being seriously suggested that the symbols should also mark legitimate access points.

Xenotransplantation

The shortage of suitable organs for transplants is now severe, to the extent that the invention in the late sixties by the science-fiction writer Larry Niven of organlegging – murdering people to resell their body parts – no longer seems so fanciful. One solution that is being considered is the use of organs from other species, and it was reported at the end of 1996 that doctors in India had successfully transplanted the heart of a pig into a person. Two reports on the technique the same year (one in the US, one in Britain) agreed that though such transplants were acceptable on ethical grounds, there was legitimate concern over the risk that infectious diseases might be introduced with the transplanted organs (see xenozoonosis). Pathogens such as retroviruses that might be benign or even undetectable in the host animal could become virulent when moved to the new environment of the human body. The term xenotransplantation is a compound of transplantation with the Greek prefix xeno-, 'foreigner; stranger', which also turns up in xenophobia and in some specialised medical terms like xenobiotic. An instance of the technique is a xenotransplant, a word which doubles as the verb; a person undertaking the process is rarely called a xenotransplanter.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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of the day quote

Today which government is called 40 per cent commission government? It's only the BJP government. It's not me who is saying this but the Contractors' Association president Kempanna who wrote a letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the BJP government in Karnataka has been demanding 40 per cent commission on every project

SIDARAMAIAH | FORMER KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

The DMK assumed government during the crisis and amidst an apprehension of implementing projects. It was a virulent situation marked by ambulance sirens and oxygen and bed shortage. However, the DMK government set aside all other tasks and involved wholeheartedly in saving the lives of the people from coronavirus

MK STALIN | TN CM

BJP was an untouchable party, Nitish made it touchable

UPENDRA KUSHWAHA | JD-U PARLIAMENTARY BOARD PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

4 Cong workers hospitalised

Bangalore: Four Congress workers in Karnataka were hospitalised on Sunday after they suffered electric shock during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Ballari. The mishap occurred when they were tying flags to a pole. The injured workers were rushed to the Civil Hospital in Ballari where they are undergoing treatment. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the injured party workers at the hospital and took stock of their condition.

Former Punjab minister held

Chandigarh: Former Punjab minister Sunder Sham Arora was arrested by the state vigilance bureau for allegedly offering a bribe of Rs 50 lakh to one of its officers to "settle" the ongoing inquiries against him, a senior official said Sunday. Arora, who joined the BJP after quitting the Congress in June, was arrested on Saturday night in Zirakpur in Mohali when he tried to allegedly hand over the cash to the Assistant Inspector General of the vigilance bureau. A Mohali court on Sunday sent Arora to police remand for three days.

12 held for liquor party in Gujarat

Ahmedabad: At least 12 people were arrested during a raid on a flat where a liquor party was going on in Ahmedabad's Vastrapur area, police said Sunday. The police raided the flat on Saturday night after getting a complaint. According to the Vastrapur police station officer, the city control room received a call from Deputy Commissioner Zone-5 Baldev Desai informing that a liquor party was going in an adjacent flat of his apartment in Anik Society complex in Vastrapur.

Advocate found dead in UP

Bahraich: A 40-year-old advocate was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his house in the district of Uttar Pradesh Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Intezaar-ul-Haq. Haq's wife has claimed that her husband was murdered. Superintendent of Police Keshav Kumar Chaudhary said that the woman informed the police that her husband was found dead lying next to her when she got up in the morning.



People are aware of the tricks with which the BJP came to power by defaming the UPA government. Neither the Lokpal was implemented, nor the black money was brought. The BJP came to power by polarising people

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

PYTHON IN SCHOOL BUS

A huge python was found inside a parked school bus in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareilly Sunday. According to reports, the python was hiding under the seat of the bus of Ryan Public School, parked at the stands



People perform 'Mallakhamb' during a programme in Moradabad

PTI PHOTO

Gujarat polls: Who will bag the crucial Dalit vote?

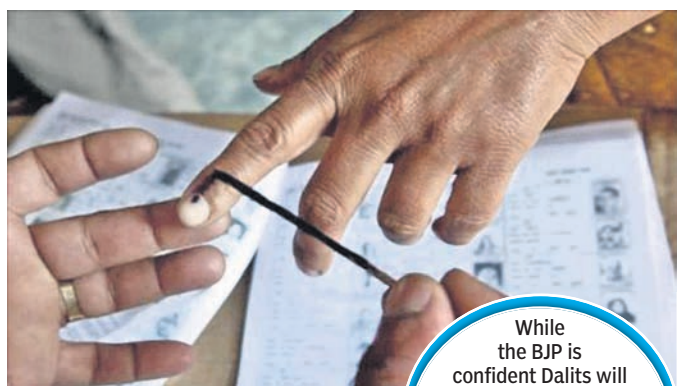
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 16: Dalit voters who constitute a significant chunk in 25 of the 182 Assembly seats in Gujarat are likely to be split between the three key players in ensuing state elections, say political observers.

Of the 25 seats, 13 are reserved for the scheduled castes, and in each of the remaining 12 seats, Dalit votes are more than 10 per cent, an observer said. In the last Assembly election, the BJP won seven of the 13 seats, while Congress won five and an independent, Jignesh Mevani, was also elected.

At eight per cent of Gujarat's population, Dalits are not numerically dominant, and their votes are likely to get divided among the ruling BJP, opposition Congress and the new entrant Aam Aadmi Party in the upcoming Assembly elections, the observer said.

The following are the 13 seats reserved for SC candidates, along with the parties which won them in the last elections: Danilimda (Cong), Asarwa (BJP), Dasada (Cong), Rajkot Rural (BJP), Kalavad (Cong), Kodinar (Cong), Gadhada (BJP), Vadodara City (BJP), Bardoli (BJP), Kadi (BJP), Idar (BJP),



In the last Assembly election, the BJP won seven of the 13 seats, while Congress won five and an independent, Jignesh Mevani, was also elected

While the BJP is confident Dalits will vote for it in the Assembly polls due this year-end, the Congress says it is paying attention to seats with 10 per cent or more Dalit population

Gandhidham (BJP) and Vadgam (Independent). Dalit voters constitute more than 10 per cent in the following 12 unreserved constituencies: Amraiwadi, Bapunagar, Thakkarbapa Nagar, Jamalpur, Dholka, Patan, Chanasma, Siddhpur, Keshod, Manavadar, Vav and Abdasa.

While the BJP is confident Dalits will vote for it in the Assembly polls due this year-end, the Congress says it is paying attention to seats with 10 per cent or more Dalit population. The BJP has

won a majority of the 13 seats reserved for the scheduled castes since 1995. In 2007 and 2012, it won 11 and 10 of these seats, respectively, while the Congress won two and three seats. In 2017, the BJP won only seven of these 13 seats, while the Congress won five. Mevani, who was backed by Congress, won the Vadgam seat as an independent. Congress MLA Pravin Maru from Gadhada resigned in 2020 and joined the BJP in 2022. BJP's Atmaram Parmar

9 DEAD IN ACCIDENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hassan, Oct 16: Nine people, including four children, were killed and 10 injured in a pile-up involving three vehicles here, police said.

The accident involving a milk tanker, a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus, and a tempo traveller took place in Arsikere taluk here around 11 PM on Saturday, they said.

All those killed were travelling in the tempo traveller, which was crushed between the bus and the milk tanker.

While six died on the spot, three succumbed on the way to the hospital, police said. The injured are undergoing treatment at a hospital here, they said.

Monkeys 'own' land here

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, Oct 16: At a time when land disputes are common among people, monkeys in a village in Maharashtra's Osmanabad district have been bestowed a rare honour of having 32 acres of land registered in their name.

People in Upla village of Osmanabad hold the simian residents in high regard by feeding them whenever they arrive at the doorstep and at times, even honouring them at weddings. Land records found with the Upla gram panchayat clearly mention that 32 acres of land is in the name of all monkeys residing in the village. "While documents clearly state



that the land belongs to monkeys, it is not known who created this provision for the animals and when it was done," the village sarpanch (head) Bappa Padwal said. In the past, monkeys were part of all rituals conducted in the village, he said.

The village is home to nearly 100 monkeys now, and their numbers have dwindled over the years as the animals do not stay in one place for long, Padwal said. The forest department has carried out plantation work on the land and there was also an abandoned house on the plot, which has now collapsed, he said.

"Earlier, whenever weddings were held in the village, monkeys would be offered a gift first and only then the ceremony would begin. Not everyone follows this practice now," the sarpanch said. Villagers also feed the monkeys whenever they appear at their doorstep. No one denies them food, he added.

Shah releases Hindi MBBS textbooks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 16: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday released textbooks in Hindi of three subjects for MBBS students as part of an ambitious project of the Madhya Pradesh government to impart medical education in the Hindi language.

Termining it as an important day in history, Shah said Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to start the MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) course in Hindi. "This day will be written in the history in golden letters," he said while unveiling the textbooks of medical biochemistry, anatomy and medical physiology subjects in Hindi for the MBBS students at a function in Bhopal.

MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Medical Education Minister Vishvas Sarang were present on the occasion. Shah said the work is on to start technical and medical education in eight other languages of the country.

The MBBS course in Hindi was launched as part of the National Education policy and soon it will be started in other languages also, he said. Now, the students of the

The MBBS course in Hindi was launched as part of the National Education policy and soon it will be started in other languages also, Amit Shah said

country will not have any inferiority complex about not knowing the English language and they can study with pride in their own language, the Union minister said.

He said earlier there were 387 medical colleges in the country having a total of 51,000 seats. Now, the nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has 596 medical colleges with an additional 89,000 seats.

The country had 16 Indian Institutes of Technology earlier, and the number has now gone up to 23, the number of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) has increased from 13 to 20, the number of universities from 723 to 1,043 and that of the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) from nine to 25, he said.

Tiger roaming in Bhopal institute captured

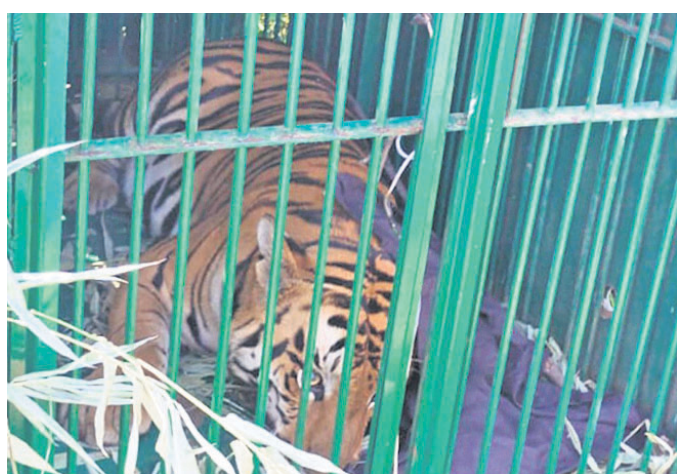
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 16: A tiger that entered the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology's (MANIT) sprawling campus in Bhopal about a week back was captured on Sunday, a forest official said.

This is the second feline to have strayed into the prestigious institute, spread over an area of 650 acres including 100 acres of thickets and enveloped by human settlements, he said.

Earlier, a tiger named T-123-4 sneaked into the institute on October 3, killed two cows and attacked two other bovines. It is believed to have left the campus two days ago, the official said.

"The tiger captured on Sunday is the other big cat that had entered the institute last week. It ventured into the institute possibly on October 8-9. It walked into one of the three cages put up with bats



on the campus. We are going to release the feline in the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Narmadapuram," Bhopal Divisional Forest Officer Alok Pathak said.

"It is not the one that had entered the institute on October 3. We feel

that tiger T-123-4 that sneaked into the institute on October 3 left the campus two days ago," Pathak said. The official said 16 cameras have been installed in the institute and their 50-odd employees are still keep a watch on the campus.



Kashmir's irreversible integration with India bewilders Pakistan



- The intention of the separatists and their sponsors across the border to keep Kashmiris on a tight leash has been defeated
- Kashmiris have broken loose from the psychological shackles imposed on them through violence and fear
- The Government of India intends to hold the Assembly elections in J&K by the spring of 2023

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 16: The abrogation of its special status together with the downgrading of J&K to the status of a union territory in August 2019 evoked both anger and shock in Kashmir. Internally, Pakistan believed hell would break loose in Kashmir: Delhi had put all separatist and Pro-India regional players like those of the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party under arrest. If separatism needed a bigger spark, Pakistan believed that the historic movement had come. To the pleasant surprise of the Indian government and total bewilderment of Pakistan, Kashmir did not explode after the abrogation of its special status. Cynics said that the people were under shock even to decide their reaction to the unexpected development. Pakistan tried to console itself that the recovery from the perceived shock would result in a turbulence Delhi could hardly handle. Three years after the abrogation of its special status, curbs on the Internet are no longer there. Presence of the security forces has stopped interference with the civilian movement. A general sense of ease and normalcy has returned to the Valley. The people of Kashmir have shocked Pakistan. Secessionist violence has been reduced to a few incidents of encounters between armed militants and the security forces. Violence has moved from the centre stage to the flanks.

Secessionist feelings have become an aberration. Common Kashmiri has decided to move on. Education of children, developmental activities, sports, tourism, horticulture, handicrafts, white water rafting, trekking, hiking, family outings, entertainment, cinema, music and social get together have returned to the Valley. Kashmiri youth have been making it to the coveted IAS/IPS services of the country. Students belonging to remote areas of Ganderbal, Badgam, Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, Kupwara and Baramulla have made it to the country's top civil services. After the relaxation of the civil servants deputation rules, most of the local boys and girls allotted to IAS/IPS/IRS and other cadres of other Indian states have been deployed to J&K after abrogation of Article 370. Baramulla, Srinagar, Pulwama and some other districts have local district magistrates. For a change, Kashmiris seem to have decided to give up the perceived special status to become their own rulers and masters. Retardation of over 30 years imposed by the separatists on their education and progress has been replaced by the velocity of the local girls' desire to excel in all fields and control their own destiny. As Kashmir had an unprecedented tourist flow in 2022, locals were not left out in numbers that visited Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Doodhpathri and a dozen other tourist spots during this year.



Congress party presidential candidate Shashi Tharoor has tea at a roadside stall during his visit to Lucknow

KASHMIRI PANDIT CREMATED

Puran Krishan Bhat was gunned down by terrorists Saturday outside his ancestral house in the Chowdhary Gund area of south Kashmir' Shopian district, where he had gone to look after his orchards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 16: Emotions ran high as the mortal remains of a slain Kashmiri pandit were consigned to flames here Sunday with the grief-stricken community expressing anger against the alleged failure of the government to stop selective killings by terrorists in the Valley. The body of the deceased was received by the wailing relatives at his Muthi residence in Jammu late Saturday night. Amid chants of high-pitch sloganeering against



Family members and relatives of Puran Krishan Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit who was shot dead allegedly by militants in Shopian during his funeral in Jammu

Pakistan, thousands of mourners joined Bhat's two children - Shriya (daughter) and Shanu (son) - and other relatives at the Ban Talab crematory Sunday to bid a tearful adieu to him. They also demanded adequate compensation to the family, including Rs 50 lakh ex-gratia and a government job to the wife of the deceased, besides immediate relocation of Hindu employees outside the valley till the security situation becomes normal. As the body reached the cremation ground, several of Bhat's relatives broke down. Shriya was seen kissing the body profusely to say goodbye to her father with her younger brother, a Class 5 student, staring at the corpse. The mourners also raised slogans against the administration for its alleged failure to stop targeted killings in the valley, soon after Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, along with other senior police and civil officers, reached the cremation ground. "It is very unfortunate that one more Kashmiri pandit fell to the bullets of terrorists, exposing the false claims of the government about improvement in security situation. He is the 18th minority community member shot dead over the past two years," Satish Kumar, a relative of the deceased, said. He said a police post and an army camp are located nearby where Bhat was assassinated, indicating that the security situation in the valley has limped back to early 1990s.

'CHAHAK', UP's parent-teacher festival

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 16: 'CHAHAK', a festival being organised by the state basic education department in Uttar Pradesh will be held after Diwali. The new initiative, CHAHAK - Children Having Happiness in Ambience and Acquiring Knowledge -- will be a kind of parent-teacher meeting in which parents will be briefed by the teachers about the progress made by their child in school. The child will demonstrate the knowledge acquired. "The idea is to involve parents in the child's progress," said principal secretary, basic education, Deepak Kumar. Students' achievements will be highlighted by showing their portfolio to parents. There will be demonstrations related to language skills such as poetry recitation, story-telling, role play, etc., by the children in front of the parents. The school will organise



quizzes and games to demonstrate numerical aptitude, in which the child can identify different patterns from numbers 1 to 10. In this initiative, parents who regularly discuss the progress of the child with the teacher, will be honoured. All children enrolled in school and their parents will be involved in this. The CHAHAK exercise was part of NIPUN Bharat Mission (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) launched by the Union education ministry under the Samagra Shiksha scheme (an overarching programme for school education sector extending from pre-school to Class 12) aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, the official said. The scheme ensures that every child from Class 1 to 3 can acquire FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) skills by the end of 2026. "It is essential for the children in the primary schools to have basic knowledge. NIPUN Bharat Mission instructs teachers or educators to prepare a study plan that develops the students' literary and basic language skills," he added.

The new initiative, CHAHAK -- Children Having Happiness in Ambience and Acquiring Knowledge -- will be a kind of parent-teacher meeting in which parents will be briefed by the teachers about the progress made by their kids in school

'Vivah Pakhwara' in UP to promote mass marriages

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 16: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is holding a 'Vivah Pakhwara' later this month - a fortnight during which community wedding ceremonies will be organised. This is aimed at promoting the Chief Minister's 'Samoochik Vivah' scheme, which was announced shortly after Yogi Adityanath became the Chief Minister for the first time in 2017. More than 1.91 lakh couples have tied the knot under the Samoochik Vivah scheme till August this year. A government spokesperson said that out of the 1.91 lakh couples, 21,025 were from minority communities, 60,875 were OBCs, 10,129 were from the SC/ST com-



munity while 7,858 were from the general category. "To ensure the success of the scheme, the local public representative and administration official play the role of the hosts and parents of the couples are present to give them blessings. The aim of these ceremonies is to prevent unnecessary expenditure and ostentation, which often forces the family of a girl into penury. The government had made provision of Rs 600 crore in the budget for this scheme," the spokesperson said.

This is aimed at promoting the Chief Minister's 'Samoochik Vivah' scheme, which was announced shortly after Yogi Adityanath became the chief minister for the first time in 2017. More than 1.91 lakh couples have tied the knot under the Samoochik Vivah scheme till August this year. This scheme is also proving to be beneficial in preventing child marriages, the spokesperson said, explaining that now with families assured of a proper function and basic arrangements for their daughters' weddings, they were not in a hurry to marry them off and were allowing them to study. The government spends Rs 51,000 on each couple under this scheme.

Excise revenue goes up in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 16: Uttar Pradesh is in high spirits. The state excise department has reported a revenue growth of 16 per cent during the first six months of this fiscal year. This has been due to an increased demand for liquor and stronger enforcement against illicit liquor and smuggling from the neighbouring states. According to a review carried out by the department, revenue collection has been Rs 18,562 crore from April 1 to September 30 this year as against Rs 16,025 crore in the corresponding period last year - a rise of Rs 2,537 crore. Additional chief secretary, excise, Sanjay R Bhoosreddy, said, "Our team is working according to the action plan that had been finalized for this financial year. We have also taken steps to improve the ease of doing business and hence more brands are available in the state." Lucknow has been the highest



money grosser for the department while Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur and Bareilly have also been at the forefront. Districts like Kushinagar, Shahjahanpur, Sonbhadra, Deoria, Lakhimpur Kheri, Hardoi and Chitrakoot have also reported higher revenue. The official said that six distilleries have been set up this year and seven more will be ready by the end of this financial year. While the demand for beer went up by 40 per cent due to intense heat, the department is banking on the sale of rum and whisky in the coming months.

KASHMIR GEARING UP FOR DIWALI

Youth striving to revive 'dying' glazed pottery craft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 16: As Diwali draws closer, Mohammad Umar Kumar, who is aiming to revive the "dying" art of glazed pottery in Kashmir, is working passionately to deliver 15,000 earthen lamps. Kumar (27), a commerce graduate from the Ishber area of Nishat here, says it is a tough challenge to revive the age-old craft but he is not giving up. A recent order for "diyas" (earthen lamps) for the festival of Diwali brought hope as well as money. "I received an order for 15,000 lamps for Diwali from a dealer in Kulgam district. The lamps must be delivered before the festival," Kumar told PTI. Diwali will be celebrated October 24. Kumar said while he has delivered a part of the order to the dealer, it is a race against time. "However,

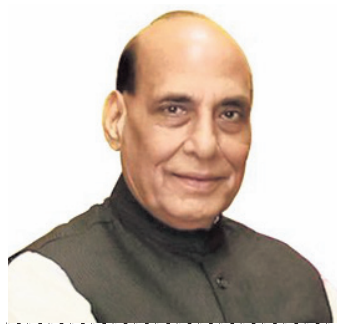
I cannot rush into it. This is an art. I have to make sure the product is absolutely fine," he said. Kumar's latest order involves a process that includes giving a shape to the lamps on the potter's wheel, then leaving those to dry and finally, clay-firing them. He would also sell some of the lamps at his shop in the Hazratbal area of the city. Kumar has also engaged his father and brother in the trade. The 27-year-old said the order has been a shot in the arm for the family, which is intricately involved in the art of pottery. He said there were once over 500 families in the city engaged in the craft, which has now reduced to around 50. "I am trying my best to involve more families and while I have succeeded to bring back six of them, it is a tough challenge," Kumar said, adding there should be support at the government level.



Mohammad Umar Kumar carries earthen lamps, ahead of Diwali festival at his workshop at Eishbar, Nishat in Srinagar

Kumar hit the headlines last year when he took upon himself to revive the "dying" art of glazed pottery in Kashmir after learning it from an octogenarian. Not only has he involved his family in the craft, he also teaches the skill to a few youths in a bid to

keep it from sliding into obscurity. Once famous and sought-after, glazed pottery, like many other art forms in Kashmir, is slowly dying as not many from the new generation in the valley are willing to get their hands dirty. Kumar's family has been into pottery for several years now, but he took upon himself to wade into a rather different territory last year to revive the glazed pottery, the art form lost to modernisation.



The law and order situation in the Northeast improved significantly after the insurgency in the region was brought under control by the Modi government. RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

PRESIDENT UNDERGOES CATARACT SURGERY

President Droupadi Murmu underwent a cataract surgery at the Army Hospital (Research and Referral) in New Delhi Sunday, a Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson said



of the day quote

Have you ever heard of any example in the country in which a criminal or an accused is pleading for punishment or to know about the quantum of punishment? I have been appealing to His Excellency (the governor) with folded hands to pronounce the verdict, whatever be the punishment

It would be foolish on the part of any Congress president to distance himself from the Gandhis as the Gandhi family is popular and their DNA runs through the party's blood

SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Eradicating corruption is the Haryana government's utmost priority and concrete steps have been taken in that direction

MANOHAAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

J'khand's scary truth: 1,050 women branded witches, killed in past 23 yrs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Oct 16: Twenty seven years on, horrifying memories linger on... Meet Chutni Devi from Jharkhand's Beerbans village in Saraikela-Kharsawan district, who faced extreme atrocities after being branded as witch in 1995. Whenever she recalls the atrocities on her, tears start rolling down her cheeks.

When the daughter of a neighbour fell ill, Chutni was blamed for that and branded as witch. Panchayat imposed a fine of Rs 500 on her and charged that she wanted to kill the neighbour's daughter.

Chutni gave the fine but when the neighbour's daughter didn't recover from illness, on the very next day, a group of 40 to 50 people at-

tacked her house. She was dragged out of the house, mercilessly beaten and she was stripped too.

After the horrifying experience, Chutni started working for the uplift of women and the fight against the superstition. She has given a respectable life to 150 women who were branded as witches. Chutni's campaign is still continuing but the roots of evil are so deep in Jharkhand that such incidents continue even today.

She was conferred with the fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri in 2021 by the then President Ram Nath Kovind for rescuing and helping hundreds of women who have been facing atrocities over the years. However, the question is what has changed in Jharkhand in this context.



Chutni Devi answers that atrocities in the name of branding women as witches have not stopped

in the state. It is not merely based on superstition but also due to personal enmity and conspiracy to

grab their property.

On September 3, three women were killed after branding them as witch in Ranadih village in Sonahatu police station area, 50 km from Ranchi. These women were blamed for the death of two youths who died in two days one after another due to snakebite. Most shocking thing is that the mob which killed these women also had a son of one of them.

On September 24, four people, including three women, were killed in the name of black magic and witchcraft in Aswari village in Jharkhand's sub capital Dumka. They were forced to have urine and feces and beaten with hot iron rods. The victims spent the night in deep pain but none of them had the courage to report about the in-

cident to police or reveal it to anyone else.

When the police got to know about the incident, the victims were admitted to hospital. Earlier, a Panchayat meeting was held in the village in which it was said Srilal Murmu and women in his family were practicing black magic due to which children and livestock in the village were unwell.

After that around 12 people, with sticks and weapons attacked Murmu's house. On October 8, in Ranchi's Tupudana, a 65-year-old woman was killed after branding her as a witch. In 2022, 26 people have been killed, of which more than 95 per cent are women. In the past seven years, on an average 35 women are killed in the name of witchcraft every year.

HINDI ROW: STALIN WRITES TO MODI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 16: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Sunday staunchly opposed what he called a Parliamentary panel's "recommendation" that for specific jobs, aspirants should have learnt the Hindi language.

Writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Stalin referred to media reportage on a report of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages. Stalin said: "It has been reported that the Committee, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, submitted its report to the President of India, wherein inter-alia, has recommended that Hindi should be the compulsory medium of instruction in educational institutions of the Union government such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and central universities and Hindi should replace English."

It also includes a recommendation that Hindi shall be made as the medium of instruction in all technical, non-technical institutions and all the Union government institutions including Kendriya Vidyalayas. The Chief Minister, who is also the president of the ruling DMK said that it has been recommended by the panel that, "youth would be eligible for certain jobs only if they had studied Hindi, and removal of English (is proposed) as one of the compulsory papers in recruitment exams." Such proposals went against the federal principles of Constitution and would only harm the nation's multi-lingual fabric, he said.

Efforts to "impose" Hindi in var-

It has been reported that the Committee, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, submitted its report to the President of India, wherein inter-alia, has recommended that Hindi should be the compulsory medium of instruction in educational institutions of the Union government such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and central universities and Hindi should replace English

MK STALIN | TN CM

ious ways as recommended in that report should not be taken forward and the "glorious flame of unity of India may be held high forever," the Chief Minister requested. Stalin demanded that all languages should be accorded the status of official language of the Union government.

"All the regional languages, including Tamil, should be treated equally and that is the way to ensure the principle of unity in diversity. There are 22 languages including Tamil in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. All such languages have equal rights and there are several demands that some more languages should also be included under the schedule. "I would like to point out that the number of people speaking languages other than Hindi is numerically more than Hindi-speaking people in the Indian Union. I am sure you would appreciate that every language has its own specialty with its uniqueness and linguistic culture."



Stalin (left) and Modi (right) shake hands after a meeting in Chennai.

SHORT TAKES

Woman booked

Rajkot: Rajkot police have booked a 30-year-old woman for kidnapping her nephew, who is half of her age. An official from Thorala police station here said that the search for woman and minor is underway, once they are found, both will have to undergo medical examination. Post examination, woman can be booked under POCSO sections, he added. Girish Sangavariya, in his complaint, has said that his younger brother Manoj's wife Chandrika and his 15-year-old son have gone missing. For one week, they searched for both of them but could not find them, and so they decided to file a complaint against Chandrika on Friday evening.

Gold recovered

Kolkata: The Kolkata Police Sunday said that they recovered cash worth Rs 2 crore along with diamond-studded gold ornaments from the residence of a businessman in a housing complex at Shibpur here. The raid was carried out on Saturday. The city police said that the businessman, Sailesh Pande's two bank deposits of Rs 20 crore has been frozen. The value of the ornaments seized in this connection is yet to be ascertained.

Three injured

Gurugram: Three persons of the same family succumbed to their injuries on Sunday, days after they got injured in firecrackers explosion in their house in Gurugram. The victims succumbed to their injuries during treatment at Safdarjung hospital in Delhi, while the condition of three others is still critical.

Youth kills girl

Bhavnagar: A 23-year-old girl was murdered by a youth in Bhaniyavad village in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district after she rejected his marriage proposal, police said. The police is searching for the accused, who had fled away from the village after committing the crime.

Jawan booked

Mehsana (Gujarat): An army jawan serving in Jammu & Kashmir was booked for assaulting his wife in the presence of his friends on suspicion of having an extramarital affair, police said. The Vadnagar police on Saturday booked the jawan and three of his friends for criminal force, disrobing or compelling a woman to be naked and hurting her with a dangerous weapon.



People purchase colourful lamps and decorative items for Diwali at Gandhi Bazaar in Bangalore

PTI PHOTO

KARNATAKA POLLS

Bommaï to be CM candidate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 16: The BJP's central leadership is pleased with the performance of Basavaraj Bommai, the party's in-charge for Karnataka Arun Singh said Sunday, and made it clear that he will be its Chief Ministerial candidate in the poll-bound state.

"They are very happy with Bommai, the kind of work he is doing," the party national General Secretary said in an interview. Singh was asked about the assessment of the party's central leadership on the performance of the Chief Minister Bommai, the role of BJP strongman BS Yediyurappa, the party's prospects in the Assembly elections, just a few months away, and whether it would project a Chief Ministerial candidate.

He said the BJP would create "history" in Karnataka by exceeding its own target of winning 150 Assembly seats of the total 224, as he highlighted the welfare and development schemes of the Modi



Basavaraj Bommai

and Bommai governments. Singh said the ruling party would fight the polls under the leadership of Bommai and guidance of Yediyurappa, a four-time Chief Minister and currently a member of the party's central parliamentary board. "Bommaï is the Chief Minister. We are going to contest the elections when he is the Chief Minister. He is the Chief Ministerial candidate. There is no doubt," Singh said.

Describing Bommai, who replaced Yediyurappa as Chief Minister in July last year, as a sim-

ple, down-to-earth and polite man, Singh pointed to the former being referred to as "common man's CM" and said he has been drawing good response in public meetings. "People of Karnataka feel he (Bommaï) is like them", he said.

Yediyurappa is the "tallest" leader in Karnataka, and the BJP has his "guidance". Yediyurappa is touring the State to energise the party's cadre and is seeking votes to win 150 seats. "It's a big thing", Singh said. "Our strength has increased considerably (in the region)," he said. "We will do 'chamatkar' (miracle) in Old Mysuru region this time." He claimed that many leaders from the Congress and JD(S) in the Old Mysuru region, and 'Kalyana Karnataka' region (which includes districts like Bidar, Raichur and Kalaburagi) are going to join his party as they know that it's going to be the BJP that will form the government and "the future is with the BJP." Singh sought to ridicule the Congress for setting itself a target of winning 150 seats in the state.

Karnataka corporator threatens bomb blasts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kodagu (Karnataka), Oct 16: The Karnataka Police have arrested a corporator, who allegedly threatened to carry out bomb blasts in Madikeri city, police said Sunday. Mustafa, a member of the Madikeri City Corporation, is attached to the JD(S) in Kodagu district.

According to police, they got the audio clip of what the accused had stated. Mustafa had said that the whole of Madikeri city should be burnt. "If the attacks are planned targeting Hindus, the ruling BJP government gets a bad name," said the accused in the clip.

The accused further states that "a team of 50 members have to be built. Everyone should contribute Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh for this purpose," he says.

"Through the team, petrol bombs must explode in Madikeri city. The whole town must burn. 'Let them (Hindus) die and let us also die. They have to be fearful. Their party should end. The bombs should explode in at least 50 places. The BJP people should fear to even contest the elections," the accused says in the audio clip.

The police said that the accused corporator had forgotten to cut the call after speaking over the phone to one Sheshappa Rai, and started speaking with his friend Abdulla. Sheshappa Rai had recorded the disturbing statements on his mobile.

BJP MLA and former Speaker K.G. Bopaiah has expressed his concern over the incident. "This is a plan to make Hindus fearful and it raises suspicion," he said.



Naidu's pep talk to Modi

The other day, former Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu caused a flutter by giving some peace of his mind to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that too in public. Naidu gave this advice while launching a series of Modi's speeches condensed in a book titled Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas (May 2019-May 2020). Naidu may have been giving some advice to Modi as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha privately during his five year tenure (2017-22). But this was the first time Naidu said that the Prime Minister should engage

more often with opposition parties in a bid to clear any misunderstandings about his decisions. Naidu asked the PM to increase his frequency of meetings with opposition parties to remove misunderstandings. He said despite India's meteoric rise, the opposition is still untrusting the PM because of some misunderstandings.... may be out of some political compulsions.

Why KCR threw his hat in national ring

With K. Chandrashekar Rao, Chief Minister of Telangana throwing his hat in the ring by floating a national party, the battle for the 2024 Lok Sabha poll has become muddier. His party will now be named as the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). Though KCR may claim that he intends to take on the BJP, his entry will make the task of many Opposition parties more difficult to come together to give a united fight to Modi in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Before launching his national party, KCR, travelled across India and met with several political leaders including his counterparts in other states - Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), Nitish

Kumar (Bihar), Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi), MK Stalin (Tamil Nadu), Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala) and Naveen Patnaik (Odisha). Since Congress has been a principal Opposition party in Telangana, KCR wanted to unite all regional parties. But his game plan did not take off as per his earlier plans.

How Digvijaya missed the bus

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh is upset with the Congress high command over the manner in which he had to withdraw from the race of party president. He was incharge of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra as he is an excellent organiser. He rushed to Delhi to file his nomination papers leaving the 'yatra' mid-way at the prodding of Rahul Gandhi. He threw his hat in the ring only after Ashok Gehlot declared that he would not contest for party chief's post. Digvijaya also called on Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence in the evening to ask him if he would be contesting. Kharge categorically told him, I am not in the fray. But within an hour Kharge got a call from somebody (insiders say it was Sonia Gandhi) and he decided to enter the poll

fray. The entire Congress machinery including senior leaders and MPs were told by the neutral high command over the phone until late mid-night to be present at the time when Kharge goes to file his nomination papers. The cat was out of the bag as Kharge was considered a safe bet compared to Digvijaya. Digvijaya understood the game and withdrew from the contest.

No Winter Session in new Parliament

Prime Minister Modi's most ambitious project of starting the Winter Session in the new Parliament House building may be delayed. Though the work is going on round-the-clock, it turns out that the November deadline may not be fructify. PM Modi and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri are monitoring the progress regularly on a daily basis. The desire is to get the building ready before the assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. While the building may be ready, the state-of-the-art building with all kinds of latest technology has to be installed and tested before the same being put into operation.

international



It will be difficult for us to pay back debt, still we have to find ways to lessen our debt burden
RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA

EAM CALLS ON EGYPTIAN PREZ

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar unday called on Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi in Cairo and handed over a personal message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Jaishankar is here on his maiden official visit at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry



of the day quote

Pakistan currently stands at a critical moment as it is embarking on a road to recovery in the aftermath of climate change-induced devastating floods
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAK PRIME MINISTER

I want to be a good chancellor. It's going to be very, very difficult. But that's what I'm focusing on
JEREMY HUNT | CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

The government was implementing an overnight curfew, closing places of worship and entertainment, and restricting movement into and out of two districts affected by Ebola for 21 days
YOWERI MUSEVENI | UGANDA PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

France ramps up war support for Ukraine

Paris: France Sunday pledged air defense systems to protect Ukrainian cities against drone strikes, as well as an expanded training program for Ukrainian soldiers, as it seeks to puncture perceptions that French President Emmanuel Macron's government has lagged in supporting Ukraine militarily against the Russian invasion. Up to 2,000 Ukrainian soldiers will be embedded with military units in France, rotating through for several weeks of combat training, more specialised training in logistics and other needs, and training on equipment being supplied by France, Defense Minister Sébastien Lecornu, said in an interview published in Le Parisien.

3 killed, 1 injured in Pittsburgh shooting

Pittsburgh (US): Two women and a man were killed and a fourth person wounded in a shooting in Pittsburgh, authorities said. Pittsburgh Public Safety officials said the gunfire occurred near a busy North Side intersection at about 10 pm Saturday. Public safety spokesperson Cara Cruz said one woman died at the scene. A second woman and a man were pronounced dead at Allegheny General Hospital. Cruz said another man who arrived at the hospital was admitted in stable condition with a gunshot wound to a leg.

Over 55K affected in SL floods, landslides

Colombo: Three people have died and over 55,000 people from 13,902 families have been affected by floods and landslides in Sri Lanka in the past 72 hours. The rainy weather that ushered in floods and landslides will continue till Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the Disaster Management Center (DMC). Meanwhile, Director of Irrigation (Hydrology) Eng. SPC Sugeeshwara said the risk of floods in some areas will exacerbate if heavy rains continue.

12 killed in Mexico mass shooting

Mexico City: At least 12 people were killed and three others injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire in a bar in Mexico's Irapuato city in Guanajuato state. Around six men and as many women were killed in the incident that occurred Saturday evening. Search is on for the unidentified gunmen. This is the second mass shooting in less than a month in the state of Guanajuato. In the earlier incident, 18 people, including a city mayor, were killed and three others wounded when gunmen opened firing at a town hall in San Miguel Totolapan city in Mexico.

Bookie odds favour Rishi Sunak comeback

London, Oct 16: British Prime Minister Liz Truss, just over a month into the job, is already seen as increasingly unlikely to ride out the turbulence within her own Conservative Party and the financial markets, with her former leadership rival Rishi Sunak the odds-on favourite to make a comeback for 10 Downing Street. At the end of a tumultuous week in British politics which saw Truss sack her close friend and trusted aide Kwasi Kwarteng who was enforcing her own economic policies as Chancellor, the mutinous voices within the governing Conservatives continue to flag how Sunak had warned against much of the financial meltdown that would follow his rival's unfunded tax-cutting policies. As the Oddschecker bookies' odds aggregator showed 42-year-old Sunak racing ahead as the favourite to replace 47-year-old Truss, his team is said to be eyeing what would be one of the most remarkable political comebacks in British politics. However, close aides on both sides indicate that neither would be willing to serve as the other's junior. UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace is considered a strong contender as the new unity candidate if Truss is convinced to step down.

China will not renounce use of force to unify Taiwan: Xi

During his opening speech Sunday morning at the start of the Party Congress, Chinese leader Xi Jinping vowed to speed up efforts to build the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into a "world-class military"



- XI CALLED FOR STRENGTHENING THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN NATIONAL SECURITY
- EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO BUILD A HIGH-STANDARD SOCIALIST MARKET ECONOMY, XI SAID
- CHINA MUST ENSURE HONG KONG IS RULED BY PATRIOTS, XI SAID
- CHINA WILL ACCELERATE BUILDING OF WORLD-CLASS MILITARY, STRONG STRATEGIC DETERRENT, XI SAID

Beijing, Oct 16: As he is all set to be in power for a record 3rd five-year term and perhaps for life, President Xi Jinping Sunday warned that China will "not renounce the use of force" to unify Taiwan with the mainland. He also vowed to advance the modernisation of the country's military to "world-class standards" to protect national sovereignty, security and developmental interests. Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state - but China views the self-ruled island as a break-away province that must be reunified. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to achieve national unification. "We will not renounce the use of force and will take all necessary measures to stop all separatist movements" in Taiwan, Xi said on the opening day of the week-long

key once-in-a-five-year Congress of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), which is widely expected to confer an unprecedented 3rd five-year term on him. Except for Xi, all the top leaders of the party, including the number two leader Premier Li Keqiang, would be replaced or reshuffled during the Congress as the administration headed by 69-year-old Xi is completing a 10-year tenure. However, the Congress is expected to endorse Xi's continua-

tion as he has already been declared a "core leader" of the party on par with its founder Mao Zedong. Xi's continuation in power will formally end the over three decade practice of its top leaders retiring after completing two-five-year tenures. In a show of unity, almost all retired former leaders of the party - including Xi's predecessor Hu Jintao and Song Ping, a 105-year-old party veteran who groomed Xi's early career, took part in the

opening ceremony held at the ornate Great Hall of the People here. However, conspicuously missing was 96-year-old former president Jiang Zemin, who was party leader until 2002. All the leaders were seated along with Xi and Premier Li in the front row in the ornate Great Hall of People and seen cheering key aspects of his speech spanning one hour 45 minutes. Xi's pledge to complete the reunification of China, which means the merger of Taiwan with the Chinese mainland, received a prolonged round of applause from over 2,300 elected delegates attending the Congress. Xi, also the General Secretary of the CPC, said the party must stand firm on its strategy to resolve the Taiwan issue and be determined to reunify the nation. "Resolving the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese, a matter that must be resolved by the Chinese," he said. China has conducted intense military drills and fired missiles following the high-profile visit of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in August, the highest American official visit to Taiwan, sparking concerns that Beijing may be preparing the ground for invasion. "We will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and the utmost effort, but we will never promise to

renounce the use of force, and we reserve the option of taking all measures necessary. This is directed solely at interference by outside forces and the few separatists seeking "Taiwan independence" and their separatist activities; it is by no means targeted at our Taiwan compatriots," Xi said. The president said the wheels of history are rolling on toward China's reunification and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Xi also stressed on further modernising national defence and military. Achieving the goals for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army in 2027 and more quickly elevating the people's armed forces to world-class standards are strategic tasks for building a modern socialist country in all respects, he said. The CPC will intensify troop training and enhance combat preparedness across the board, strengthen all-around military governance, and consolidate and enhance integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities, Xi said. He also said that the CPC will strengthen its control of the military to obey its directives. During his ten-year tenure, Xi has carried out extensive reforms reorienting the military, retrenching three lakh troops from the army and strengthening navy and air force as China expanded its influence globally with initiatives like the multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Gunmen kill 11 at Russian army base

Moscow, Oct 16: Two men fired at soldiers on a Russian military firing range near Ukraine, killing 11 and wounding 15 before being slain themselves, the Russian Defence Ministry said. The ministry said in a statement that the shooting took place Saturday in the Belgorod region in southwestern Russia that borders Ukraine. It said two men from an unnamed former Soviet republic fired on volunteer soldiers during target practice and were killed by return fire. The ministry called the incident a terrorist attack. The shooting comes amid a hasty mobilisation ordered by President Vladimir Putin to beef up Russian forces in Ukraine - a move that triggered protests and caused hundreds of thousands to flee Russia. Putin said Friday that over 220,000 reservists already had been

- Russia launches criminal probe after 11 recruits shot dead
- Ukraine official says incident caused by row over religion
- Fighting rages in eastern Ukraine, southern Kherson region
- Kyiv says Russian forces in south dogged by lack of supplies

called up as part of an effort to recruit 3,00,000. He promised the mobilisation would be wrapped up in two weeks. The mobilisation was troubled from the start, with authorities issuing confusing signals about who

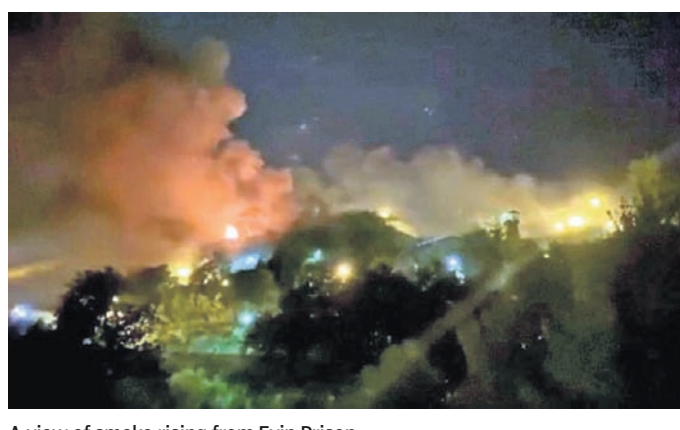
should be called up for service in a country where almost all men under age 65 are listed as reservists. Even though the Russian leader declared that only people who had recently served in the military would be subject to the call-up, activists and rights groups reported military conscription offices rounding up people without any army experience - some of whom were also unfit for service for medical reasons. Some of the freshly called-up reservists posted videos of themselves being forced to sleep on the floor or even outside and given rusty weapons before being sent to the front lines. Russian media reports said some of those who were mobilised were sent to combat without receiving proper training and were quickly killed. Authorities have acknowledged the mobilisation was often poorly organised and promised to improve the situation.



Locals look at cars abandoned by the sea following heavy thunderstorms, in the village of Paliokastro, on the island of Crete, Greece

Iran prison fire kills 4, injures 61 as protests persist

Dubai, Oct 16: A fire at Iran's Evin prison late Saturday killed four detainees and injured 61, state media reported, as anti-government protests sparked by a woman's death in police custody continued Sunday, including at several universities. Iran's judiciary said four of those injured in Saturday's fire were in critical condition and that those killed had died of smoke inhalation, Iranian state media reported. Protests sparked by 22-year-old Mahsa Amini's death September 16 have turned into one of the boldest challenges to Iran's clerical rulers since the 1979 revolution, with protesters calling for the downfall of the Islamic Republic, even if the unrest does not seem close to toppling the system.



Demonstrations continued at several universities Sunday, including in the cities of Tabriz and Rasht, to a heavy deployment of riot police. Videos posted on social media showed students at Tehran university chanting: "Iran has turned into a big prison. Evin prison has become a slaughterhouse." Families of some political detainees took to social media to call

- IRANIAN JUDICIARY SAYS THOSE KILLED DIED OF SMOKE INHALATION
- IRAN SAYS CALM RETURNS TO EVIN PRISON AFTER FIRE, AIRS FOOTAGE
- FIRE COMES AMID WIDESPREAD PROTESTS, BRUTAL CRACKDOWN
- IRAN ACCUSES BIDEN OF INTERFERING IN STATE AFFAIRS
- PROTESTS SPARKED BY MAHSA AMINI'S DEATH ENTER SECOND MONTH

hours after the fire apparently showed that calm had returned to the facility with inmates asleep in their wards. It also showed firefighters inspecting a workshop with fire damage to the roof. Atena Daemi, a human rights activist, said that relatives of prisoners in the women's section had gone to Evin for visiting hours, but authorities denied them access, resulting in a standoff. Prisoners were "fine, but the phones are broken", they were told, according to Daemi. She later tweeted that some women prisoners had called their families. The husband of Iranian journalist Niloufar Hamed, who broke the news of Amini's hospitalisation and was arrested last month, also wrote on Twitter that she had telephoned him Sunday.

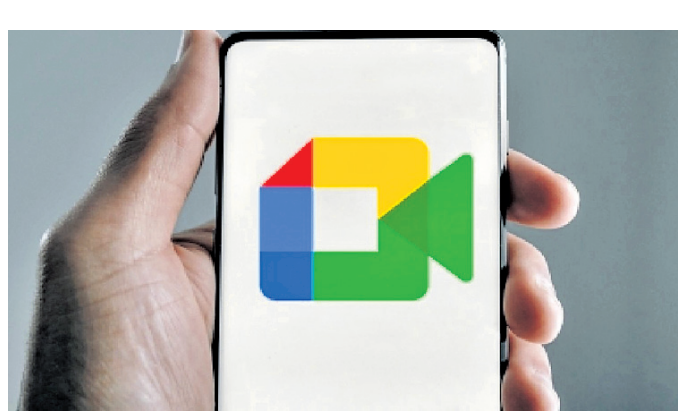
Imran's party leads in Pak bye-elections

Islamabad, Oct 16: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party led by former premier Imran Khan was leading in the key bye-elections Sunday that will test the popularity of major political parties in the country ahead of general elections next year. Khan, who contested seven National Assembly seats, has already won from Peshawar and was leading on five other seats. His party also won a Provincial Assembly seat. However, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party lost a key National Assembly seat in Multan where Ali Musa Gilani, son of former premier Yusuf Raza Gilani defeated Mehr Bano Qureshi, daughter of former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Ruling Pakistan Muslims League-Nawaz also bagged one Provincial Assembly seat but was trailing behind the PTI on other seats, according to unofficial results. A total of 11 seats were up for grabs, including eight National Assembly seats and three Provincial Assembly seats.

Google Meet calls can now be transcribed into text

GOOGLE MEET IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR APPS, ESPECIALLY AFTER REPLACING THE GOOGLE DUO APP FOR iOS AND ANDROID DEVICES

San Francisco, Oct 16: Tech giant Google has announced that Meet calls can now be transcribed into text, and users can further save them in a Google Doc format. According to Android Central, the saved file can be accessed from Google Drive. Google Meet is one of the most popular apps, especially after replacing the Google Duo app for iOS and Android devices. However, Google has stated the new feature



that can be accessed in Google Meet for desktop or laptop clients and is available only for the English language. Google said the transcribed file can be stored in the same "Meeting Recordings" folder of the Google Meet app from the accompanying Google Drive storage. Before joining the Google Meet call, attendees will be notified that the call is transcribed. These

transcripts are intended to capture the meeting's discussion, serves as a record, and is helpful as a follow-up to attendees or host if they want to recall a particular segment or point in the whole discussion. Another nifty feature is that the

"transcript will automatically be attached to the associated calendar invite for the meeting". And for meetings involving more than 200 attendees, the transcribed file will be shared with meeting organisers, hosts, co-hosts, and individual users who initiated a transcription. The new feature is expected to roll out starting October 24. It will be available to Google Workspace Business Standard, Business Plus, Enterprise Starter, Enterprise Standard, Enterprise Plus, Education Plus, and the Teaching and Learning Upgrade customers.

Google has stated the new feature that can be accessed in Google Meet for desktop or laptop clients and is available only for the English language

business

of the day quote

We are looking to raise up to ₹1,000 crore next year to drive in new models, expand operations in domestic and international markets



AMITABH SARAN | FOUNDER & CEO, ALTIGREEN

We plan to invest ₹30,000 crore over the next two years to scale up its solar and wind energy capacities



SUMANT SINHA | CHAIRMAN, RENEW POWER

Financial fitness is a fundamental criterion of operating (globally)...India is the only country where technically insolvent companies can expand, can continue to operate



KAPIL KAUL | CEO FOR SOUTH ASIA, CAPA

SHORT TAKES

Fuel sales surge

New Delhi: India's fuel sales soared in the first half of October with an across-the-board surge in transportation fuel demand on the back of the economic activity picking up as festival season kicked in, preliminary industry data showed. Petrol and diesel sales jumped 22-26 per cent year-on-year while also rising month-on-month in the first half of October. Petrol sales soared 22.7 per cent to 1.28 million tonne during October 1-15 when compared to 1.05 million tonne of consumption in the same period last year. Sales were 31 per cent higher than Covid-marred first half of October 2020 and 33.4 per cent more than pre-pandemic October 1-15, 2019. Demand was 1.3 per cent higher than the first half of September 2022. Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, posted a near 27 per cent rise in sales in the first fortnight of October to 3.08 million tonne when compared to the same period last year.

₹35,000 crore PLI may be extended

New Delhi: The government is considering proposals to extend ₹35,000 crore PLI scheme to different sectors such as leather, bicycle, some vaccine materials, and certain telecom products with an aim to boost domestic manufacturing and create jobs, an official said. PLI (production linked incentive) benefits are also being considered for toys, some chemicals and shipping containers. The government has already rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about ₹2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high efficiency solar PV modules, advance chemistry cell and speciality steel. The official said there are some savings from this ₹2 lakh crore which could be considered for other sectors, and is under discussions.

BoM slashes home loan rate to 8%

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) Sunday announced a cut in interest rate on home loans to 8 per cent as part of its festive offer. The bank currently offers home loans starting at 8.3 per cent. The rate varies depending on the borrower's credit score. The Pune-based lender has also slashed interest rate on personal loans to 8.9 per cent from the existing 11.35 per cent effective Monday (October 17, 2022). BoM said in a statement. The lender has already waived processing fee for its gold, home and car loans under the 'Diwali Dhamaka' offer. By introducing this offer, the bank is offering one of the lowest interest rates in retail loans, especially home and personal loans, in the banking industry.



Export-led services growth will be much less environmentally harmful - the world cannot afford India to follow China's path, even if it were open to it

RAGHURAM RAJAN | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

TO STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL INCLUSION PM launches 75 DBUs

AS PART OF THE UNION BUDGET 2022-23, THE FINANCE MINISTER HAD ANNOUNCED THE SETTING UP OF 75 DBUS IN AS MANY DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE 75 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday dedicated 75 digital banking units (DBUs) across the 75 districts to the nation through video conferencing, stating that it will further financial inclusion and enhance banking experience for the citizens.

"DBU is a big step in the direction of Ease of Living for the common citizens", he said.

The Prime Minister informed that in such a banking setup, the government aims to provide maximum services with minimum infrastructure, and all of this will happen digitally without involving any paperwork.

It will also simplify the banking procedure while also providing a robust and secure banking system, he said.

"People living in small towns and villages will find the benefits like transferring money to availing loans. Digital Banking Units are another big step in that direction, which is going on in the country to make the life of common man of India easier," he added.

Modi said that the aim of the government is to empower the common citizen and make them powerful, and as a result, policies were made keeping in mind the last person and the entire government moving in the direction of their welfare.

He pointed out the two areas on which the government worked simultaneously. First, reforming, strengthening, and making the banking system transparent, and secondly financial inclusion.

Despite initial misgivings in certain sections, the Prime Minister said, "today the entire country is experiencing the power of Jan Dhan Bank accounts". He informed that these accounts enabled the government to provide insurance to the vulnerable at a



NARENDRA MODI | PM

very low premium.

"This opened the way for loans for the poor without collateral and provided Direct Benefit Transfer to the accounts of the target beneficiaries. These accounts were the key modality for providing homes, toilets, gas subsidy, and benefits of schemes for farmers could be ensured seamlessly," he said.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the global recognition for

The economy of any country is as progressive as its banking system is strong. Digital economy today is a great strength of our economy, of our startup world, of Make in India and of self-reliant India

India's digital banking infrastructure.

"The IMF has praised India's digital banking infrastructure. The credit for this goes to the poor, farmers and labourers of India, who have adopted new technologies, made it a part of their lives", he commented.

Referring to the announcement of the launch of a digital currency based on blockchain technology, the Prime Minister pointed out that "Be it digital currency in the coming times, or digital transactions in today's time, apart from the economy, many important aspects are associated with them".

Bol's Khurda branch among 75 units

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India, Digital Banking Unit, Khurda is one of the 75 DBUs, which is also dedicated to the public by the PM. "Our bank's DBU is one of the 4 DBUs in the state of Odisha, inaugurated today," said MD & CEO of Bank of India, AK Das, who was present in the business event along with PK Nayak, Banking Ombudsman, RBI; Rajesh Ram, GM Digital Banking from Head Office, Bank of India, Mumbai; MK Singh, GM, NBG-East and other senior officials of the bank. Both existing and new prospective customers were also present at the event along with various dignitaries. Bank of India (BoI) has always remained as a front runner and committed to bringing new products and facilities for customers in the field of digital banking. Das appealed all to use and popularise the digital products to fulfil the dream of a 'digital India'.



PV exports up 2% in Q2

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) led the segment during the period, followed by Hyundai Motor India and Kia India at the second and third positions, respectively



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: Passenger vehicle exports from India increased 2 per cent in the second quarter, with Maruti Suzuki India leading the segment with dispatches of over 1.31 lakh units, as per the latest data by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

The total passenger vehicle (PV) exports stood at 1,60,590 units in the July-September period as compared with 1,57,551 units in the same period a year ago.

Passenger car shipments saw a 5 per cent dip at 97,300 units while utility vehicle exports rose 16 per

cent at 63,016 units during the period under review, data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) showed.

Export of vans declined to 274 units in the September quarter as compared with 297 units in the same period last fiscal year.

MSI, the country's largest car-maker, exported 1,31,070 PVs in the period under review, as compared with 1,03,622 units in the same period of the previous fiscal year. MSI's top PV export markets include Latin America, ASEAN, Africa, the Middle East and neighbouring regions, while its top five export models comprise Baleno, Dzire, Swift, S-Presso and Brezza.

Hyundai Motor India's foreign dispatches stood at 74,072 units during July-September period, up 11 per cent from 66,994 units in the year-ago period. Similarly, Kia India exported 44,564 units across global markets in the period under review as compared with 23,213 units in the last fiscal year.

Joyalukkas opens new showroom in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Jewellery brand Joyalukkas is expanding its pan-India presence by opening its maiden showroom at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The jewellery retailer unveiled its first showroom here Sunday with exciting inaugural offers for jewellery lovers. This state-of-the-art showroom designed in the signature Joyalukkas world-class format will feature premium facilities and amenities to give jewellery lovers a delightful and enriching shopping experience.

The showroom features modern decor along with ample shopping and parking space keeping the convenience of Bhubaneswar residents in mind. The showroom also has exciting launch offers to celebrate the opening. Customers can visit the showroom to explore all the latest and exquisite jewellery collections from around the world and enjoy an unparalleled shopping experience like never before.

Speaking at the showroom launch, Joy Alukkas, Managing Director, Joyalukkas Group, said: "We are committed towards pro-



viding an unmatched jewellery shopping experience and the residents of Bhubaneswar can be assured of this at Joyalukkas. We aim to bring them the best and widest choice in jewellery collection to meet their every need. My team is excited to offer jewellery lovers a premium and seamless experience, paired with our aesthetic ambience, wide range of collections, and superior customer service. Also, we have exciting in-store offers and free gifts to double their joy."

Joyalukkas has also planned a Diwali offer which will last till

RATE HIKE CONCERNS FPIs withdraw ₹7,500cr from equities in October



With this, the total outflow by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) has reached to ₹1.76 lakh crore so far in 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: Foreign investors have pulled out nearly ₹7,500 crore from the Indian equity markets in the first two weeks of October on concerns of monetary policy tightening by the US Federal Reserve and other central banks globally, which could hamper global economic growth.

According to the data, FPIs withdrew ₹7,458 crore from equities during October 3-14. This came following an outflow of over ₹7,600 crore in September on the hawkish stance of the US Fed and the sharp depreciation in the 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.

Going forward, FPI flows are expected to remain volatile in the

coming months due to ongoing geo-political risk, elevated inflation, expectation of rising treasury yields, etc. Shrikant Chouhan, Head-Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities, said.

"The markets were cautious ahead of the release of the US CPI print, which may determine the pace of future rate hikes in the US," he added.

The latest pullout by FPIs was largely driven by the concerns of the monetary policy tightening by the US Fed as well as other central banks globally, which could hamper global economic growth, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said.

The flows from FPIs have been inconsistent over the last few months as they kept on changing their stance frequently tracking the fast-changing investment scenario.

The broader sentiment has been uncondonable although there have been some intermittent breathers.

In addition to equities, foreign investors have pulled out ₹2,079 crore from the debt market during the period under review. Apart from India, FPI flows were negative for the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand this month so far.

Festive sales bring cheers to industry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: The ongoing festive season sales has brought cheers to the consumer goods industry with early trends from all channels indicating robust sales and traders' body CAIT expecting upto ₹2.5 lakh crore infusion into the market through sales and service.

Sales of products such as TV, home appliances, FMCG food and non-food, apparel etc from offline and e-commerce channels have recorded almost 8-10 per cent volume growth over the last year's festive season and consumers are willing to spend despite inflationary concerns.

Festive season sales start from Onam, covers Durga Puja, Dusshera and ends with Diwali.

Encouraged by early signs, traders' body CAIT expects an "infusion of about ₹2.5 lakh crore in the markets by way of shopping and sale of goods and usage of service" during Diwali festive season.

Moreover, a recent hike of 4 per cent in dearness allowance (DA) benefiting 4.18 million central government employees and 6.97 million pensioners would act as a catalyst.

India has potential to attract \$475bn through FDI in 5 yrs: CII-EY

According to the report, the direction of India's growth is being determined by the strong momentum in domestic consumption, services, digital economy, and infrastructure. The estimated real growth in consumption is the third highest behind only the US and China, while the fast-expanding digital economy is expected to reach \$1 trillion by 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: India has optimistic growth prospects for foreign investments with a potential to attract FDI flows of \$475 billion in the next 5 years, according to a CII-EY report.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India has seen a consistent rise in the last decade, with FY2021-22 receiving FDI inflows

of \$84.8 billion, despite the impact of the pandemic and geopolitical developments, it highlighted.

The report revealed that 71 per cent of Multi-National Companies (MNCs) working in India consider the country as an important destination for their global expansion. The optimism is driven by both short-term and long-term prospects. A majority of MNCs feel that the Indian economy will per-



71% OF MNCs FIND INDIA AN IMPORTANT DESTINATION FOR THEIR GLOBAL EXPANSION

60% OF MNCs STATED IMPROVEMENT IN THE BIZ ENVIRONMENT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS

form significantly better in 3-5 years, with 96 per cent of respondents being positive about the country's overall potential, according to the report titled 'Vision - Developed India: Opportunities and Expectations of MNCs'.

"We are confident that the con-

tinuing reform momentum by the Government will attract increasing volume of investment from MNCs and facilitate their larger integration in domestic supply chain," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

Besides the fact that India is among the fastest-growing large

economies in the world, the confidence in its potential stems from strong consumption trends, digitalisation and a growing services sector, along with the government's strong focus on infrastructure and manufacturing, the report shared.

Significantly, over 60 per cent of MNCs stated improvement in the business environment in the last three years. MNCs appreciate the impact of GST, the government's digital push in various spheres, and transparency in taxation, amongst other reforms, it added. As continuing improvement

in business environment, MNCs would like to see enhanced effectiveness of the national single window for approval

clearances; greater tax certainty, and stronger contract enforcement mechanism, among other measures, said the report.

What also makes India an attractive investment destination for MNCs, besides the consistent reform measures, is it being a large and stable democracy. Majority of the respondents also see India as an alternative for their China+1 strategy, it said.

Against the backdrop of growth challenges being faced by major economies of the world and new geopolitical issues, it is heartening to note that MNCs consider India an attractive investment destination and are planning expansion

CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE | DIRECTOR GENERAL, CII

A MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB

FIRST EL CLASICO OF THE SEASON

India play mighty Brazil

Real punish sloppy Barcelona

Hosts India are already out of reckoning for a place in the knockouts but there is no doubting the fact that their last match of the tournament will be a huge learning experience as the South American powerhouse is on a different level in world football



Hosts India are already out of reckoning for a place in the knockouts but there is no doubting the fact that their last match of the tournament will be a huge learning experience as the South American powerhouse is on a different level in world football

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: It doesn't happen that often. But an Indian football team will get a rare opportunity to rub shoulders with the mighty Brazil, in the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup here Monday.

Hosts India conceded three goals in the second half to suffer a humiliating 0-3 defeat to Morocco in their second Group A match and crash out of the tournament Friday.

After the back-to-back defeats against Morocco and the USA, who smashed them 8-0 in their opener, India head coach Thomas Dennerby concluded that the team is not up to the mark technically.

He wants his girls to be more confident with the ball while building their attacks when they play Brazil in their final match.

"When we have the ball, we need to feel relaxed and start playing. We need to be confident and play a little bit more. Now, we have nothing to lose. I hope the girls start playing freely," said Dennerby on the eve of the match.

In the latest FIFA rankings released early this week, Brazil's senior girls are placed ninth.

Dennerby is very much aware of Brazil's reputation, but at the same time, he thinks his wards are capable of proving themselves on the pitch. "We have to focus very hard on defending, but we also know football is not only about defending. It would be nice for us to score in the tournament," he said.

"Brazil are a good team. And we also know that Brazil are fighting to ensure their place in the knockout stage. So, I think they are going to come out with all guns blazing," the coach added.

The Indian girls, Dennerby said, are ready to play for their honour against Brazil. "We will fight and try to score a goal. It would be nice to come out of this tournament with a goal," he said.

"We have worked on the final

Back in Brazil, they start playing football from a very early age which is a huge advantage. But hopefully, we can show them tomorrow that we have a good starting eleven also in India

THOMAS DENNERBY | HEAD COACH, INDIA

crucial pass – the actions around the opponents' box. That is also the hardest part in football – to learn exactly how to handle that kind of situation.

"The girls need to have a better understanding of decision making - we also have to work a little bit with the skills in those crucial moments, because in the end the result of all games are decided in the two boxes," the Swedish coach said.

India's senior national women's team had played against Brazil

last November and lost 1-6. The coach feels there are similarities in playing style between Brazil's seniors and juniors.

"The playing style of this team is similar. Of course, they are not that skilful yet, but it is normal when you are 17. I will say it's even tougher to play against the youth team because, in a senior team, you have the best players from your country. When you play the age group, you have to pick up players from a particular age group only," he said.

Shilky Devi, who was used as a substitute in the senior team's match against Brazil, said: "I know how strong Brazil are – their fitness level and the way they attack. I was lucky enough to get the chance to play against them for some time and it was a huge learning experience for me. Their speed, their passing accuracy and the quick decisions they make were things that I observed during that match."



DEADLY COMBO: Goal scorers Federico Valverde and Karim Benzema celebrate the latter's goal against Barcelona, Sunday

Xavi's men lose for the first time this La Liga season and at the place where defeat hurts the most, the Santiago Bernabeu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Madrid, Oct 16: Goals from Karim Benzema, Federico Valverde and Rodrygo ensured a dominating win for Real Madrid against FC Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu Sunday for the first El Clasico of the season.

Without ever utterly dominating, Real Madrid scored twice in the first half and looked on steady course to win what had been a largely uneventful 250th edition of the biggest game in club football.

But especially after Ansu Fati entered the fray late on, Barcelona found the kind of energy they had been lacking until then, pulling one goal back and seriously threatening to take at least a point out of the game.

All hopes of that happening were ended by what many might feel was a rather harsh penalty call right at the end.

The way the game ended did leave a bit of a nasty taste in the mouth, but the upshot of it all is that it's Real Madrid who maintain an unbeaten record in La Liga, and move three points higher than Barca in the table.

By half-time things were looking bleak. The game was just 12 minutes old when Vinicius powered down the left. Ter Stegen blocked the shot, but the rebound fell straight to Karim Benzema and Barca had conceded for just the second time in this La Liga campaign.

And they'd concede again after 35 minutes when Federico Valverde was perhaps given too much space to think in before rifling home an unstoppable strike from the edge of the area.

It was all the more frustrating because between the goals, it was Barca who had been playing the best football, and would have been level had Lewandowski connected better with a wonderful close-range opportunity that went sailing over the bar. As the game advanced, Barca were struggling to make Madrid's lead look uncomfortable. But although Benzema did find the net for the second time, only for that one to call for off-side, the home side rarely looked like extending their lead.

However, the closest Barca had come to a goal of their own was a rejected claim for a penalty on Lewandowski before Ansu Fati

made a huge impact after coming on as a sub.

Moments after shooting inches wide, the youngster delivered the killer pass for Ferran Torres to pull one back for FC Barcelona.

From doom and gloom it was suddenly game on! When Ansu turned another shot just wide, the mood in the Bernabeu had shifted from calm complacency to extreme concern.

The chance of a fairy tale ending faded under controversial circumstances when Madrid were awarded a last minute penalty. The theory is that Eric Garcia trod on Rodrygo's foot. There is going to be much discussion about the correctness of that decision.

Rodrygo himself took the kick, and converted. It was an infuriating end to a frustrating afternoon and Barca are heading back to Catalonia empty-handed.

SHORT TAKES

India's fifth gold in ISSF Worlds

Cairo: The Indian men's 10m air rifle trio of Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil, Kiran Ankush Jadhav and Arjun Babuta won the country's fifth gold medal in the ISSF World Championship here Sunday, routing China 16-10 in the title round.

It was also Patil's second senior world championship gold in his very first outing, having won the individual 10m air rifle event earlier. India also picked up a silver and two bronze medals on the day to take their tally to five gold, one silver and five bronze, to maintain their second place behind China in the standings.

With the women's 10m air pistol team also making the gold medal match, that tally is certain to go up further by the end of the tournament.

Manish, Vaidehi win Fenesta Open

New Delhi: Manish Sureshkumar and Vaidehi Chaudhari Sunday clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship here. At the DLTA complex, where the cool weather provided the competitors with the right ambience to play good tennis, both Vaidehi and Manish played solidly to clinch their finals. Vaidehi cruised past Sai Samhitha Chamarthi 6-2 6-0. "This is my first Fenesta Open title and I am very happy," she said. In the men's final, Manish Sureshkumar played with purpose as he dismantled the challenge from Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-2 6-3.

GM Erigaisi shocks Magnus Carlsen

Chennai: Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi Sunday hogged the spotlight, beating world champion Magnus Carlsen in round seven of the Aircross Rapid online chess tournament. The 19-year-old Erigaisi, who had gone down to compatriot Vidit Santosh Gujrathi to make a losing start in the event, is currently in fifth place after eight rounds.

The win over Norwegian superstar Carlsen in the seventh round early Sunday was the Indian's first over the world champion. Erigaisi won three straight games, beating Nils Grandelius (Sweden), Daniel Naroditsky (USA) and Carlsen before settling for a draw against Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland).

Tottenham top Everton in EPL's best top-flight start since 1963

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Oct 16: The Antonio Conte effect is truly taking hold at Tottenham. A 2-0 win against Everton Saturday secured Tottenham's best start in the English Premier League era after 10 games.

Their 23 points moved Spurs level with second-placed Manchester City and represented their highest tally at this stage since 1963.

Spurs keep looking more like a genuine title contender, supported by their recent good record against City. Their first scheduled league meeting last month was postponed following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and Conte wasn't disappointed. Spurs are warming up nicely.

Pep Guardiola has led City's dominance of England and assembled arguably the most powerful squad in Europe but counter-attack Conte is a proven winner himself at Juventus, Chelsea and Inter Milan.

That was always the fascinating aspect of his decision to accept the post at Tottenham, a team that hasn't won the English title

since 1961 and counts the 2008 League Cup as its last trophy.

Mauricio Pochettino came close to ending that search for major silverware – reaching the Champions League final in 2018 – but the club's fortunes have unravelled since then.

Now Conte has provided new energy and new hope. And as long as Harry Kane is fit. Kane opened the scoring for Tottenham about an hour in after being brought down by Jordan Pickford in the box. It was the England international's 14th goal in his last 11 games against Everton.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg sealed the win late. These are early days in the campaign, but Tottenham's consistency is already seeing it stand out as one of the teams that look most capable of threatening City, with the Conte factor pivotal.



FAB 15: India's young and old ready to turn tables

FIFTEEN YEARS DOWN THE LINE, ANOTHER INDIAN TEAM IS HITTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHORES TO REGAIN THE TROPHY, WHICH ONCE COMPLETELY CHANGED THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF INDIAN CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: In 2007, when 20-year-old Rohit Sharma hit his first international half-century against South Africa on a bouncy Kingsmead track, everyone knew that there was a talent in town.

Even as one was appreciative of Rohit's phenomenal talent, little did one know that a team with an average age of around 26 would conquer the world in a format that was very reluctantly accepted by its own board.

Fifteen years down the line, another Indian team is hitting the Australian shores to regain the trophy, which once completely changed the demographics of Indian cricket.

That was a team led by a new captain and no one knew what to expect of them, but as the 35-year-old Rohit gets ready to step onto the MCG, his team with an average of 30 and half would have to believe in the old adage: Winning is not everything but the only thing.

So how is this squad of 15 shaping up? Let's take a brief look at the 'Men in Blue'.

Rohit Sharma (captain): He has the God's elusive gift – sinewy wrists that help him play the flick and pull with equal finesse and élan. Rohit has been a fantastic IPL captain with five titles and more than a decent leader in most of the bilateral series that the national team played under him. He has changed his batting style from the last World Cup and is taking the lead in powerplay overs. But marshalling the limited fast bowling resources will test his leadership in adverse conditions.

KL Rahul (vice-captain): One of the most stylish players in contemporary times but perhaps the weakest link in India's top-order. Rahul, a favourite of head coach Rahul Dravid, has often struggled with his strike-rate. He does have all the shots in the book and is a prolific scorer in the IPL, but if one looks at his record across formats, Rahul hasn't really stood up during the crucial games where the team's fate was on the line.

Virat Kohli: He was, is and will be plays will remain the greatest threat for any opposition. The best

T20 WORLD CUP OPENER

Underdog Namibia stun Lanka



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Geelong, Oct 17: Namibia caused a massive upset on the opening day of the T20 World Cup with a 55-run win over 2014 champions and reigning Asia Cup winners Sri Lanka in a group A match, here Sunday.

Namibia, who had impressed in the previous edition 12 months ago as well, recovered from 93 for six in the 15th over to post a challenging 163 for seven in 20 overs.

Jan Frylinck (44 off 28) and JJ Smit (31 not out off 16) did the damage in the death overs, sharing a whirlwind 69-run stand off 33 balls to raise concerns in the Sri

Lankan dressing room.

Nicol Loftie-Eaton had made a handy 20 off 12 balls after the reigning Asian champions put them in to bat. The Namibian pacers, led by Ben Shikongo, wrecked the Sri Lanka top-order before bowling them out for 108 in 19 overs for a memorable win.

Shikongo missed out on a famous hat-trick after removing opener Pathum Nissanka and Danushka Gunathilak off successive balls in the fourth over.

The dangerous Bhanuka Rajapaksa (20) and skipper Dasun Shanaka (29) tried to make a match out of it but the Namibians kept on taking wickets.

Netherlands pip UAE

Netherlands' lower-middle order held their nerves to eke out a three-wicket victory over United Arab Emirates with a ball to spare in a Round 1 group A match of the ICC T20 World Cup here Sunday.

While UAE struggled to reach 111 for 8 in 20 overs, the total started looking menacing once the Netherlands were reduced to 76 for 6 by the 14th over before they gathered their bearings.

David Wiese, Bernard Scholtz, Frylinck and Shikongo ended up with two wickets each in what was a brilliant bowling performance.

Namibian skipper Gerhard Erasmus lauded his players for the special win but said the team has a bigger goal in mind. Namibia had managed to make the Super 12s in the previous edition.

"Incredible journey, last year was a special experience for us. We've started with a great win, but lot of work to do throughout this tournament still. It's been a historic day for us. The opening day has been quite special but we want to kick on from here and qualify for the Super 12 stage," he said.

Odisha beat Chandigarh in Syed Mushtaq Ali tie

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 16: Odisha pulled off a one-wicket win over Chandigarh in a last-ball thriller, riding on Rakesh Pattnaik's unbeaten 61 off 24 balls in their Elite Group E match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here Sunday.

Sent in to bat, Chandigarh posted 179 for 6 with Bhagmender Lather making 59 off 41 balls with seven maximums and Raj Bawa slamming 40 off 17 balls.

In reply, Odisha were down 5 for 2 but they recovered from the disastrous start with Shantanu Mishra (39) and Subhranshu Senapati (47) playing a big role in keeping them in the hunt.

Pattnaik then smashed seven boundaries and four sixes to take Odisha home in the last ball. For Chandigarh, Jagjit Singh snapped four wickets.

In another match, Shahbaz Ahmed produced a brilliant all-round performance to power Bengal to a dominating 43-run win over Tamil Nadu.

The 27-year-old from Haryana led Bengal's aggressive batting display with an unbeaten 27-ball 42 laced with three fours and two maximums to take the team to 164 for six after opting to bat.



part about Kohli is his return to form in the nick of time. The glimpses of 'Vintage Virat' during the Asia Cup is a warning for the opposition. However, with Kohli, one has to give him that cushion of 8-10 balls before he starts to dominate the bowlers. For that a good powerplay start will be a must.

Suryakumar Yadav: To term a strike-rate of 176 plus, with nine fifties and one hundred in 34 games, staggering, would be an understatement. These are simply eye-popping numbers.

No one plays the ramp shot against rising deliveries better than Suryya or the whiplash 'pick-up pull' behind square to the deliveries on rib-cage.

Hardik Pandya: Perhaps the most important link in the team with his all-round abilities. Everyone is aware of the destruction Hardik the batter can cause, but it is Hardik the bowler, who will need to up the ante.

Rishabh Pant: A strike-rate of 127 across 62 games doesn't do complete justice to this once-in-a-generation talent. Pant hasn't been

able to unchain himself in the T20s where he seems confused between attacking and anchoring.

Dinesh Karthik: One of those eternal comeback men of Indian cricket. Save Rohit, Karthik is the only active playing member from the 2007 World T20 winning squad. He has a very specific role for him – to play 10-15 balls towards the back-end and create the maximum impact.

Ravichandran Ashwin: In this Indian team, if someone has always been a brave innovator, it is Ravichandran Ashwin. At times it has worked, and at times, it didn't, but the 'Cricketer Scientist', as his fans call him, has never been shy of trying something new.

Axar Patel: In recent years, purely as a T20 left-arm spinner, Axar Patel has shown better control than Ravindra Jadeja, the man he replaced in the set-up.

Yuzvendra Chahal: His main problem in the last one year has been the lack of consistency. He was dropped from the T20 World Cup squad for the last edition due to a slump in form. He has blown hot and cold since his comeback.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar: There is no denying that Bhuvneshwar Kumar is past his prime. While he is still a force to reckon with in the powerplay, Deepak Chahar, with the same skill-sets, has looked far more potent in recent times.

Mohammed Shami: He hasn't played a single T20I since the last World Cup in the UAE. It is believed that he was told by the team management that he would only play Tests and 50 over cricket because of a near-10 economy rate in T20Is.

Arshdeep Singh: One for the future and a bowler with a big heart. But he does need a lot of experience, and certainly, T20 World Cup isn't a place for that.

Harshal Patel: A bowler with plenty of skills but who would always need a bit of assistance from the tracks to use his variations of slower deliveries to good effect.

Deepak Hooda: If one talks about strength, Deepak Hooda might face competition from only Pant in this set-up. In the limited chances that he has got, he has shown a big heart and fine temperament.