



FOR A CAUSE

Actor Urvashi Rautela chops off her hair in support of Iranian women protesting against Mahsa Amini's death

LEISURE P2



DRAMATIC U-TURN

UK finance minister scraps Liz Truss's economic plan and scales back her vast energy subsidy

INTERNATIONAL P10



TERRIFIC SHOW

D Gukesh of India becomes the youngest player ever to beat chess world champion Magnus Carlsen

SPORTS P12

PM-KISAN: Modi releases ₹16K-cr

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: Ahead of Diwali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday released the 12th installment of financial benefit worth ₹16,000 crore to eligible farmers under the flagship PM-KISAN scheme. With this, the total amount transferred to around 11 crore beneficiaries is expected to cross ₹2.16 lakh crore.

Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of ₹6,000 per year in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 each every four months.

The income support is directly transferred to bank accounts of the beneficiaries. The scheme was launched in February 2019 but is being implemented with effect from December 2018.

The prime minister released the 12th installment at a two-day event 'PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022' being held at the Pusa campus in the national capital.

Addressing the event, Modi said benefits under PM-KISAN reach the accounts of farmers directly without involving any middleman and commission agents.

Another installment of ₹16,000 crore has also been released to crores of farmer families as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, he said while expressing happiness that this installment is reaching farmers just before Diwali.



KAMIKAZE DRONES: Firefighters work after a Russian drone fired on buildings in Kyiv, Ukraine

EOW starts probe into nationwide syndicate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has initiated a probe into a nationwide crime syndicate involved in the illegal transaction of huge amount of money by creating mule accounts at India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) division of India Post. The racket has links with various persons in Odisha which recently came to the notice of the Crime Branch.

Sources revealed that the local agents of the racket helped the cyber criminals in opening the mule or bogus accounts at the IPPB branches using identity cards of gullible persons in the remote areas of the state. They used to transact money illegally acquired through criminal activities to the tune of several crores through these bogus accounts without the knowledge of the real account holders.

As per information, the fraudsters identified as Jasbir Singh and two of his associates from Rajasthan met one Subir Benya and his friends Rajendra Harijan, Upendra Samarth alias Ruben and Dhansingh Harijan at Kalpana



Square in the Capital in March 2022. Singh asked Benya and others to open mule accounts and attach the mobile numbers supplied by him. Singh told his local accomplices that they will be paid ₹1,000 per a mule account after sending the details to them.

Subsequently, the accused persons started collecting the Aadhaar;

branch post master at Badaolama in Nabarangpur to open the mule accounts taking the biometrics and identity cards of the gullible persons. While opening the accounts, they did not verify whether the phone numbers being attached belonged to the account holder or someone else.

As many as 250 mule accounts have been opened in Dhanasuli, Bhujigadu, Musapala in Nabarangpur.

On September 23, a person from Tamil Nadu lodged a complaint with Umerkote police that some blackmailers after extorting money from him transferred the same to different mule accounts opened in the name of innocent persons in Nabarangpur. The postal officials claimed that several such gangs in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Mumbai, and Jammu & Kashmir are involved in similar activities.

MONEY LAUNDERING

PAN, photos of the gullible locals in Nabarangpur and surrounding areas. The accused used to tell the victims such as daily wage earners and vendors that they would receive money from the government under various schemes like MGN-REGA in their accounts with the IPPB without any hassle.

After winning their confidence, the accused took the help of some postal department staffers like gram dak sevak and assistant

POLL FOR CONG PREZ ENDS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: More than 9,500 Congress delegates across the country Monday voted to elect the party's first non-Gandhi president in 24 years, choosing between senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor as successor to Sonia Gandhi.

Of the total 9,915 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates that form the electoral college to pick the party chief in a se-

cret ballot, over 9,500 cast their ballot at all PCC offices and the AICC headquarters in Delhi, party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry announced here.

The results of election will be declared October 19, after ballots from all PCC offices reach Delhi and the votes polled are mixed before counting.

"I have been waiting for a long time for this day," Congress chief Sonia Gandhi told reporters after voting

at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters here.

Sonia Gandhi, who had been the party president from 1998 to 2017, was made interim president after Rahul Gandhi resigned in 2019 over the party's poll debacle.

Voting in the much discussed elections, viewed by some as an exercise aimed at putting the party on the path to revival, began at 10am at the AICC headquarters and at polling booths in PCC offices across the country.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



One of those rare occasions when a congressman winning an election is certain!

Minor girl tortured; rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The members of Childline and assistant labour officer with the help of Commissionerate Police Monday rescued a 13-year-old girl from the house of a couple who had illegally em-

ployed the minor victim as domestic labour. The Childline also alleged that the girl was brutally beaten by the accused couple.

Following a tip-off, the Childline members and labour officer carried out a raid on the residence of Rashmi Ranjan Jena and Pratima Nayak at Satya Enclave in Satya Vihar under Mancheswar police limits and rescued the girl.

"As per her statement, she was studying in Class-VI at a school in Rajkanika area of Kendrapara when she was trafficked for domestic servi-



tude at Bhubaneswar," claimed Childline.

In February 2022, Jena's father-in-law illegally brought the minor to work as house maid in his daughter's house. She was engaged as domestic servant eight months back and during these eight months she underwent severe torture by the couple.

"For any mistake in work, I was brutally beaten by the house owner's wife. She used to singe my body with hot utensils and beat me getting angry even over minor issues. I want to study further," claimed the victim. The marks of burn wounds were clearly visible on her body.

After rescue, Childline produced the girl before ACWC. A case has been lodged by the labour officer. Meanwhile, the Childline has lodged a criminal case against the couple at the Mancheswar police station.

SHORT TAKES

Chandrachud appointed CJ | Omicron BF.7 detected in India

New Delhi: Justice DY Chandrachud was Monday appointed the 50th Chief Justice of India, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said. He will take oath November 9, a day after incumbent CJI Justice Uday Umesh Lalit demits office on attaining the age of 65. While Justice Lalit has a brief tenure of 74 days, Justice Chandrachud will serve as the CJI for two years. "In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, Hon'ble President appoints Dr Justice DY Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 9th November, 22," Rijiju tweeted. P9

New Delhi: With a declining trajectory of fresh Covid cases, a new Omicron sub variant, however, is posing a new threat in the country. According to some reports, the first case of BF7 has been detected by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research centre. This new Omicron variant is also considered to be highly infectious and has a greater transmissibility. Omicron sub-variants - BA.5.1.7 and BF7 - after emerging from a region of Mongolia in China are now making their way to other parts and posing fresh threats. Reportedly, Omicron variants BF7 and BA.5.1.7 are behind the recent surge in the Covid-19 cases in China.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	58410.98 ↑ 491.01
NIFTY	17311.80 ↑ 126.06
DOLLAR	82.29 ↑ ₹0.04
EURO	80.60 ↑ ₹0.58
GOLD	₹50,514 ↑ ₹254
SILVER	₹55,950 ↑ ₹724

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.8°C	33.2°C
TEMP MIN	24.2°C	24.8°C
Humidity	83%	81%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain likely

All BTS members to serve in Military

All able-bodied men in South Korea aged between 18 and 28 must serve in the military as part of efforts to defend against nuclear-armed North Korea

AGENCIES

Seoul, Oct 17: K-pop boy band BTS will go off on mandatory military service, starting shortly with oldest member Jin, their agency said Monday.

Jin, 29, has put off his service for as long as he can and faces the imminent prospect of a full stint - meaning nearly two years out of the public eye - when he turns 30 in December.

Since their 2013 debut, BTS have become a worldwide sensation with their upbeat hits and social campaigns aimed at empowering youth.

"Jin will cancel the request to delay enlistment in late October 2022 and follow the Military Manpower Administration's



relevant procedures for enlistment," the seven-member band's management group HYBE said in a regulatory filing.

All other members will also serve the mandatory military duty according to their respective plans, it added.

"Both the company and the members of BTS are looking forward to reconvening as a group again around 2025 following their service commitment," HYBE-owned BigHit Music, which manages BTS, said in a separate statement.

Some categories, however, have won exemptions, or served shorter terms, including Olympics and Asian Games medal winners, and classical musicians and dancers who win top prizes at certain competitions. Some lawmakers had called for BTS to be exempted.

BTS announced a break in June from group musical activities to pursue solo projects, raising questions about the band's future.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE POWER OF YOUTH

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

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

Last date of entry: **30th October 2022**

Please send details to: youthconclave@dharitri.com immediately

Visit: www.dharitriyouthconclave.com

leisure



MANY AWARDS, BUT NOT MANY GREAT FILMS: EDDIE

Actor Eddie Redmayne has won a lot of awards but doesn't think he has made many films that are great. The 40-year-old actor has Academy Award, a Tony Award, a Golden Globe Award, a BAFTA, and two Laurence Olivier Awards to his credit.

ANGELINA'S EMOTIONAL EMAIL TO BRAD PITT LEAKS ONLINE

Amid the ongoing legal battle between Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, an email between the estranged couple has leaked online in a TikTok video. The mail was sent by the actress to her ex-husband in January 2021.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
An enterprising day. The stars say you may visit an ancient place. A museum, perhaps, or a historical place. But your health may require some attention, says Ganesh. If so, it's a good idea to spend an evening by yourself.

TAURUS
Today, Ganesh sees your mind shifting from your professional affairs and drifting, time and again, towards your home and family. You are likely to return home early and get happily engrossed in discussing pressing domestic issues with your family members. This will possibly be followed by a festive evening filled with fun and laughter.

GEMINI
Your desire for a clean house will reach the level of obsession, predicts Ganesh. You may plan to wash your car, clean your yard and arrange your wardrobe. And you don't trust the housemaid with any of the chores, because no one can clean the house better than you.

CANCER
Though your thoughts and views may be quite radical, you will be largely restrained while acting on them, predicts Ganesh. You will have no problems starting a new venture or love affair, and taking the required action to keep them afloat.

LEO
'One small drop at a time fills an ocean over time'. Remember this lesson, says Ganesh, and continue to concentrate your efforts on your goal without losing heart. There may be times when you sit back and think twice, but know that all it takes is a small effort and that is what shall enable you to reach the zenith. Ganesh advises you to keep on trying, and success shall indeed come to you.

VIRGO
Take a break today, says Ganesh. Replace the mundane with something exotic. Attend private dos and social meets and be gregariously gregarious.

LIBRA
You will be very unpredictable today, and your mercurial tendencies will remain till the evening. After that, be prepared to get a pleasant surprise. Just bear in mind that being prepared is always a good idea, since you never know when the perfect moment arrives. But everything considered, all Ganesh has to say is, "Stop worrying and start living!"

SCORPIO
Today, the sugar and spice of work and home are delicately balanced to bring out the best in you, says Ganesh. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at your desk. In the evening, however, mental exercises will be substituted for pleasure and fun with friends and family.

SAGITTARIUS
Chances of you hitting a roadblock today are high. But remember the saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." So don't succumb to pressure, advises Ganesh, but rise up to the occasion and show who's the boss.

CAPRICORN
You'll have apparently no time for anything else, as partnerships and projects will keep you on your toes. You communication skills and diplomacy will fetch you accolades in meetings, and also enable you to judge a person or a situation correctly, and form the right opinion. The efforts you have in the past may come to fruition today, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Today is an auspicious day, particularly for astrologers, healers, spiritual guides and gurus, says Ganesh. One will think twice before challenging you today. Greed is not a word in your dictionary, and today, you are even more inspired to work for humanity.

PISCES
Just as melting ice caps on faraway mountains can swell the oceans, concerted efforts you make now will have far-reaching beneficial consequences, says Ganesh. Do not be disheartened in the face of obstacles and keep soldiering on.

Deepika among world's 10 most beautiful women



Mumbai: Deepika Padukone needs no introduction as she is one of the most successful Indian actresses with a career spanning more than a decade.

Now, she is named among the 10 most beautiful women in the world. The list is called 'The Golden Ratio of Beauty Phi' and was recently released. Jodie Comer has been declared the most beautiful woman in the world, according to science. UK Facial Plastic Surgeon Dr Julian De Silva told Yahoo Life UK that Jodie had all elements of the face were measured for physical perfection. Deepika Padukone's Golden ratio was noted as 91.22% soon after Beyoncé - 92.44%, Ariana Grande - 91.81%, Taylor Swift - 91.64%, and Kim Kardashian - 91.28%.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Deepika has many interesting movies in her pipeline. She will next reunite with Shah Rukh Khan for *Pathaan* alongside John Abraham, which is slated to release on January 25, 2023. AGENCIES

Urvashi chops off hair in support of Iranian women



Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela, who had compared herself to late Mahsa Amini, has now shared pictures of herself chopping off hair in support of Iranian women protesting against Mahsa's death.

Urvashi took to Instagram and posted a note on Amini's death. She was seen sporting a blue kurta as she sat on the floor as a man cut off her hair with scissors. Her back was towards the camera. Alongside the post,

she wrote about the protests in Iran and feminism.

"Chopped my hair off! Cutting my hair in support of Iranian women and girls, who have been killed in protests at the death of Mahsa Amini after her arrest by Iranian morality police and for all the girls," Urvashi wrote.

She added: "Around the world women are uniting in protest against the Iranian government by cutting their hair. Respect women. A global symbol for women's revolution... hair is seen as a symbol of the beauty of women. By chopping off hair in public, women are showing that they don't care about society's beauty standards and won't let anything or anyone decide how they dress up, behave or live." IANS

SAIF ON WHY HE IS NOT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Mumbai: Saif Ali Khan is one of the celebrities who have kept their distance from social media. During his recent appearance on Kapil Sharma's comedy chat show, the actor revealed the real reason behind it and it is sure to leave you amused.

Talking about the same, Saif said on the show that he tried to join social media but he couldn't find an ID. His name is Saif Ali Khan and there are already names under that handle. The actor also added that he feels there is a lot of tension on social media and one has to lie a lot. Although he can lie, there is also the pressure of praising others when you are on social media. According to Saif, he is happy as he is.

Saif recently garnered a lot of love and appreciation for his performance in 'Vikram Vedha' which also starred Hrithik Roshan in the lead role. The film was an official Hindi remake of the Tamil film of the same name that starred R Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi. AGENCIES

Kantara took Shilpa to her roots



Chennai: Actress Shilpa Shetty, who is the latest to shower praise on director Rishab Shetty's critically acclaimed Kannada film *Kantara*,

said that the film took her back to her roots.

Taking to Instagram, Shilpa Shetty, whose mother tongue is Kannada, wrote: "Appreciation post for *Kantara*. Watched the film in the theatre... Oh My God! What a narrative, emotion, vibe and world."

"Had goose bumps during the climax! The power of cinema transports the watcher into this world. A world I belong to! Really took me back to my roots."

"Without any bias, this one's a must watch just for the sheer brilliance of storytelling, performances, heart, faith and direction. Whoa!!," she wrote.

A series of celebrities cutting across south Indian film industries have been lauding the film.

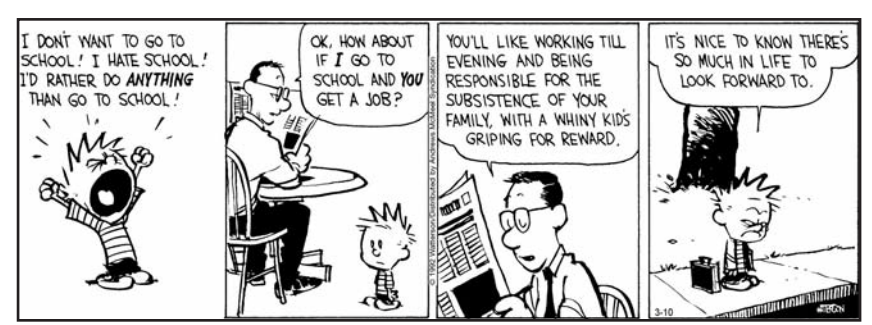
Only recently, actress Anushka Shetty had said: "Watched *Kantara*.. Totally totally loved it. Congratulations to each and every actor, producer, technicians."

A couple of days before, Tamil star Dhanush and Telugu star Prabhas had lauded the film. The film features Rishab Shetty and Sapthami Gowda in the lead and has been written and directed by Rishab himself. IANS

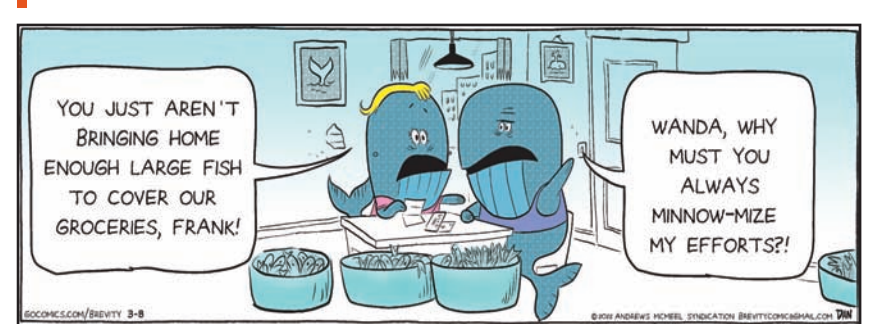
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

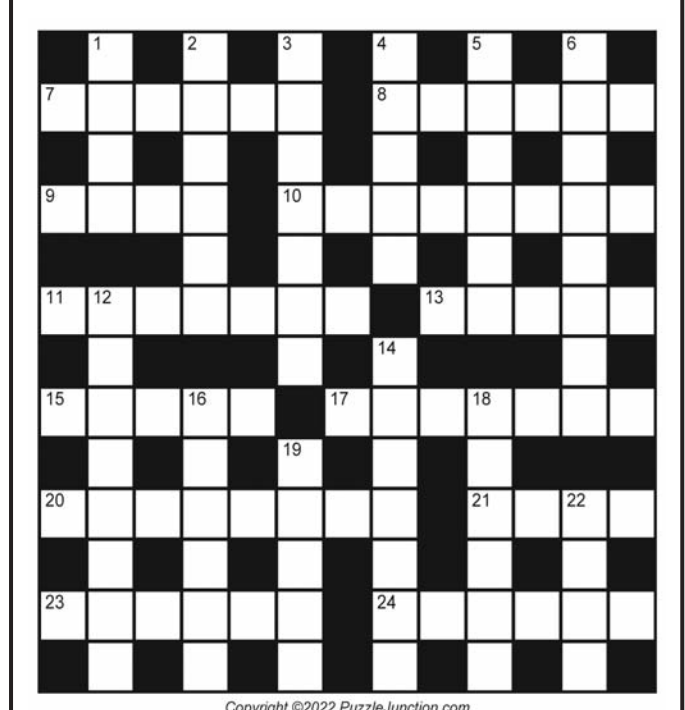


BREVITY



FUN post

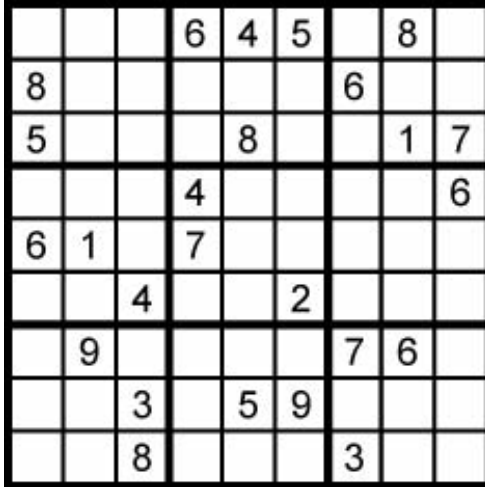
CROSSWORD



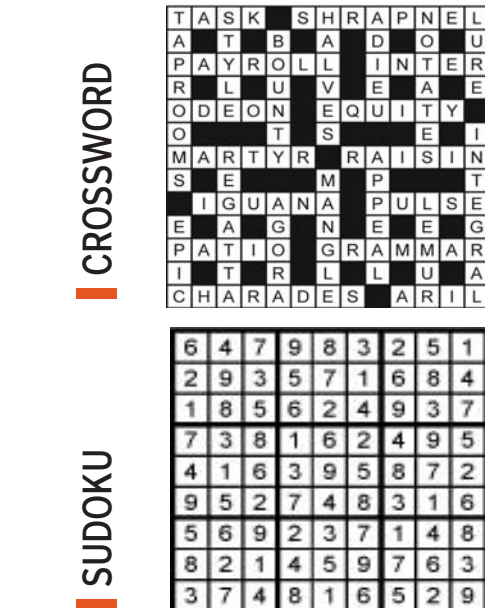
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Basketball scores
 - 8 Anxiety disorder
 - 9 Effrontery
 - 10 Like some telephone calls
 - 11 Contempt
 - 13 Logger's leftover
 - 15 Piquant
 - 17 Just So Stories author
 - 20 Folksy
 - 21 Work party
 - 23 Chickpea, e.g.
 - 24 Artificial
- Down**
- 1 Scintilla
 - 2 Went fishing
 - 3 Headache reliever
 - 4 "The final frontier"
 - 5 Humorous remark (3,3)
 - 6 Aromatic bark
 - 12 Unseemly
 - 14 Bride-to-be
 - 16 Bank draft
 - 18 Migratory grasshopper
 - 19 Fling
 - 22 Young newts

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

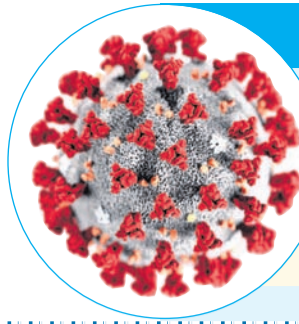


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



WARM WELCOME

Dignitaries, including MP Sulata Deo (L), welcome Sangram Keshari Paikray after he took over as the chairman of Odisha Khadi and Village Industries Board in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,00,56,723	60,92,29,149	65,71,933
India	4,46,30,888	4,40,75,149	5,28,905
Odisha	13,35,503	13,25,773	9,202



SETTING STAGE: An artisan arranges earthen lamps at Kumbhar Sahi in Bidanashi area of Cuttack, Monday, as state gears up for Diwali

OP PHOTO

CM woos investors at Hyd meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Ahead of the Make In Odisha (MIO) Conclave 2022 scheduled to be held here from November 30 to December 4, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday met top industry leaders at Hyderabad, urging them to invest in the state and become partner in Odisha's growth. "We want to build new relationship and strengthen our old ties with you all. We want you all to be a partner in Odisha's phenomenal growth story. We need your support and cooperation to ensure that this year's event is grander in outlook and a resounding success in its outcome," Naveen said. Odisha, in collaboration with FICCI the National Industry Partner for Make in Odisha Conclave '22, hosted the Odisha Investors' Meet in Hyderabad, Monday. After successful roadshows in Mumbai and Bangalore, this was an equally fruitful meet which witnessed about 40 government-to-business meetings with participation of some 350 delegates.



Exhorting the industry captains to come and explore Odisha, the CM said, "As we enter into a new era of industrialisation propelled by advancement in technology and a philosophy of sustainability, we require a collaborative effort between the government, industry and the people to ensure consistent growth." "We are fast emerging as a major industrial destination in India for our natural resource advantage and strategic location," pointed out Naveen. He said that Odisha is ranked among the top states in India in terms of live manufacturing investments and has been accorded the achievers status in the recently released ease of doing business ratings by the centre. About the MIO Conclave '22, he said the five-day event will have business leadership talks, sectoral sessions, startup session, and women entrepreneurship sessions, along with cultural programs. On startups, he spoke about the establishment of O-Hub and Odisha Innovation Fund and said, "We have established Odisha Startup Hub (O-Hub) in Bhubaneswar to provide a world-class incubation and co-working facility to state-based startups. We have also set up the Odisha Youth Innovation Fund to support grassroots innovations, which are essentially technological solutions and the development of successful business models by youths in different sectors."

Low pressure likely over Bay of Bengal by Oct 20

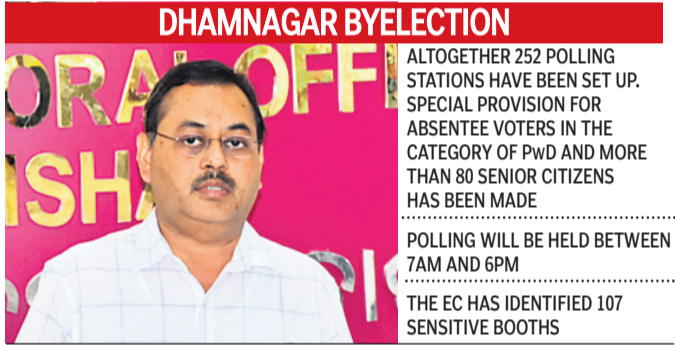
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday said a cyclonic circulation has formed over the south Andaman sea and a low pressure area (Lopar) is likely to form over the southeast and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal around October 20 under its influence. However, the IMD is yet to predict if the system would convert into cyclone. "The clear picture of the system will be known after two or three days," it said. Meanwhile, the withdrawal line of southwest monsoon continues to pass through Lumding, Kailashahar, Berhampur, Kanke, Bilaspur, Brahmapuri, Buldana and Dahanu, the IMD pointed out. "Conditions are very likely to become favourable for further withdrawal of monsoon from some parts of interior Odisha and entire West Bengal during next 48 hours," the agency said.

2.38L voters to decide fate of five candidates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: With the end of deadline set for withdrawal of nominations, five candidates have remained in fray for the bye-election to Dhamnagar Assembly constituency having 2,38,417 voters. Apart from BJD's Abanti Das, BJP's Suryabanshi Suraj and Congress' Baba Harekrushna Sethi, two independent candidates—Rajendra Kumar Das and Pabitra Mohan Das – are fighting for the MLA seat fell vacant following the demise of BJP MLA Bishnu Sethi. In a jolt to BJD, its rebel candidate Rajendra has remained in the battleground for the November 3 bypoll. It seems that the ruling party's crisis managers have failed to appease Rajendra, who has been denied ticket for the bypoll. Meanwhile, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Odisha has made elaborate arrangements for the byelection. Addressing mediapersons here, CEO SK Lohani said there are 2,38,417 voters in the Assembly segment, of which male—1,23,038, female—1,15,346 and transgender—33. Altogether 252 polling stations have been set up. Special provision for absentee voters in the category of PwD and more than 80 senior citizens has been made, said Lohani. As many as 20 polling parties



(14 for Dhamnagar block area and six for Tihidi block area) comprising two polling officers, one micro observer, one video person and one security personnel will be visiting the voters along with the voting compartment and voting box for collecting the postal ballot, he said. General voters will vote at the polling stations in EVMs like earlier byelections. Polling will be conducted between 7am and 6pm. Webcasting will be done in 126 booths while 26 micro observers have been deployed in the critical and sensitive booths till now, said Lohani. The EC has identified 107 sensitive booths. Four companies of CAPF (CRPF-2 & BSF 2 companies) along with 17 platoons of police force have also been deployed to maintain law and order, he stated. Model code of conduct is in force since October 3, 2022 in the district. Violations like defacement of public property are being set right, posters and banners are being seized. For the bypoll, 187 licenced arms have been deposited, 1,167 persons have been bound down under preventive Sections of CRPC, 53 non-bailable warrants have been executed, he said. Surveillance teams are fully active in the constituency area and important check points of the district, he said. The CEO further said a dry day has been declared in the district from 48 hours prior to the day of voting – 6 pm of November 1, to 6 pm of November 3 and on day of counting (November 6). The day of poll has been declared a paid holiday for voters of the Assembly constituency.

Abolition of contract hiring: Oppn sees red

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Opposition BJP and Congress in the state have raised questions over the timing of the BJD government's decision to regularise services of contractual employees ahead of the November 3 bypoll to Dhamnagar Assembly constituency. The saffron camp termed the move by the Naveen Patnaik-led dispensation as "pre-bypoll drama", while the Congress alleged that the state government abolished contractual hiring to secure votes for the ruling BJD. "The BJD government takes such decisions when there is an election. This is part of a pre-bypoll drama. The ruling party is facing difficulties in the poll-bound Dhamnagar Assembly segment," said Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra of the BJP. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had Saturday announced that services over 57,000 contractual employees would be regularised. The decision, which will entail an additional Rs 1,300 crore per year, was taken at a cabinet meeting. A notification to this effect was published Sunday. Mishra alleged that the BJD government had been trying to rectify the mistakes it has been committing since 2013 by appointing employees on a contractual basis. Senior Congress leader and Janti MLA Suresh Routray also ques-

The BJD government takes such decisions when there is an election. This is part of a pre-bypoll drama. The ruling party is facing difficulties in the poll-bound Dhamnagar Assembly segment

JAYANARAYAN MISHRA
LEADER OF OPPOSITION, BJP

It is unfortunate that opposition parties have been trying to politicise the matter when 57,000 families across the state have welcomed the decision

SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA
BJD MLA

Aspirational component for Class IX, X

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha Monday announced a new curriculum, called 'aspirational component', for Classes IX and X students as part of the assessment reforms. Speaking to reporters, BSE president Ramashis Hazra said the aspirational component has four divisions – book review, project review, co-curricular activities and basic IT skills. It will be introduced in Class IX during the current academic session while from next session, that is, in 2023-24, both the Classes (IX and X) will have the aspirational component in their curriculum, he said. As per the direction from the School and Mass Education department, it has been decided to introduce the assessment reforms in the curriculum of the two classes, he added. Hazra further said that the aspirational component will also be implemented in the curriculum for Madhyama (Sanskrit) courses as well.

BMC pact with Sutra for survey in slums

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday signed an agreement with Sutra Consultancy Private Limited for conducting USHA (Urban Slum Household Area) survey under Jaga Mission. BMC commissioner Vijaya Amruta Kulange signed the pact with the executive director of Sutra Consultancy Sunita Dash. The pact for 24 months is to conduct the survey in households of 436 slums coming under Jaga Mission of BMC limits. This initiative by the state targets to assign land rights to about 2.5 lakh households residing in about 1,110 slums in the five municipal corporations in a phased manner.

Playing sounds during sleep may weaken painful memories: Study

Playing sounds to people while they are asleep can be used to help them forget or weaken traumatic and intrusive memories, according to a study. Previous research found that playing 'sound cues' during sleep can be used to boost specific memories. However, the latest study, published in the journal Learning & Memory, provides the first strong evidence that the technique can also be used to help people to forget. "Although still highly experimental at this stage, the results of our study raise the possibility that we can both increase and decrease the ability to recall specific memories by playing sound cues when an individual is asleep," said study first author, Bardur Joensen, a former PhD student at the University of York, UK. "People who have experienced trauma can suffer a wide range of distressing symptoms due to their memories of those events," Joensen said. The finding could potentially pave the way for new techniques for weakening those memories that could be used alongside existing therapies, the researchers said. For the study, 29 participants learnt associations between overlapping pairs of words. For example, they were asked to learn the word pairs 'hammer - office' and 'hammer - Cardi B'. The participants then slept



The team analysed the participants' brainwaves and when they reached deep sleep they were quietly played the word denoting the object

overnight in the University of York's sleep lab. The team analysed their brainwaves and when they reached deep or slow-wave sleep they were quietly played the word denoting the object i.e. Hammer. Previous research had found that learning a pair of words, and playing a sound associated with that pair during sleep, improved participants' memory for the word pair when they woke up in the morning. This time, when the pairs of words were overlapping, they found an increase in memory for one pair, but a decrease in memory for the other pair. This suggests it is possible to cause selective forgetting by playing associated sounds during sleep. According to the researchers, sleep

Utkalika
Organises
GANDHI SHILP BAZAR
Venue
Bhanja Bhawan
Exhibition Ground, Sector-5, Rourkela
Upto 21.10.2022,
Daily 11.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Organised by:
Directorate of Handicrafts, Govt. of Odisha & Odisha State Co-operative, Handicrafts Corporation Ltd., (Utkalika), Bhubaneswar

Sponsored by:
Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

41 dead in police custody in last 7 yrs



The state witnessed maximum number of custodial deaths in 2015, with eight incidents. Similarly, as many as seven cases of death were reported each in the year 2019 and 2020 while five accused persons died in 2021

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Supreme Court of India has issued several guidelines to rein in the cases of custodial deaths which are considered one of the most heinous crimes against basic human rights. However, deaths of accused in police custody continue to occur time and again due to lackadaisical approach by the police. While answering to a RTI query filed by the rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo, the Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) of Odisha Police revealed that as many as 41 accused persons died in police custody during the period from 2015 till July end of the current year. The state witnessed maximum number of custodial deaths in 2015, with eight incidents. Similarly, as

many as seven cases of death were reported each in the year 2019 and 2020 while five accused persons died in 2021. The HRPC also revealed that three custodial deaths each were reported in 2017 and 2018. As many as four persons died in police custody in the state till the end of July 2022. On the other hand, several cases of torture in custody also came to fore. Meanwhile, the state police kept mum on queries asked in how many cases compensation have been provided to the victims' kin in the last seven years. Kanungo said that the state should ensure the implementation of various guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in DK Basu vs state of West Bengal case, and immediately install and ensure proper functioning of CCTV cameras at the police stations to check custodial torture and deaths. "Along with the judicial enquiry under Section 176(1) (A) of the IPC, the state government should ensure probe into the matter. The judicial enquiry should also be supervised by the Sessions Judge cum special Human rights Court," he added. This apart, the state government should come out with a policy holding the district Superintendent of Police or DCPs accountable for such mishaps in their jurisdictions to check custodial deaths, suggested the rights activist.

Student must be given proper environment: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: To bridge the digital gap and provide better opportunities, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash distributed laptops to 15 meritorious students with special needs. Students securing 90 per cent and above in HSC, CHSE & CBSE Exam 2022 received the laptops. On the occasion, Dash said that while pursuing education, students must be given proper environment and they should not be worried about anything else. He said that education will help the students in achieving the better future. Students need guidance at such times. To ensure that the students are serious and enthusiastic about education, the government is taking numerous steps including transforming school. Among others, Upendra Tripathy, Advisor to CM (Education), President (BSE), SPD (OSEPA), SPD (OAVS) were present. **Minister said that while pursuing education, students must be given proper environment and they should not be worried about anything else** On the occasion minister also felicitated Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV), Hatitota and Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV), Baripada aribipal on securing 5th and 10th positions respectively as the best boarding schools in country. The two OAVs clinched the top ranks in EW India School Rankings 2022-23, world's largest schools ranking survey conducted by Education World. Both the schools were given a cash prize of Rs 25,000 each for the ranking.



SEEKING PROPER WAGES: Asha Sathi Sangha workers staging a sit-in protest demanding proper wages from the state government in front of National Health Mission office in Bhubaneswar, Monday

SOA's MBA programme inaugurated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University organised the freshers' Induction Programme — MBA and MBA- HA, October 17 2022 in the presence of dignitaries belonging to different fields. SOA university convention hall was full with fresher MBA and MBA- HA students bubbling with enthusiasm and expectations. The programme started with welcome address by AK Samanthy, Dean IBCS, Faculty of Management Science. SOA University Vice Chancellor Ashok Kumar Mohapatra presided over the ceremony. In his presidential address, he advised the students to pursue the Management Course with sincerity and devotion. Sashi Bhusan Upadhyay, Resident Director of



Jindal Stainless Limited emphasised on case study approach in management programmes and also added that eminent industry professionals like Tapan Chand have shown that hands-on management brings turnaround and establishes business leadership. Prashana Pradhan, Director, Biju Patnaik International Airport told the students to develop leadership. Bijay Kumar Mohanty, AGM, SBI said that demand for MBA students have been increasing given the current national and international economic scenario. Tapan Chand called upon the management of SOA University

to organize more of academia-business interactions and also to introduce overseas student exchange programme for better exposure. Referring to the first ever global survey on diversity made by GMAT Council Chand told that India is in the first two top nations in the world, next to China only, in terms of number of management degree holders. The number of women management degree holders is more in India. This will help in increasing diversity in the organisation. He said that Vedanta is having more than 23 per cent diversity in its manpower and is aiming to increase it to 30 per cent.

Minister launches e-Jalasaya, e-CAD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Water Resources and Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu launched two official web portals — e-Jalasaya and e-CAD — for the Department of Water Resources during a programme held here Monday. e-Jalasaya is a repository of all water bodies of the state from the smallest farm ponds to the largest reservoirs. Currently, data in respect of eight major reservoirs, 37 barrages/diversion weirs, 3,856 MI tanks and 15,000 check dams, belonging to the department, have been included in the portal. This data will be utilised for planning water use for various purposes such as drinking, agriculture and allied activities, and industry.

'IWM increasing water productivity'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Sammelan programme was organised at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management here, Monday. In the event, a live webcast of the Prime Minister's address to the farmers from the ICAR, New Delhi was made available. Around 500 farmers, agricultural input companies, start-ups and NGOs working in the agriculture sector participated in the programme, which was inaugurated by former union tribal affairs minister Jual Oram, who also presided as the chief guest.



Oram in his speech stressed on water conservation, marketing, and solar energy. Former Union minister of state (animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries) and Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi, joining as the guest of honour, emphasized on micro-irrigation, efficiency of irrigation as in production of more crop per drop, soil health, and organic farming.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, date 11.10.2022, I, Gourahari Biswal, aged 33 years, S/o. Laxmidhar Biswal, At/PO- Kamakantia, PS- Balanga, Dist-Puri hereby declare that I have change my name Gourahari to GAurab. Henceforth I shall be known as Gaurab Biswal for all purpose.

Court rejects Archana Nag's bail plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM), Bhubaneswar Monday rejected the bail application of Archana Nag, arrested on the charge of blackmailing influential people. Though the SDJM heard the bail petition of Archana through video conferencing from jail October 14, it had reserved its verdict till Monday. "The court has rejected the bail petition of accused Archana Nag," said government pleader A Chand. The government pleader strongly opposed her bail petition as she was booked under serious offences which were punishable. She was



also accused of running a racket. On the other hand, Archana's lawyer Debashish Mohapatra pleaded for her bail arguing that several sections, especially 354 (assaults or uses criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it

to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty), is not applicable to her. "Yes, I have received information that the court has rejected Archana's bail. We will certainly move to higher court to appeal for her release," Mohapatra said. Twenty-six-year-old Archana Nag of Kalahandi district was arrested October 6. An internal estimation done by the police said that Archana and her husband Jagabandhu Chand have acquired properties worth Rs 30 crore in a span of only four years from 2018 to 2022. The couple allegedly owns a palatial house with imported interior decorations, luxury cars, four high-breed dogs and a white horse.

Many pictures of Archana and Jagabandhu along with many politicians of different parties have gone viral on social media. Meanwhile, the Bhubaneswar unit of the opposition BJP staged a demonstration in front of the Police Commissioner's office here and raised question on the manner of investigation into Archana's case. "We have made three demands - take Archana on remand for interrogation, arrest her husband and his friend and action against the influential persons who helped the couple to reach from rags to riches," BJP Bhubaneswar unit president Babu Singh told reporters while leading a demonstration here.

FICCI's Panda leads delegation to USA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Subhrakant Panda, MD of IMFA and Senior VP of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) led a delegation of CEOs to Washington DC, United States coinciding with the visit of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The delegation met with faculty and students of George Washington University, think-tanks like ORF America, the Atlantic Council, and the chief economist of IMF. Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu hosted the delegation and shared his insights about how business can engage to further strengthen the Indo-US relationship. An excellent interaction with



the finance minister rounded off the trip of the delegation. Panda complimented the minister for presenting the India growth story to investors and policy makers, in particular, the achievements on the digitalisation front was discussed where India has achieved success through UPI and DigiLocker with scale. There is also an opportunity to attract global supply chains to India which FICCI will work to facilitate.

The simple technology helping women escape poverty

A formal identity and a mobile phone are two key weapons in the global fight against poverty. More women than men are poor, more women live with food insecurity and in the majority of countries in the world, more women than men do unpaid family work. This is why many scholars and world leaders such as former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan argue empowering women is the most effective way to improve humanity. For many women, empowerment begins with identity - a prerequisite for accessing services and exercising their rights. In 2019, the World Bank estimated that one out of every two women in low-income economies did not have a national identity card or something similar. As a critical first step to empowering women, the World Bank has worked with over 40 countries to develop digital ID systems to empower women. In Pakistan, for example, mil-

lions of women now possess a Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) which allows them, rather than their husbands or brothers, to access government income support programmes. Armed with a formal identity, existing and emerging technologies are immediately available for empowering women economically. First, mobile phones are ubiquitous, and they can be helpful. Out of 456 million unique subscribers in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2020, 239 million users have mobile internet access, and 180 million have smartphones. The widely accessible mobile phones attracted firms to develop mobile financial services such as Safaricom's M-Pesa and M-Kesho in Kenya, as well as Ant financial services in China. Not only are these services secure and convenient, but they also enable unbanked women to gain access to financial services such as savings and loans. Besides access to financial serv-

ices, mobile platform apps can help poor women to find jobs. In China, when many restaurant workers (mostly women) were out of work during Covid-19 lockdowns, Alibaba established an online platform with restaurant chains such as Xibei and Yunhaiyao to develop an online employee-sharing plan so that over 3,000 restaurant workers could find temporary work during the pandemic. And in the same way, social nudging has been found to work in encouraging people to meet fitness goals, leveraging internet-connected wearables and mobile apps can induce different forms of nudging to encourage girls to complete school. Beyond mobile technology, blockchain can also help to improve gender equality and financially empower women. Denver's Coda Coffee partnered with bext360 to develop a blockchain that integrates machine vision, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence to trace coffee beans at



For many women, empowerment begins with identity - a prerequisite for accessing services and exercising their rights. As a critical first step to empowering women, the World Bank has worked with over 40 countries to develop digital ID systems to empower women. Armed with a formal identity, existing and emerging technologies are immediately available for empowering women economically. Every step: collecting, washing, drying, milling, exporting and roasting of beans through retail operations. This helps to ensure farmers regardless of gender can collect fair

payments, and traders to leverage information as verifiable collateral for loan applications. Widely available solar technology can also change women's fates. As of 2020, over 3 billion off-the-grid

households rely on women to collect fuel wood to meet their energy needs. This burden deprives women of accessing education or jobs. But solar cookers enabled women in rural Nicaragua to produce and sell baked goods, candies and roasted coffee beans. One of the initiatives in India entails the development of a solar-powered "eKOCool" cooler that can enable a female store owner to sell ice-cold drinks, operate at night (by charging her solar lanterns), and offer mobile phone charging service by tapping into the charging ports provided by eKOCool coolers. Earlier gains on poverty reduction have been set back by the pandemic, with women faring worse. Leveraging emerging technologies to empower women economically enables them to find jobs, obtain fair wages, improve operational efficiency in their micro-businesses, improve their physical safety and improve their access to education and financial services.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

- Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-889550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



QUICK BUY: Women checking imitation jewellery from a roadside vendor during Lakshmi idol immersion ceremony in Kendrapara, Monday

Police arrest top official of ponzi firm over fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 17: Police here Monday arrested the director of a ponzi firm on charges of defrauding over ₹7 crore from hundreds of investors in Ganjam district. The accused was identified as Trinath Panda, director of the Jagannathprasad branch of finance company, 'Green India Private Ltd'. He had been absconding and was finally arrested by the police after the issuance of a non-bailable warrant from a court here. Later in the day, he was produced in a court.

Panda applied for bail, but was remanded to judicial custody after ADJ (LR) Raj Kumar Das rejected his plea following opposition by government pleader Bijay Pradhan. The judge directed the police to file up to date case diary in the court as quickly as possible.

Police said the finance company had its head office at in this town while one of its branch offices was functioning at Jagannathprasad. The accused through agents lured gullible people to deposit huge amounts promising to double the money in a short span of time. Panda also lured people to invest money in the company by promising them to provide plots of lands.

The matter came to the notice of the police after depositor Banamali Mohanty who had invested over ₹10 lakh in the ponzi firm lodged a complaint with Jagannathprasad police, IIC Dillip Kumar Swain said. Police registered a case and started an investigation. Earlier, police had arrested four persons in this connection but failed to arrest Panda as he was absconding. Further investigations were on, the IIC said.

2 killed in road mishap as ambulance hits tree



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Oct 17: Two persons including a woman patient and a helper were killed after an ambulance ferrying them to the district headquarters hospital here hit a tree on the roadside near Mahichala mandi under Junagarh police limits in Kalahandi district, late Sunday night.

The deceased were identified as Sumitra Durga, 50, of Kapurmal village under Jaipatna block and the helper of the ambulance, Dambarudhar Sabar, 25, of Pandigaon village under Kalampur block of the district. The two were rushed to the Junagarh hospital where doctors pronounced Sumitra dead. Dambarudhar was shifted to the district headquarters hospital but he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. According to reports, the 108 ambulance van was carrying Sumitra who was suffering from diarrhoea to the district headquarters hospital from the Jaipatna health centre.

The mishap occurred after the driver of the ill-fated ambulance lost control over the wheels. As a result, the vehicle crashed against a roadside tree leaving the patient and the helper dead. Three family members of the patient, who were also in the ambulance sustained injuries in the accident.

Pipe Coating plant of RSP processes 50 pipes in a shift

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Oct 17: The Pipe Coating Plant at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has processed 50 pipes in a single shift, an RSP release said.

This is the highest number of pipes processed in single layer fusion bonded epoxy coating since its inception. The pipe coating plant processed the 50 pipes in a single shift October 12, the release said. The current order being served is spiral weld pipe of IS 3589 Fe410 grade with pipe size of 762 mm and outer diameter of 8 mm WT. The order for 27 km of pipes coated with min coating thickness of 150 micron fusion bonded epoxy is being executed for NTPC's Kanina power plant. The entire order of 27 km has been completed so far, it said.

Kartik Behera, CGM (CRM, PP, SSM), G Singh, GM Incharge (Pipe Plant) and other senior officers visited the unit to motivate the team.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/ E-Tender/97, Dt. 12.10.2022	
1.Tender No. etender-CENT-KUR-266-2022, Date: 07.10.2022	
Description: PROVISION OF DAILY INSPECTION & PATROLLING OF TRACK TO THE PRESCRIBED STANDARDS DURING COLD WEATHER AS PER IRPMM FOR SAFE RUNNING OF TRAINS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work: ₹32.92 lakhs, EMD: ₹65,800/-	
2.Tender No. etender-CENT-KUR-267-2022, Date: 06.10.2022	
Description: EXECUTION OF 10.40 KMS. CTR (P) WORK IN DIFFERENT PATCHES BETWEEN BARANG-BHUBANESWAR SECTION UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BHUBANESWAR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work: ₹322.27 lakhs, EMD: ₹3.11,100/-	
3.Tender No. etender-CENT-KUR-268-2022, Date: 06.10.2022	
Description: EXECUTION OF 23.67 KM. TFR (P) WORK AND 55.54 KM.TFR WORK IN DIFFERENT PATCHES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work: ₹347.34 lakhs, EMD: ₹2,89,400/-	
4.Tender No. etender-South-KUR-269-2022, Date: 06.10.2022	
Description: EXECUTION OF 17.00 KM. THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL WORK ON UP AND DOWN LINE IN PATCHES AND GLUED JOINTS RENEWAL UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ BALUGAON SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Approx cost of the work: ₹37.34 lakhs, EMD: ₹3,23,700/-	
Completion Period of the work: 04 (Four) Months (for sl. no. 1), 08 (Eight) Months (for sl. no. 2), 10 (Ten) Months (for sl. no. 3) & 12 (Twelve) Months (for sl. no. 4).	
Date & time of Tender Closing: 28.10.2022, 1500 hrs (For all tenders).	
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website http://www.irps.gov.in	
Note: The prospective tenders are advised to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)/ PR-614N/22-23	Khurda Road

111 soft shell turtles seized in Balasore district



PNN & AGENCIES

Balasore, Oct 17: Within a gap of 24 hours, a total of 111 soft shell turtles have been seized from a house in Balasore district, Forest department officials said Monday. A team of officials raided the premises of one Gouranga Kati Mandal at Jalasoharia village Sunday and seized the turtles. The turtles were kept in the house for selling to a trader in West Bengal at a higher price, the officials said.

Forty similar turtles were seized from a bus October 14 in Balasore district and two persons were arrested. After getting a tip-off from one of the arrested persons, Forest officials conducted a raid at Mandal's house and seized the turtles. Jaleswar forest range officer Jayashree Murmu said. A probe has been launched.

Companies asked to look for alternatives

DECLINE IN GROUNDWATER LEVEL REACHING ALARMING PROPORTIONS IN MINING, INDUSTRIAL AREAS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 17: The industrial and mining firms might be asked by the district administration to make alternative arrangements for supply of drinking water to people in their areas. This move is necessary now due to the sharp decline in groundwater level. It has led to the scarcity of water in many areas, sources said Monday.

The matter came to the fore at a recent meeting on 'Groundwater Regulations, Development and Management Rules-2020' organised by the Water Resources department.

The mining and industrial areas are witnessing a sharp fall in groundwater level. The Odisha government has framed rules for conservation and restoration of groundwater but these are hardly being implemented due to a variety of reasons.

In view of this development, geologists from Directorate of Groundwater Development in

Bhubaneswar will conduct a survey on the decrease in groundwater level in industrial and mining areas of various districts.

During survey, if they find that the groundwater level has decreased, then the industrial and mining firms may be asked to make alternative arrangements and supply drinking water to the affected people in their respective areas.

A report by Odisha State Level Committee (SLC) for 'Assessment of Groundwater Resources (GWAR)-2020' and published November, 2021 has pointed out that the groundwater level in Korei of Jajpur district, Baliapal of Balasore district, Garadpur of Kendrapara district, Bhubaneswar and Bolgarh of Khurda district and Nuaapada block in Nuaapada district are in semi-critical condition and are decreasing at a rapid pace.

Taking cognizance of the report, Pankaj Kumar, Secretary of Union Water Resources Ministry wrote a letter to the Odisha Chief



FILE PHOTO

Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra urging him to take necessary steps for restoration of groundwater level.

Similarly, on a question (No 7457) on global warming in Lok Sabha, March 12, 2021, the director of Hydrometric department submitted a detailed report on groundwater level in Odisha during the last three years.

The report highlighted that the groundwater level in

Kudmulugumma and Khairput of Malkangiri district, Ohendipada of Angul district, Baliapal of Balasore district, Harbhanga of Boudh district, Gumma of Gajapati district, Sorada of Ganjam district, Kundra, Narayanpatna and Pottangi of Koraput district, Jashipur of Mayurbhanj district, Dabugaon and Jharigaon of Nabarangpur district, Boden and Khariar of Nuaapada district, Rayagada block of Rayagada dis-

Rare green snails face extinction

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Oct 17: Rampant smuggling of rare marine green snails from Gahirmatha marine sanctuary under this block in Kendrapara district has sparked fears about their extinction, sources said Monday. Fishermen collect these snails in large numbers from Lurchghola, Madali and Chatka areas and from the basins of Mahanadi delta in the sanctuary and smuggle them to traders to make a quick buck. The fluids secreted by these snails and its meat are used in preparation of medicines due to which they are in high demand abroad. Traders buy these rare snails from fishermen with prices ranging between ₹200 to ₹300 per kilogram.

A fisherman requesting anonymity said that the snails are caught when they come near the coast or banks to consume red alluvial soil. It has been alleged that some traders regularly transport sack full of snails from Kajalpatia area under Batighar panchayat to Paradip. Then the snails are sent to Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh for export



port to foreign countries. Reports said that the snails are caught mostly during the rainy season when they come to the beach and move in hordes. However, neither the district administration nor the Forest department is taking any steps for protection and conservation of these marine snails despite it being mentioned in the 1972 schedule of Wildlife Protection and Conservation Act.

Environmentalist Subhash Chandra Swain said that if urgent steps are not taken for the protection and conservation of these snails then the day is not far off when the species will become extinct from this area.



RELIEF FOR PATIENTS: District Collector Abdaal M Akhtar unveiling a new automated biochemistry analyser machine at the SLN Medical College and Hospital in Koraput, Monday

OP PHOTO

Huge quantity of cough syrup seized; 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 17: Acting on a tip-off, a mobile excise team intercepted a huge cache of ginger cough syrup in a vehicle and arrested two persons at Sergarh area on National Highway-16 in this district, Monday. The arrested persons were identified as Niranjana Mallick, 38 and Sanjay

Mallick, 31 of Balipur village under Soro police limits.

Over 500 bottles of ginger cough syrup were seized from the van and their market valuation is over ₹2 lakh, police said. They added that those arrested could not provide any document for possessing such huge quantities of cough syrup. A case was registered in this



connection and the accused were produced in the court.

Police said the accused were selling the cough syrup in Bhadrak and Soro localities by illegally procuring them from West Bengal. It should be stated also that cough syrups are also addictive in nature. Police also said that they are interrogating the two arrested to find out about the involvement of others in this illegal trade.

Beekeeping gives new lease of life to Koraput farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, Oct 17: Adopting alternative vocations like beekeeping other than agriculture has brought a turnaround in the life of many farmers in Koraput district, sources said Monday.

This development comes at a time when income from cultivation is declining due to climate change, erratic monsoon, lack of irrigation facility and pest attacks. The change came after the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and voluntary outfit 'Harsh Trust' goaded the farmers to take up beekeeping to boost their incomes. This helped the farmers become self-reliant and earn their livelihood without any dependency on others.

The voluntary outfit first involved over 250 poor tribal farmers in Nandapur and Boipariguda blocks and helped them in beekeeping. The two agencies spend over ₹1,41,12,595 to start the cultivation and provided farmers with bees, beekeeping boxes and honeycomb machines. They also trained the farmers on the process of bee cultivation.

The farmers toiled hard and produced 2,455 kilogram of honey within 10 months of starting the cultivation. A total of 110 farmers of Gandhiguda, Ambapada, Kiram, D Khudub and Andari villages sold the honey and earned around ₹2.87 lakh which is no mean feat.

However, a few months later bee cultivation was affected due to incessant rainfall, pest attacks and scarcity of flowers.



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

Farmers appeared to be a distressed lot after the development. However, officials of Harsh Trust and the DDM of NABARD met

the farmers at Nandapur and motivated them to take up beekeeping again. They provided the farmers with all the facilities

needed for bee cultivation. The renewed efforts acted like a catalyst for the farmers as they again took up beekeeping and reaped the benefits from cultivation. Tribal farmers Madhu Khara, Bibidas Matam, Malesh and others expressed their thanks to NABARD and the voluntary organisation for making them self-reliant through beekeeping when income from agriculture is dipping.

Things have changed for the better and now farmers are coming forward to take up beekeeping as alternative form of livelihood. Learning about their achievement, NABARD's Odisha head and an MP from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh recently visited Gandhiguda village and interacted with the farmers on beekeeping.

Minor girl dies in wall collapse

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairangpur, Oct 17: A five-year old girl died in wall collapse at Kalasibhanga village under Gorumahishani police limits in Mayurbhanj district, Sunday. The deceased was identified as Mousumi Majhi, daughter of Rasananda Majhi in the village.

Reports said, the girl was playing with her friends near a neighbour's house when a mud wall suddenly collapsed and fell on her. Family members rescued her in critical condition from under the debris and rushed her to the Rairangpur hospital where doctors pronounced her dead. Police rushed to the spot and launched an investigation.



To listen to some devout people, one would imagine that God never laughs



SRI AUROBINDO

US-China Ping-Pong

The USA and China are now locked in shadow boxing to impress their respective domestic audience and also allies. This is the inescapable conclusion one can draw from the US President Joe Biden's newly released National Security Strategy (NSS) and China's President Xi Jinping's inaugural address at the ongoing Chinese Communist Party's 20th party congress. The NSS identifies China as the country's main foe. On the other side, Xi refers to machinations of the US and its allies to "destabilize" world order through their interference in other countries' affairs.

The release of the NSS was delayed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and as such it includes Russia as a threat to European security. But, it reveals the Biden administration's long term goal is how to deal with a rising China. The US believes, as the NSS makes it clear, the autocracies in China and Russia are "working overtime to undermine democracy and export a model of governance marked by repression at home and coercion abroad".

China and Russia, in turn, view America's "rules-based international system" as an embodiment of US imperialism. As such they regard US strategic containment, military buildup, alliance formation and expansion with alarm and hostility that, in their opinion, will certainly undermine the cooperation and coordination needed to meet global challenges.

The US strategy blueprint considers Russia as a disruptive threat which has the potential to plunge Europe into a grave crisis. This could be a reference to Putin's nuclear posturing over Ukraine. It warns that the threat could grow in direct proportion to the defeats inflicted on Russian forces on the battlefield in Ukraine. "Russia's conventional military will have been weakened, which will likely increase Moscow's reliance on nuclear weapons in its military planning," the strategy document warns.

Putin has threatened to use 'all means' to defend Russian territory, in which he included Crimea, annexed in 2014, and four Ukrainian regions he claims to have annexed during the invasion now, though Ukraine is fighting to regain the territories. The reference in the NSS to this development has been necessitated by the US' anxiety to allay Ukraine's fears. In a reassuring message to Ukraine the document asserts that the USA will not allow Russia, or any power, to achieve its objectives through using, or threatening to use, nuclear weapons.

Interestingly, the foreword Biden has written to the NSS document makes a clear distinction between the types of threats posed by Moscow and Beijing. Russia, in his assessment, poses an immediate threat to the "free and open international system" by flouting the basic international laws as is amply demonstrated in its 'brutal war of aggression' against Ukraine.

But, the USA's real duel, though verbal at this stage, is with China. Biden states China is the only country with the twin objectives to redraw the international order and increasingly the economic, diplomatic, military and technological power to advance its agenda of global domination. Hence, the policy document brands Beijing as "America's most consequential geopolitical challenge".

China has an estimated 350 nuclear warheads compared with 5,977 in Russia's stockpile, against the US inventory of 5,428. The Pentagon's calculation is that the Chinese force will grow to more than 1,000 warheads by 2030, making it a third major nuclear power.

US watchers are worried about the reference to nuclear warheads since it can be construed as a broad hint that the USA may have a rethink about the size of its nuclear arsenal. This appears to be a precursor to a fresh arms race. It contradicts the NSS's objective of building a "free, open, prosperous, and secure international order" where people can "enjoy their basic, universal rights and freedoms".

There is grave doubt about achieving such a noble goal when the US already spends more on its military than the next nine biggest spenders, seven of which, minus China and Russia, are its allies.

The USA and China seem to be more interested at this stage in a war of words instead of translating their words into action.

LESSONS FROM UK CRISIS

FOCUS ECONOMY

The United Kingdom has had four Prime Ministers in the last six years. Their most recent

Chancellor of the Exchequer (i.e., the finance minister) was sacked in a record 38 days after presenting his mini budget. This was even though the budget had plenty of tax cuts and fiscal packages to help families meet rising energy costs. The financial markets instead of cheering tax cuts announced, brought the financial system dangerously close to the brink of collapse. The government had to intervene in the bond market to prevent a bottomless fall. This is not exactly expected in a country which houses the world's biggest global financial centre. There are more such anomalies. The Conservative Party has been running the government for the past twelve years. Yet contrary to the image of conservatives who stand for tax cuts, the taxes have actually risen. Perhaps the present government led by Prime Minister Liz Truss was obliged to swing toward far-right policies of drastic tax cuts, to undo the tarnished image of conservatives as high tax supporters. Or perhaps the PM believed that tax cuts would lead to a boost to economic growth. Or maybe she believed that cutting taxes would increase tax revenue, a view attributed to supply side economists. The now ousted Chancellor's proposal was to reduce the top tax bracket from 45 to 40 percent and reducing overall taxation from 20 to 19. Even corporate tax rates were to be kept at 19 and not move to 25. The problem was that the bulk of the tax gains, nearly half of it, was going to the top 5 percent income earners. This looks bad when inequality is increasing, and it is not even clear that the tax rebate would lead to fresh investment. Indeed the corporations are likely to just show higher profits, and not fresh investments into new projects. Higher profits could increase their share price but not the GDP. Despite the supply-side mantra of tax cuts



Ajit Ranade

AT A TIME WHEN INFLATION IS AT HISTORIC HIGH OF 10 PER CENT, IT WAS FISCALLY RECKLESS TO ANNOUNCE DRASTIC TAX CUTS AND FISCAL EXPANSION



The UK experience showed that derivative exposure of pension funds led to big calls for making up the shortfall, causing the bonds to fall further, triggering a vicious cycle

leading to increase in tax collection, we have seen in many countries, including in India, that at moderate levels reduction in tax rates do not increase tax revenues. It might make sense when you have absurdly high marginal tax rates like 95 percent, which India had in the 1970s. But when marginal rates are around 25 percent, the phenomenon of the Laffer Curve (named after Arthur Laffer who propounded the theory of tax cut leading to increase in tax revenue) is unlikely to work. The proposed tax cuts by the Truss government were thus the most drastic ones in the past fifty years. Hence to make up for the anticipated shortfall in revenues, the Chancellor also announced a fresh borrowing programme of nearly 60 billion pounds. These tax cuts and increase in fiscal borrowing got thumbs down from financial investors. You can't fool the financial investors, especially if the budget is not credible. There was

a bond sell off, and the value of bonds went down sharply. This means that those funds which have bond portfolios on their balance sheets lost value. This affected large pension funds, which tend to hedge their interest rate risks using derivatives. With sharp fall in portfolio values, they had to inject liquidity to refill (called "margin calls"). The refill money was to be collected by selling liquid assets, i.e. bonds, aggravating the bond sell-off. This was spinning out of control, and the government of the UK had to step in to avert the bottomless fall. This intervention was to the tune of 62 billion pounds, which would be unheard of in a developed country. The financial system had come close to collapse. Even the International Monetary Fund, which is usually diplomatic, was blunt in its criticism of the budget proposals. At a time when inflation is at historic high of 10 percent, it was fiscally reckless to an-

nounce drastic tax cuts and fiscal expansion. This policy would only aggravate inflation. Hence the government has had to make a U-turn, and postpone, if not cancel the tax cuts. The new Chancellor has his work cut out. Even the Prime Minister may lose her job if the instability continues.

The lessons to learn from the UK crisis are as follows. At a time when income and wealth inequality has risen sharply you do not resort to trickle-down economics. That is, you do not award large tax cuts to the income earners at the top end, hoping that their increased spending will eventually trickle down as new jobs and incomes for those at the lower end of income earners. When there is so much uncertainty, not just because of the unending war in Ukraine, it seems unlikely that the rich would redirect their tax rebates into fresh investment. Secondly when inflation is raging, you do not pursue further fiscal expansion. This is something which India's Finance Minister also has indicated as a possible guidance about India's forthcoming Union Budget in January. Thirdly, at a time when oil prices are very high, instead of a cut in corporate taxes as announced in the mini budget, it would be better to slap windfall gains tax, which has been tried in the UK itself. India too is experimenting with windfall gains tax on oil companies. Fourth, the fresh investments will have to come from public investment in infrastructure, which can crowd in rather than crowd out private investment. Hence fiscal resources should be saved for these fresh investments, rather than frittered away in tax cuts. Fifth, much attention has to be paid to the stability of the financial system. The UK experience showed that derivative exposure of pension funds led to big calls for making up the shortfall, causing the bonds to fall further, triggering a vicious cycle.

The writer is a noted economist
©THE BILLION PRESS

WISDOM CORNER

- Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.** HELEN KELLER
- There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.** ERNEST HEMINGWAY
- It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.** MARK TWAIN

WORDSWORTH

Allision

The Oxford English Dictionary, in an entry updated in September 2012, marks this as literary and rare, but a search shows it's still around, though almost exclusively in the US and mostly in official documents. In US maritime law, an allision occurs when a ship hits a stationary object. Most commonly this is another ship, perhaps at anchor or docked, but it can also refer to a ship hitting a fixed object such as a wharf or a bridge. For you and me, that's a collision, but US law reserves that word for an impact between two moving ships. The word is from allidere, from the post-classical Latin of the fourth century AD, to strike against something or to be shipwrecked, whereas collision is from collidere, to strike together, so the distinction was already being observed then to some degree. Both contain the root laedere, to injure, damage or hurt. Before it took on its specialised sense in the law of the sea, it referred more generally to one thing striking another. It is recorded for the first time in a book by Helkiah Crooke of 1615: "Some [sounds] are made by allision, as when the ayre moved by a vehement winde doth beate against a solide body." The legal sense seems to be a creation of the nineteenth century. In The Sailor's Word-book of 1867, the British admiral William Henry Smyth commented that allision was "Synonymous in marine law with collision, though the jurists of Holland introduce it to mark a distinction between one vessel running against another and two vessels striking each other."

Xenoglossy

Xenoglossy is the ability to speak a language without having learned it. This sounds like a really neat trick if you can manage it. However, a typical place to find is in the Journal of Parapsychology. That's because the ability is regarded as a psychic phenomenon. It might come about because a person has been regressed to a previous incarnation through hypnosis. Or a medium might be in communication with a spirit person who speaks another language. The OED dates its first appearance to 1914; it's from Greek xenos, stranger or foreigner, plus glossa, language; another spelling is xenoglossia. It sounds as if it's related to speaking in tongues, which is regarded among Christian groups such as the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements as evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit (though the phenomenon is found in many religions and has been recorded from the earliest historical times); the formal term for that is glossolalia (the second half from Greek lalia, speech). But from a language point of view the difference is profound: in xenoglossy the implication is that a real language is being spoken that is intelligible to native speakers and in which the person can converse, while glossolalia is a succession of meaningless syllables interpretable only through faith.

SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

Strict action vital to mitigate air pollution

The Centre recently revised the target of reducing air pollution (particulate matter or PM concentrations) in cities from 20-30 percent by 2024 to 40 percent by 2025-26 compared to the levels set in 2017.

The Union Environment Ministry said the final goal was to bring particulate matter concentrations within acceptable limits everywhere. Its recent analysis of cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) showed 20 cities including Chennai, Madurai, Nashik and Chittur have been conforming to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), that put acceptable annual average limit of PM 10 at 60 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m3). The analysis, however, remained silent on the more hazardous PM 2.5 as its monitoring is not done in all NCAP cities.

The encouraging news is the launch of India's first flex-fuel hybrid car (FFV-SHEV) in the country that can run on 100 percent ethanol. The vehicle was launched as a pilot to assess the BS-VI compliant FF-SHEV technology in India; its effectiveness in domestic conditions in reducing carbon emission and for promoting ethanol as a vehicle fuel.

A recent report published by US-based research organisation

Health Effects Institute (HEI), report - Air Quality and Health in Cities, one finds a comprehensive and detailed analysis of air pollution and global health effects for over 7000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the most harmful pollutants - fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). Even though nitrogen pollution is not a great problem in India, PM2.5 remains the biggest in Indian cities. Of the 7239 cities, India is home to 18 of the 20 cities with a severe increase in PM 2.5 count from 2000 to 2019.

Kolkata ranks eighth among the most populous cities in the world with the highest PM 2.5 related disease burden in 2019. It recorded 99 deaths for every lakh citizens exposed to such pollution. Delhi is ahead of Kolkata both in terms of exposure to PM2.5 as in both these cities, the smog during winter months is quite severe.

In tackling air pollution, perhaps it's worthwhile to consider going back to the Air Act which was elemental to developing the framework the country uses today for pollution control. It outlined various mechanisms through which authorities could monitor pollutant concentrations, progress made on actions enforced, standards for emitters, clean air plans, enforcement schemes, etc. By 1984, the

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) set out its nationwide monitoring programme - National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (NAAQM), aimed at monitoring pollutant concentration. In the year of enforcement, this was only executed in 7 monitoring stations but has since been named as the National Air Monitoring Program (NAMP), operating in over 800 stations located across 344 cities in the country.

Even though the act has clearly brought in stricter forms of regulation and legislation in the country in terms of environmental protection, keeping in view the urbanization trend, the increase in density of population, the generation of solid waste etc, some experts conclude that this is not enough. There is a need for further amends in the realm of air pollution control keeping in view the country's growing needs and demands. There are several downfalls to the Act, which need to be critically analysed:

Firstly, the Act relies on criminal prosecution of polluting actors as the enforcement tool, which is a time-consuming process often leading to low conviction rates and PCB's lower capacity to pursue such cases making it easier for polluting actors to get away with their activities. Secondly,

there is a need to update it and evolve a methodology for green financing or addressing the needs for raising capacity in air quality management tasks or actions remains unresolved.

According to environmentalists, the third aspect is that the Act in its present form is somewhat inadequate to provide rightful opportunities, training, or resources to those who are on the pollution control board; these should not be a hindrance to tackle air pollution strictly. Finally, new scientific developments and innovations need to be incorporated in the Act so that state's authorities could utilise these new resources to meet their objectives in the best manner possible.

The obvious answer to mitigating air pollution is through promoting urban forestry proactively and taking strict action against those cutting or destroying trees. In congested metros, vehicular pollution must be controlled, and any violation of environmental rules must be strictly enforced. It also must be remembered that in a relatively poor country like India, where a large segment of population is poor, the burden of diseases would increase unless air pollution is controlled. The sooner authorities act, the better it is.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

SEVEN YEARS AFTER THE PARIS CLIMATE SUMMIT, SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY HAVE BECOME CHEAPER WHILE ELECTRIC VEHICLES MAY ALSO GET CHEAPER THAN PETROL IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Discriminatory treatment

Sir, With a larger Bench to hear the Hijab issue after the SC's split verdict, it is quite likely that an entirely new perspective may emerge on the same. However, one hopes that Justice Dhulia's judgment prevails in the end for good, viewed from the perspective of the fundamental right to girl students' education. Wearing hijab is a personal choice, and our Constitution guarantees the right to practice religion. Therefore, the fact that some girl students were allowed only into the college premises, but not inside classrooms is not only discriminatory but also against the law. Though wearing hijab has been a source of controversy in some western countries for decades, particularly in France, in India it is neither banned nor is its use restricted in public places. In fact, women wearing hijabs are a common sight in India, and for many of them it symbolises religious identity. Because the debate involves alleged bias over a religious item worn to cover hair and maintain modesty, some right-wing activists have voiced concerns that the decree risks raising Islamophobia, which is certainly not so. **Ranganathan Sivakumar**, CHENNAI

Filip to tourism

Sir, The National Board for wildlife clearing the decks for the much-awaited Kedarnath ropeway must cheer lakhs of pilgrims who cannot afford helicopters or other expensive rides. The project, which will cost Rs1,000 crore, would give a filip to religious tourism and substantially reduce the journey from Sonprayag to Kedarnath. Besides, the board gave the nod for the Hemkund Sahib ropeway project and the 5.5 km walkway track from Rambara to Garud Chatti. **NJ Ravi Chander**, BANGALORE

Air scare

Sir, A Goa-Hyderabad Spicejet flight passengers had a hellish evening when the cabin of the plane got filled with smoke just before descent into Hyderabad last Wednesday. There was a full emergency landing, and luckily none of the 80 odd passengers were seriously hurt. "Air engine oil leaking into the air-conditioning system" is the official reason offered by the SpiceJet authorities though the passengers had different versions to offer. Consequent to Indian aviation regulator-the DGCA-action after a series of scares, the concerned low cost airline is running with a 50 percent fleet strength. Its public relations record, methods of training pilots, excessive cost cutting, defective mechanical aspects including maintenance of seats and windows have come under a scanner. The DGCA should do much more than impose routine curbs and fines on the said airline. **Ganapathi Bhat**, AKOLA

national

of the day quote

An institution on the lines of Niti Aayog would be set up in the state for comprehensive data analysis and to make studied decisions on various sectors

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA DEPUTY CM

I am not aware of them (billboards in Telangana against 40% commission) as I have not been there, but if it's true, then it is systematic conspiracy

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

About 20 lakh farmers in the state have benefited from the PM KISAN scheme

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

Guj govt cuts VAT on CNG & PNG

Gandhinagar: Ahead of Diwali, the Gujarat government Monday announced a reduction in VAT (Value Added Tax) on CNG and PNG by 10 per cent and said two cooking gas cylinders will be given free every year to 38 lakh beneficiaries who have got gas connections under the Centre's Ujjwala scheme. The reduction in VAT on CNG (compressed natural gas), PNG (piped natural gas) and two free liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders to Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries every year, which will cost the state exchequer altogether Rs 1,650 crore, come at a time when Assembly polls are just a few months away in Gujarat.

Kerala seeks boiled rice from Andhra

Amaravati: Kerala has requested Andhra Pradesh to resume supply of boiled rice. Kerala is also seeking to import chilli and pulses from Andhra Pradesh. Kerala Minister for Food and Civil Supplies G R Anil held talks with his AP counterpart Karumuri Nageswara Rao on the issue here Monday.

Assam inks seven pacts

Guwahati: To kick start broad-based development of the state, the Assam government Monday inked seven Memoranda of Understanding and Agreement (MoU, MoA) with different industry players. The Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) has entered into agreements with Microsoft, Google India, Larsen & Toubro Limited and Health Care Sector Skill Council.



The situation on ground zero in Jammu and Kashmir is contrary to the claims of the incumbent administration. Here our party workers have an added responsibility to reach out to people and lend voice to the voiceless

OMAR ABDULLAH | NC VICE-PRESIDENT

VEGETABLE PRICES SOAR IN DELHI-NCR

As the festive season has set in, prices of the vegetables have gone through the roof in Delhi-NCR, hitting common people the most. Since the festivals are nearing, prices of fruits have also gone up, along with the vegetables



Mumbai bypolls a cakewalk for Sena-UBT nominee

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 17: In a major last-minute political development, Maharashtra's ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party Monday stepped out of the fray in the by-elections to the Andheri East Assembly constituency.

This paves the way for a smooth election for Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray party nominee Rutuja Ramesh Latke November 3. Hours after the announcement by state BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule, can-

didate Murji Patel withdrew his nomination papers on Monday evening - the last date for withdrawal.

Bawankule also assured that Patel would not contest as an independent or rebel, while Latke welcomed the development.

The BJP's change of heart came after appeals from a MLA of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray, and other



leaders from different parties.

Latke thanked the BJP, NCP, MNS and others for the move, say-

ing that after the elections, she would work wholeheartedly for the development of Andheri East

and fulfil her late husband Ramesh Latke's dreams.

State Congress President Nana Patole, NCP President Jayant Patil, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sushma Andhare and others took jibes at the BJP for deciding to withdraw from the contest. Patole wondered whether it was linked with the ensuing BCCI elections, Patil said that the BJP was scared of defeat, and Andhare claimed Latke's victory was guaranteed prompting the BJP to leave the contest.

However, Raj Thackeray thanked the BJP for its move saying it will

uphold the old political traditions in Maharashtra.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that after getting the requests from various quarters, he discussed the matter with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Bawankule and other state and central BJP leaders before deciding to bow out.

He and other BJP leaders dismissed the Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders' contentions and emphatically said that its nominee (Patel) would have romped home to victory by a huge victory margin.

Was pressured to quit AAP: Sisodia

THE CBI MONDAY QUESTIONED DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MANISH SISODIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE DELHI EXCISE SCAM CASE FOR OVER NINE HOURS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The CBI Monday questioned Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with the Delhi excise scam case for over nine hours, officials said.

Sisodia had arrived at the agency's headquarters around 11.15 am and was taken straight to the anti-corruption branch office on the first floor, they said.

The deputy Chief Minister was grilled for over nine hours on various aspects of the Delhi government's excise policy, his relations with other accused, including businessman and AAP volunteer Vijay Nair, and documents recovered during searches in the case, the officials said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader left the agency's office in his white electric SUV without speaking to reporters waiting outside. Sources said that no notice has been issued to him to appear Tuesday. The agency also questioned Raghava Reddy, the son of YSRCP Lok Sabha MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, in the case, they said. Later, speaking to re-



Delhi deputy CM at the party office before leaving for the CBI headquarters

porters, Sisodia claimed that he was pressured to leave the AAP and was offered the Delhi Chief Minister's post.

"BJP says there is a Rs 10,000 crore excise scam. I found at CBI office that there is no scam and the case is fake. The fake case against me is a conspiracy to make BJP's 'Operation Lotus' a success in Delhi," he said. "Pressure was put on me to quit the AAP. I was offered the Delhi Chief Minister's post or face jail term," Sisodia said,

adding that "when I said that there was nothing in the case against me, I was told there was no case against even Satyendra Jain yet he was in jail".

"They said why I was in the AAP and offered me the post of Delhi CM to quit the party. They said I could go to jail and the case against me will continue. I said I had joined politics not to become Chief Minister, I came to politics to work honestly. I clearly said that I am happy when a rickshaw puller's son becomes an

engineer and not thinking of becoming CM," he said.

The CBI refuted the allegation levelled by Sisodia that during his questioning, he was threatened to quit the AAP.

The CBI had registered an FIR in a special court here in August against Sisodia and 14 others under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 477A (falsification of records), and section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which deals with taking undue advantage to influence a public servant by corrupt or illegal means or by the exercise of personal influence. Before arriving for questioning, Sisodia went to his party office in the morning from where he proceeded to Rajghat. A large number of his supporters gathered outside his residence and joined him on the way to the CBI office near the JLN Stadium.

Several AAP leaders and workers, including MLA Atishi and MP Sanjay Singh, held a protest at the Delhi Police barricading near the stadium. Singh was later detained by police and removed from the protest site.

Tejashwi to appear before CBI court

Patna: Bihar's deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, who is facing corruption charges in the IRCTC scam case, will appear before a special CBI court in Delhi Tuesday. He will leave for Delhi Monday evening. Tejashwi, who is currently on bail, has to appear before the special CBI court of Geetanjali Goyal. Earlier, the CBI had filed an application before the court seeking the cancellation of his bail. Following this the court had issued a notice to Tejashwi Yadav on September 17 and asked him to appear before the court. In a directive of court, it had said that if Tejashwi Yadav violates the conditions on which he was given the bail, then the court could cancel it immediately. The agency in its complaint to the court pointed out that Tejashwi Yadav and his family members were involved in threatening the officials of CBI from open platforms in a bid to influence the investigation.



FEARLESS ACT: Armed Forces personnel display their skills at an event. DefExpo-2022 will be held in the twin cities of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar from October 18 to 22

SPICEJET INCIDENT

DGCA orders analysis of engine oil samples

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 17: Following a recent incident of smoke in a SpiceJet plane cabin, the aviation regulator DGCA has directed the airline to send the engine oil samples of the entire Q400 fleet consisting of 14 operational aircraft to Pratt & Whitney Canada to ascertain the presence of metal and carbon seat particles.

Moreover, the DGCA has also directed SpiceJet for inspection of bleed-off valve screen and housing for evidence of oil wetness.

DGCA had initiated the probe after a SpiceJet flight made an emergency landing at Hyderabad airport after smoke was detected in the cabin on October 12.

In light of the above incident and also a similar incident in the recent past involving PWC 150 A engine, which had also shop visited Standard Aero-Singapore for overhaul, SpiceJet was directed that no engine shall be sent to Standard Aero-Singapore till the investigation is completed.

DGCA has directed that engine oil samples be periodically drawn every 15 days instead of presently 30 days and sent to Pratt & Whitney Canada to ascertain presence of metal and carbon seal particles.

It also directed one time Boroscopic inspection of all operational engines within one week and completion of the inspection on

DGCA had initiated the probe after a SpiceJet flight made an emergency landing at Hyderabad airport after smoke was detected in the cabin October 12

three engines, which have been received from Standard Aero, Singapore by Monday night.

It also asked the airline to introduce inspection of bleed off valve screen and housing for evidence of oil wetness during every weekly check.

DGCA also asked for an immediate inspection of magnetic chip detectors for the presence of any metal particles on reporting of fault in the central display system, which otherwise is a class 2 fault and calls for inspection within the next 65 flight hours.

In case of detection of any metal particles, boroscopic inspection of the engine shall be carried out prior to the release of aircraft, said the DGCA.

DGCA said that it is keeping a close watch on the situation and will take all appropriate action to avert any untoward incident.



Where did India's millions of working women go?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Oct 17: Nearly 40 million women have left the workforce in India since the turn of the millennium despite an economic boom. Now, there's a window to reverse the trend.

Since the turn of the millennium, women have been leaving the workforce in India. Over 40.4 million fewer women are in paid work today than in 2004. Despite making up nearly half of India's population, women represent less than one third of the workforce.

But the spiral can turn around, and India has a strong economic incentive to ensure it does. India's GDP over the past two decades could have been 43 percent larger if women had the same work participation rate as men, Oxfam estimates. And India's international standing is suffering: the country ranks 135 among 146 in the 2022 Global Gender Gap Index, owing largely to low work participation rates among women and poor health indicators.

The agricultural sector, a historically strong employer of people



with fewer formal qualifications, is relying on less labour as farm mechanisation improves. And while rising enrolment in education among women is encouraging, there remains a shortage of paid job opportunities outside of farming for many who graduate — prompting them to leave the workforce altogether. While 3.9 million more women are working in salaried positions than a decade ago, the general trend is worrisome.

About 70 percent of women who work in India are doing low-paid jobs on a casual wage and/or unpaid family labour, and many are still recovering from the shock-

waves of the pandemic and its related economic disruptions. About 56 million Indians were pushed back into poverty during the pandemic, with women and other vulnerable population groups mostly impacted.

Turning it around relies not just on more work being available, but better quality work. Central and state governments have been active in trying to fix the problem, launching several programmes that promote self-employment and wage employment.

The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya National Rural Livelihood Mission

is aimed at promoting self-employment through Self-Help Groups, small groups of workers who receive government assistance to take up income-generating activities. Another programme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment

Guarantee Scheme, guarantees 100 days' manual wage employment to participating unskilled workers.

Self-Help Groups have a record of alleviating poverty and empowering women. The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The decline in women's work is pushing all age groups and sectors into poverty but the dropoff was particularly pronounced among youth aged between 15 and 24, those with lower levels of education and working in agriculture and construction sectors in rural India

Alarmed over child marriages, TN to launch awareness drive

New process to recruit primary teachers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 17: After several controversies over the teachers' recruitment at various levels, the West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBPE) has decided to make the recruitment process of primary teachers in state-run schools "totally transparent" through video-recording of the selection process.

Starting from written examination and its marking, interview and subsequent counselling, the entire process will be video-recorded, sources from the state education department said.

WBPE is the first teachers' recruitment autonomous body to agree to this monitoring system to bring about 100 per cent transparency in the recruitment system and it is expected that in future West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) might also take similar



Starting from written examination and its marking, interview and subsequent counselling, the entire process will be video-recorded, sources from the state education department said

The move has been mooted at a time when the former state education minister, Partha Chatterjee, Trinamool Congress legislator and former WBPEE president, Manik Bhattacharjee and several top officials of WBSSC are in judicial and central agency custody

steps to ensure this clarity factor. The move has been mooted at a time when the former state education minister, Partha Chatterjee, Trinamool Congress legislator and former WBPEE president, Manik

Bhattacharjee and several top officials of WBSSC are in judicial and central agency custody.

It had been mentioned in the chargesheets that there were several cases where marks of ineligible candidates submitting blank optical mark recognition (OMR) sheets were awarded marks as high as 5 in the commission's server at a later stage.

"Once the entire system of recruitment process is video-recorded, there will be no scope for such irregularities in the future and also, a 100 per cent clarity in the entire recruitment process can be maintained," a state education department official said.

In fact, the newly appointed WBPEE chairman, Gautam Pal, in his first press conference after assuming the chair claimed that his first priority would be to make the recruitment process totally free of corruption.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 17: Alarmed at a large number of child marriages being reported in the state, the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare department is to conduct awareness campaigns across all 38 districts.

According to the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment department data, an average of 10 child marriages have taken place in the state per day this year so far. The data stated that 2,516 child marriages were reported during January to August.

The department stated that of the 2,516 child marriages reported, 1,782 marriages could be stopped while 734 took place. Of this Namakkal district reported the maximum cases with 182 child marriages reported from the district alone.

Police have registered 548 FIRs in connection with the child marriages in the state. The Social Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu, alarmed by the rise in the number of child marriages, is conducting awareness programmes across the state. The department is in the process of shooting small videos involving movie and television stars and spreading awareness in movie theatres as well as in between popular television programmes.

Social Welfare Department sources said that the number of child marriages is high in Namakkal, Cuddalore, Hindigul, Salem, Krishnagiri, Theni, Tiruchi and Erode districts with the Namakkal district at the top with maximum number of cases.

The police and the Social Welfare department has successfully stopped 95 per cent of the child marriages in Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Pudukottai districts of the state and this is due to the vigil maintained by the neigh-



The department stated that of the 2,516 child marriages reported, 1,782 marriages could be stopped while 734 took place. Of this, Namakkal district reported the maximum cases with 182 child marriages

The Social Welfare Department is in the process of preparing a Standard Operating Procedure for handling child marriage cases across the state

bours and some social organisations active in the empowerment of children, especially girl children.

SEEK, an NGO based out of Salem district was at the forefront of the campaign against the child labour. Rajamohan Das, the director of SEEK while speaking to IANS said, "The prevalence of Child Marriages in many parts of Tamil Nadu is due to poverty and in some cases due to social structures in communities. This has to be changed for sure and awareness and stringent legal action are the only means to prevent these inhuman acts. We are doing our bit but the issue is at a macro level and the positive intervention of the government is the need of the hour." The Social welfare department is in the process of preparing a Standard Operating Procedure

(SOP) for handling child marriage cases across the state.

The department was also planning to rope in the state school education department and rural department to prevent child marriages as reporting from schools will help prevent most of the marriages. Rural departments can be helpful in identifying individuals gearing up to conduct the marriage of their under-aged children. A senior officer of the social welfare department said, "Child marriages can be prevented if all the departments join together as well as there is community pressure against this. For this awareness is important and gender equality must be promoted so that the girl child does not find herself inferior to the boys."



Fort St. George on the first day of Tamil Nadu Assembly session in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

TN cops begin 'Ganja Free Villages' initiative



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 17: The Coimbatore rural district police have commenced an initiative to curb the drug menace plaguing the young generation and have floated panchayat-level monitoring committees for 'Ganja Free Villages'

Tamil Nadu South Zone Inspector General of Police, R. Sudhakar said that the initiative was to prevent young school-going children from falling prey to the drug menace. He said that a police officer will be assigned as the nodal officer in each village panchayat and a monitoring committee will be floated.

The monitoring committee has the village panchayat president, local school headmasters, ward members, and nodal officer as members and the main target is the ganja and other drug networks

Tamil Nadu South Zone Inspector General of Police, R Sudhakar said that the initiative was to prevent young school-going children from falling prey to the drug menace

that are supplying the drugs even to the schoolchildren.

R. Sudhakar said that the police have commenced their activities from Saturday onwards and that the monitoring committees would be soon formed to curb the drug network.

Panchayat presidents, however, suggested the inclusion of prominent social and political workers in each village panchayat.

Maneka Gambhir seeks nod to travel abroad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 17: Maneka Gambhir, the sister-in-law of Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, approached a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court Monday for permission to travel abroad.

In her application to Justice Tirthankar Ghosh's bench, Gambhir said that her mother, who stays in Bangkok is not keeping well and hence there is an urgent necessity for her to travel.

However, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has opposed the request on grounds that another single-judge bench of the court had already refused to entertain a similar

In her application to Justice Tirthankar Ghosh's bench, Gambhir said that her mother, who stays in Bangkok is not keeping well and hence there is an urgent necessity for her to travel

plea. In his argument, the ED counsel also said that since a lookout notice has already been issued against Gambhir, it would not be right to allow her to travel abroad. However, Justice Ghosh has admitted Gambhir's petition and the matter



will come up for hearing Wednesday. On the night of September 10, the immigration department at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata denied Gambhir from boarding a

flight to the Thai capital due to the lookout notice issued against her by the ED. In response, she filed a contempt of court petition against the probe agency ED at the single-judge bench of Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya. Her contention was that when there was a prior court order barring the central agency from adopting any cohesive action against her, such a refusal amounted to contempt of court.

However on September 30, Justice Bhattacharya's bench dismissed the contempt of court petition and observed that neither the ED nor the immigration department had reported to any sort of contempt of court by denying her the permission to board the flight.

'QUALIFIED' TET CANDIDATES STAGE PROTEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 17: Hundreds of candidates, who claimed to have cleared Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) in 2014, staged a sit-in Monday outside the office of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education in Salt Lake, demanding that they be given immediate job appointment letters.

The agitators said that they had appeared for two interviews after qualifying the written TET 2014 examination, but did not get jobs vide its panel, which, according to the board, has expired.

Asserting that they would not want to appear for a fresh examination, announced by the government for this year, the candidates demanded that they be appointed as teachers in West Bengal government-sponsored and -aided schools as per the previous merit list.

"Why should we appear for another exam, having already cleared all rounds in 2014," a woman candidate, participating in the protest, said

The protesters had initially blocked the road at the busy Karunamoyee crossing during the day and then moved to the primary education board office, which is situated nearby. Despite persuasion by the police, they refused to call off the protest.

"Why should we appear for another exam, having already cleared all rounds in 2014," a woman candidate, participating in the protest, said.

Former West Bengal Board of Primary Education chairman Manik Bhattacharya, also a ruling Trinamool Congress MLA, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on October 11 in connection with the alleged irregularities in the recruitment process of primary teachers in the state.

Bhattacharya was removed from the post of chairman on an order of the Calcutta High Court, before which a number of petitions have been moved alleging graft in the appointment process of teachers in state-sponsored and -aided schools.

46 Tamil epics to be published in Braille script

Tamil epics, including Sillapatiakaram, Tolkappiyam, and Manimekalai are among the 46 epics that are being brought out in Braille language for the benefit of visually-challenged students. At present only Tirukkural has a Braille version

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 17: The Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) is planning to bring out 46 Tamil epics in Braille language so that visually challenged literature students need not be dependent on

others for understanding the content.

Tamil epics, including Sillapatiakaram, Tolkappiyam, and Manimekalai are among the 46 epics that are being brought out in Braille language for the benefit of visually challenged students.



At present only Tirukkural has a Braille version.

The CICT will be providing the Braille version of these Tamil classics free of cost to students

and the Braille version will come out by December 2022.

R. Chandrashekhhar, Director of CICT said, "Visually challenged students who are in college pursuing Tamil literature are at a difficulty in learning Tamil epics and these students have to depend on others for this. Hence the institute has decided to bring out 46 epics in Tamil literature in Braille language. This will help the students learn Tamil classical literature and epics on their own."

Bengal's farming sector lags behind other states: NABARD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 17: A recent report titled "Farmers' Welfare: An analysis across states of India," by the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has pointed out that West Bengal's farming sector is lagging behind other states on two crucial counts.

The first area is that of the average monthly income of a family in the state totally dependent on farming. As per the NABARD report, the average annual income of such a family from farming is Rs 92,072 which means the average monthly income is Rs 7,573. As per the NABARD report only six other states - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh -- are behind West Bengal on this count. Punjab with an average monthly figure of Rs

23,133 is the topper among all Indian states, followed by Haryana at Rs 18,496 and Kerala at Rs 16,927.

The second area as pointed out in the NABARD report is the quantum of agricultural loan granted per hectare of farmland in the state. West Bengal's rank among all the states on this count is 15th with the agricultural loan per hectare of land standing at just Rs 55,000, which when translated into loan per acre is Rs 22,000. Kerala is the topper with the per hectare agricultural loan there standing at Rs 3,68,000, which when converted into acres is Rs 1,47,200.

The Trinamool Congress leadership has expressed doubts over the authenticity of the findings of the report. According to state agriculture minister Sovande Chattopadhyay, although he is yet to study the report in detail, he

has doubts over its findings. "As per the records of the state government, the average annual income of a farming family has increased three times since the Trinamool Congress came to power in the state in 2011. In 2018 the annual figure on this count was around Rs 3,00,000. Agreed that there might be some decline in the last two years because of the pandemic, but the situation cannot be so alarming," he said. Economic observers and experts in the field feel that lack of administrative efforts to reduce over-dependence on agriculture for livelihood is a major reason for this pathetic picture in West Bengal.

According to economics professor Santanu Basu, in a state like West Bengal with extremely fragmented land holdings which means that extremely small plots of farmland are owned by farming fami-



lies, the average monthly income of each such family is bound to decline gradually considering the rising cost of farming. "This happens when too many people are dependent on a single plot of fragmented land. I have not gone through the NABARD report but I am sure that states where the av-

erage monthly income of a family from farming is high, there the average income of a family from non-agriculture avenues is also high. So, the West Bengal government should take the initiative for improving the sources of non-agriculture income and for that what is necessary is to create a proper am-

biance and infrastructure for industrial development both in manufacturing as well as the services sector," Basu said.

In fact, the NABARD report itself has findings that complement Basu's logic on non-agriculture income reducing dependence on agricultural income. The report states that Kerala, which has the third highest average monthly income figure of Rs 16,927 per month per family from agriculture, has the highest average per family monthly income of Rs 14,863 from non-agriculture sources. In the case of Punjab, which has the highest average monthly income figure of Rs 23,133 per family from agriculture, the average figure of non-agriculture income per family is also quite high at Rs 10,935. In the case of West Bengal, the figure is barely Rs 6,383.

of the day quote

They were making noises saying that terrorism is because of Article 370. There is no 370 now. Why such killings are still taking place and who is responsible for them

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | FORMER J&K CM

Even after October 19, my relation with the Gandhi family will remain the same as it has been for the last 50 years, I can say this with certainty

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

We have embarked on a mission to eradicate extreme poverty in Kerala. As the first step, 64,006 families that require assistance have been identified

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Five killed in road accident

Hisar (Haryana): Five persons, including four members of a family, were killed in a road accident in Haryana's Hisar district, police said Monday. The incident took place Sunday night on Jind-Bhiwani road near Baas village of Narnaund sub-division, they said. Four occupants of a car died after the vehicle collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction, police said. Because of the collision, two motorcycles were also hit and one of the riders died, they added.

Thackeray faction stages agitation

Aurangabad: Workers and leaders of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) party Monday staged an agitation on a national highway to demand the construction of a tunnel in Autram Ghat connecting Aurangabad with Dhule district in Maharashtra. The agitation, led by MLC Ambadas Danve, was held on National Highway 52 at Andhaner in Kannad tehsil of Aurangabad.

Air quality of Delhi worsens

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality remained "poor" for the second consecutive day Monday and no improvement is likely in the next six days, forecasting agencies said here. Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 237 at 4 pm, worsening from 232 at 4 pm Sunday. It was 247 in Ghaziabad, 286 in Faridabad, 254 in Greater Noida, 232 in Gurugram and 254 in Noida. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Tuition teacher gangraped, 1 held

Lucknow: An 18-year-old tuition teacher was allegedly raped by an auto-rickshaw driver and a passenger here, police said Monday. Police said they have arrested a man and suspended a police officer for laxity in duty. According to the police, the woman Saturday had taken an auto-rickshaw home after giving classes near Kathauta crossing area. The woman said that apart from the driver, another passenger was sitting in the auto and they allegedly raped her, she said. The accused passenger has been identified as Akash Tiwari (21), Deputy Commissioner of Police Prachi Singh said, adding efforts are on to nab the driver. The incharge of the police outpost Husarhiya Hussain Abbas was suspended Monday, she said.

Justice Chandrachud appointed as next CJI

CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA UU LALIT OCTOBER 11 NAMED CHANDRACHUD AS HIS SUCCESSOR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 17: President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice DY Chandrachud as the next Chief Justice of India.

He will be sworn in as India's 50th CJI November 9.

Law Minister Kiren Rijju, in a tweet, said: "In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, President appoints Dr Justice DY Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 9th November, 22".

On October 11, Chief Justice of India UU Lalit named Justice Chandrachud, the seniormost judge in the Supreme Court, as his successor. CJI Lalit, who will retire November 8, had, in presence of all Supreme Court judges, handed over the letter of recommendation to Justice Chandrachud.

Justice Chandrachud, who will hold office till November 10, 2024, is the son of former Supreme Court judge YV Chandrachud, who was the longest-serving CJI, being in office for about seven years and four months between 1978 to 1985. During his tenure, Justice DY Chandrachud overturned two judgments of his father - which were related to adultery and the right to privacy.

Justice Chandrachud, who is a PhD from Harvard Law School, is known as a non-conformist judge. He has played a key role in introducing virtual hearings during the Covid time, which has now become a permanent feature. He has been part of the landmark judgments on Ayodhya title dispute,

decriminalisation of homosexuality, adultery, privacy, entry of women into Sabarimala etc.,

Born November 11, 1959, Justice Chandrachud was judge of the Bombay High Court from March 29, 2000 until his appointment as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court from October 31, 2013. Justice Chandrachud practised in Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court. He passed BA with honours in economics from St Stephen's College, New Delhi and completed LLB from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University.

He also served as Additional Solicitor General of India from 1998 till 2000.

He was first appointed as judge of the Bombay High Court March 29, 2000. Justice Chandrachud has also served as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court since October 31, 2013 until his elevation as an apex court judge May 13, 2016

Justice Chandrachud has been a visiting Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Mumbai and at Oklahoma University School of Law, USA.

In June, 1998, he was designated as senior advocate by the Bombay High Court.

The Centre, as per Memorandum of Procedure, asks the outgoing CJI to name the successor, just before a month of retirement. Law Minister Rijju, October 7, sent a letter to Chief Justice Lalit to make recommendation for appointment of his successor.



ASHISH MISHRA BAIL PLEA

SC asks UP govt to respond in two weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Supreme Court Monday granted two weeks to the Uttar Pradesh government to file its response on a plea filed by Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, seeking bail in a case related to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had July 26 rejected the bail plea of Mishra.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna said it will hear the matter November 7. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi,



appearing for Ashish Mishra, told the court that notice was already issued in the matter.

On October 3 last year, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. Four farmers were mowed down by an



Members of Kerala Scrap Merchants Association (KSMA) with artists during a performance of the 'Pulikali' folk dance as part of KSMA state conference, in Kochi, Kerala

Govt seeks data on vacancies from PSUs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The government has sought data on vacancies from all public sector undertakings (PSUs) and asked them to prepare a roadmap to fill those with an aim to reducing unemployment in the country.

Information has been sought by the government regarding vacancies at the entry-level as well as at the senior level, a senior official of a PSU told PTI.

The move comes against the backdrop of opposition parties raising concerns over rising unemployment in the country. As per the direction, identified entry-level vacancies till December this year are required to be filled by August-September next year, the official said.

Filling vacancies in government institutions takes time as appointments are made in a transparent manner by following specified guidelines, the official said, adding tests and interviews are conducted based on the advertisement that specifies eligibility criteria.

Each stage consumes time as aspirants across the country participate in the process, the official said.

Earlier this year, the government had said in Parliament that there were about 8.72 lakh posts vacant in various Central government departments as of March 1, 2020

The Indian Railways, being the biggest recruiter in the country, has nearly 2.3 lakh posts vacant



As per the official data, there were 255 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) operating in the country at the end of FY21. Out of the 255 CPSEs, 177 are profit-making and have generated a profit of Rs 1.89 lakh crore during FY21.

Last month, the finance ministry convened a meeting with heads of public sector banks and financial institutions to take stock of the employment situation in these entities and their monthly recruitment plan. The total employee strength of public sector banks peaked at 8.86 lakh during 2012-13. It declined to 7.80 lakh during 2020-21.

Banks have started issuing advertisements for recruitment. For example, the country's biggest

lender State Bank of India (SBI) recently issued advertisements for the recruitment of 1,673 probationary officers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June had asked various government departments and ministries to undertake the recruitment of 10 lakh people on a "mission mode" in the next one-and-a-half-year amid the opposition's frequent criticism on the issue of unemployment.

The direction from the Prime Minister came following a review of the status of human resources in all government departments and ministries. The vacancies are likely to be filled before the next general elections to be held in 2024.

Duronto robbery: Railways mulls special safety on premier trains

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Oct 17: The Ministry of Railways is giving a serious thought to the redeployment of Railway Protection Force (RPF) commandos on premier trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto passing along certain routes after Sunday's armed robbery on board the New Delhi-Howrah Duronto Express in Bihar.

This train was supposed to be escorted by armed contingents of the Government Railway Police (GRP) at night. Passengers, however, complained that the GRP parties got off at Patna station where the train

reached around 1 a.m. Sunday.

As many as 20 armed robbers got on the train soon after it left Patna station on its way to Howrah and looted belongings of the passengers in 7-8 coaches at gunpoint. Many passengers staged a demonstration at Howrah station after the train reached its destination, demanding better protection.

It was extremely scary. The criminals pointed guns at the passengers and looted whatever they could lay their hands on.

If this can happen on a Duronto Express, what of other trains? People pay a lot for tickets on such trains and deserve adequate protection.

Kalashnikov AK 203 to be produced in India by year-end

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Moscow, Oct 17: Production of Russia's new Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles in India may be launched before year-end, a senior Russian official has said, as per media reports.

The weapon will be manufactured at a plant in Korwa in Uttar Pradesh, according to Alexander Mikheev, the head of Rosoboronexport, the Russian state agency for international arms trade, RT reported.

"We plan 100 per cent localisation of the production of the legendary Russian assault rifles in India,"

the agency quoted its chief as saying in a statement issued on Monday. "In the future, the joint enterprise may ramp up capacity and upgrade to manufacture more advanced models based on the Kalashnikov platform."

The AK-203 is part of the 'Series 200' of Kalashnikov's small arms, which includes several models using various popular round calibers and barrel lengths.

The series features tuning options such as adjustable stocks and the Picatinny rail and other improvements. The AK-203 assault rifle is designed for the 7.62x39mm round.

Rosoboronexport gave the update on the joint enterprise with India ahead of the Defexpo India 2022 arms show, which is scheduled for this week.

Russia and India have been closely cooperating in defense for decades and have previously launched other joint ventures for making arms in India, RT reported.



WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS!

The Election Commission's decision October 14 announcing elections in Himachal Pradesh and deferring those in Gujarat was honey from heaven for those who have gone overboard with a rash of 'revdis' at one end and an outbreak of poll promises at the other.

The Prime Minister's two day visit beginning September 29 saw him laying foundation stones or inaugurating projects/schemes worth ₹29,000 crores. By a back of the envelope calculation, Gujarat's very own, Prime Minister Narendra Modi must have 'bequeathed' upward of ₹80,000 crores in such high profile optic events in the six months ending September. This does not take into accounts similar inaugurations/foundation stone laying ceremonies by Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel over the same period. With two more visits there should be more to follow.

A day earlier the union cabinet announced a three-month extension up to December 31 of the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna' at a cost of ₹44,762 crores. The scheme provides 5 kg of wheat and rice free of cost. The move yielded splendid electoral dividends in Uttar Pradesh, extended to cover the period of the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections, so should it now. Over 71 lakh families in Gujarat which account for 3.48 crore people will benefit from the free rations scheme. The cabinet also approved the re-development of the Ahmedabad, New Delhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj railway stations at a cost of ₹10,000 crores.

Come poll time and facts are at a discount while rhetoric rules. So you have PM speaks like the Vande Bharat train travel being a hundred times less noisy than air travel or that he had roamed the corridors of power to get the 100 year old British conceived 116km Taranga Hill-Abu road rail link cleared but in vain, hinting obliquely

at a UPA perfidy. Congress national spokesperson, Shaktisinh Gohil who hails from Bhavnagar reels out a list of the Prime Minister's previous pre-election promises to Bhavnagar:

Approaching elections spur politicians in power to frolicsome feats. Prime Minister Narendra Modi September 30, dedicated the first phase of the Ahmedabad Metro and said that it was the first time 32 km of a metro rail line had been operationalised in one go in India. However March 4, 2019,



six days before the Model Code of Conduct took effect for the Lok Sabha elections, he had inaugurated a 6.5 km part of the phase-1 of the same Ahmedabad Metro.

Modi September 8, 2005 announced the revival of the mythical Saraswati river at Siddhpur in North Gujarat through diversion of the Narmada waters.

In the presence of over a lakh strong crowd collected from all over the state with hindu maha-pandits blessing the Chief Minister and ministers comparing him with Bhagirathi, the process of revival of the mythical river was initiated.

In May 2014 Modi took over as the PM. The then Rajya Sabha member who hailed from Siddhpur and was keen to know of the progress in the matter received a letter from the Government of India, Ministry of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation in December 2014 "that since the state government has not submitted any plan, there is no plan for the

development of the Saraswati in Gujarat".

The Comptroller and Auditor General(CAG) audit report released in 2018 saw the debt laden GSPC emerge as the biggest loss making state public sector unit, making the highest loss of ₹170.61 billion with an impairment loss of ₹149.24 billion on 80 per cent participating interest and 10 per cent in KG-OSN-2001/3 block(KG Block).

Milking the hyperbole cow for electoral dividends nevertheless, continues. In 2007 it was 'every house in Gujarat will have its own oil well'. In 2012 it was "every rooftop will be source of power, both for use and to sell" alluding to solar power revolution.

The global Gujarat investors summit-Davos in action was once described as a precursor of investments raining in Gujarat from all over the globe. And then off course the immortal ₹15 Llakhs in every bank account saga.

international

of the day quote

The new humanitarian relocation programme is intended to give those persecuted by the Taliban a bit of home and the chance of a free, self-determined and secure life

ANNALENA BAERBOCK | GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The country is facing an economic downgrade amid global uncertainty

JIM CHALMERS | AUSTRALIAN TREASURER

Iran has started refining its crude oil in Venezuela

JAVAD OWJI | IRANIAN PETROLEUM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Imran granted interim bail

Islamabad: A special court in Pakistan Monday granted interim bail to former Prime Minister Imran Khan till October 31 in a case filed against him and his party leaders for allegedly submitting false affidavits to the election commission in connection with a prohibited funding case. The Federal Investigation Agency last week filed the case against Khan and other senior leaders of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party Tuesday.

Russian warplane crashes; 2 killed

Moscow: A Russian warplane crashed Monday into a residential area in a Russian city on the Sea of Azov after suffering engine failure, killing at least two people and igniting a massive blaze that engulfed several floors of a nine-story apartment building. A Su-34 bomber came down in the port city of Yeysk after one of its engines caught fire during takeoff for a training mission, the Russian Defence Ministry said. It said both crew members had bailed out safely, but the plane crashed into a residential area, causing a fire as tons of fuel exploded on impact. The Emergency Ministry said at least two residents were killed and 15 others were hospitalised with injuries.

Kristersson elected Sweden's new PM

Stockholm: The Swedish parliament Monday elected Ulf Kristersson — the conservative Moderate Party leader — as prime minister at the head of a coalition that is being supported by a once radical far-right party. Kristersson, 59, was elected by 176-173 votes. His government is expected to be presented Tuesday.

WAVES OF SUICIDE DRONES STRIKE KYIV



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Oct 17: Waves of explosives-laden suicide drones struck Ukraine's capital Monday, setting buildings ablaze and tearing a hole in one of them while sending people scurrying for shelter or trying to shoot down the kamikazes. The concentrated use of the drones was the second barrage in as many weeks — after months where air attacks had become a rarity in central Kyiv. The assault sowed terror and frayed nerves as blasts echoed across the city. Energy facilities were struck, and one drone slammed into a residential building, killing four people, authorities said. The drones appeared to include Iranian-made Shaheds. Intense, sustained bursts of gunfire rang out as they buzzed overhead, apparently from soldiers trying to destroy them. Others headed for shelter, nervously scanning the skies. But Ukraine has become grimly accustomed to attacks nearly eight months into the Russian invasion, and city life resumed as rescuers picked through the debris. Previous Russian airstrikes on Kyiv were mostly with missiles. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said Monday's barrage came in successive waves of 28 drones — in what many fear could become a more common mode of attack as Russia seeks to avoid depleting its stockpiles of long-range precision missiles.

Centre of Kyiv hit by Russian drones, at least four dead
Attacks come a week after massive cruise missile strikes
Zelenskyy vows 'fair punishment' to Russian invaders
Europe's largest nuclear power plant again disconnected
Five drones plunged into Kyiv itself, said Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. In the Kyiv region, at least 13 were shot down, all of them flying in from the south, said Yurii Ihnat, a spokesman for Ukraine's air force. One strike appeared to target the city's heating network, hitting an operations centre. Another slammed into a four-story residential building, ripping a large hole in it and collapsing at least three apartments on top of each other. Four bodies were recovered, including those of a woman who was six months pregnant and her husband, Klitschko said. An older woman and another man also were killed there. An Associated Press photographer caught one of the drones on camera, its triangle-shaped wing and pointed warhead clearly visible against the blue sky. "The whole night, and the whole morning, the enemy terrorises the civilian population," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post. "Kamikaze drones and missiles are attacking all of Ukraine."

Imran stuns all, sweeps bypolls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 17: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party led by former Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday swept the crucial bypolls, winning six out of eight National Assembly seats and two out of three provincial assembly seats in Punjab, in another jolt to the Shehbaz Sharif government. The main contest was between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Eight seats of the National Assembly (NA) and three of the Punjab provincial assembly fell vacant after the PTI lawmakers resigned following the toppling of Khan's government in April. Khan, who contested seven National Assembly seats in the crucial by-elections held on Sunday, emerged victorious in six constituencies, building forward momentum in his drive to push the six-month-old PML-N-led government into announcing an early general election. The 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician was defeated on a seat in Karachi by a candidate of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which managed to clinch two National Assembly seats — NA-157 Multan and NA-237 Karachi — which were bagged by the PTI in the 2018 general elections. In Multan, former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani's son Ali Musa Gillani defeated Meher Bano, daughter of former foreign minister and PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi. This was the only NA seat where Khan did not contest the by-poll. The Multan contest was keenly watched as it showcased the influential Gilani and Qureshi families of the city fighting for a key seat.

JOLT TO SHEHBAZ



The main contest was between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

DRAMATIC U-TURN

Jeremy reverses nearly all tax cut plans

The latest crisis to hit the British shores started September 23, when new Prime Minister Truss and her-then finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng announced 45 billion pounds of unfunded tax cuts to snap the economy out of years of stagnation

REUTERS

London, Oct 17: New finance minister Jeremy Hunt scrapped Prime Minister Liz Truss's economic plan and scaled back her vast energy subsidy Monday, launching one of the biggest U-turns in British fiscal policy to stem a dramatic loss of investor confidence. Tasked with halting a bond market rout that has raged since the government announced huge unfunded tax cuts September 23, Hunt has now reversed all of the policies that helped Truss to become elected as prime minister just under six weeks ago. Her spokesman denied that Hunt was now running the country after his new strategy, that will also include spending cuts, sent the pound soaring against the dollar and government bond prices to start to recover from a three-week pounding. "I remain extremely confident about the UK's long term economic prospects as we deliver our mission to go for growth," Hunt said in a televised clip. "But growth requires confidence and stability, and the United Kingdom will always pay its way." Under the new plan, most of Truss's 45 billion pounds of unfunded tax cuts will go and a two-year



energy support scheme for households and businesses - expected to cost well over 100 billion pounds - will now only run until April. After that the government will review the best way forward, to come up with a targeted scheme that will "cost the taxpayer significantly less than planned". Hunt said the planned tax cut changes would raise 32 billion pounds (\$36 billion) every year. The pound soared by as much as 1.4% to a session high of \$1.1332 after the statement. Truss said she was now charting a new course for growth, but one that would protect stability. "We have taken action to chart a new course for growth that supports and delivers for people across the United Kingdom," she said on Twitter.

course for growth that supports and delivers for people across the United Kingdom," she said on Twitter.

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

The latest crisis to hit the British shores started September 23, when new Prime Minister Truss and her-then finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng announced 45 billion pounds of unfunded tax cuts to snap the economy out of years of stagnation. But the response from bond investors who would fund the plan was so violently negative that borrowing costs surged and lenders pulled mortgage offers. Eventually the Bank of England had to step in to prevent pension funds from going under. After reversing one tax cut, Truss fired her long-time friend Kwarteng on Friday and installed Hunt, the former health and foreign minister, to cut others. Adding to the pressure, the Bank stuck to its schedule of ending its support on Friday, meaning Hunt had been racing to reverse policies and find spending cuts to appease the markets and prevent borrowing costs from rising further on Monday morning.

JAPAN PM ORDERS INVESTIGATION INTO UNIFICATION CHURCH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Oct 17: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered an investigation on Monday into the Unification Church in an apparent move to calm the public outrage over his governing party's cozy ties with the controversial group, which were revealed in the wake of Shinzo Abe's assassination. Former Prime Minister Abe was shot to death during an outdoor campaign speech in July. The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, told police he killed Abe because of his apparent link to a religious group he hated. A letter and social media posts attributed to Yamagami said his mother's large donations to the church bankrupted his family and ruined his life. Kishida said a government hotline set up to receive complaints and inquiries related to the church has resulted in more than 1,700 cases that have been handled by police and legal experts. "Many victims face financial difficulty and their families were destroyed, but the government has not been able to provide adequate support and I take it seriously," Kishida said. He also pledged to do more to support the alleged victims, including a possible revision to the consumer contract law to prevent future problems. The Unification Church, founded in South Korea in 1954 by Sun Myung Moon, obtained a religious organisation status in Japan in 1968 amid anti-communist movement supported by Abe's grandfather and former Prime Minister

He also pledged to do more to support the alleged victims, including a possible revision to the consumer contract law to prevent future problems. The Unification Church, founded in South Korea in 1954 by Sun Myung Moon, obtained a religious organisation status in Japan in 1968 amid anti-communist movement supported by Abe's grandfather and former Prime Minister

He also pledged to do more to support the alleged victims, including a possible revision to the consumer contract law to prevent future problems. The Unification Church, founded in South Korea in 1954 by Sun Myung Moon, obtained a religious organisation status in Japan in 1968 amid anti-communist movement supported by Abe's grandfather and former Prime Minister



Nobusuke Kishi.

Since the 1980s, the church has faced accusations of devious business and recruitment tactics, including brainwashing members into turning over huge portions of their salaries to Moon. The group acknowledged there have been cases of "excessive" donations. It says issues have been mitigated since it adopted stricter compliance in 2009, and recently pledged further reforms. A government panel submitted a report earlier on Monday that found many financial problems and lawsuits stemming from the church's methods. The report called for an investigation while considering revoking the group's legal status, though officials are seen as reluctant to go that far.

Iran prison fire death toll rises

REUTERS

Dubai, Oct 17: Eight prisoners died as a result of a fire at Tehran's Evin prison over the weekend, Iran's judiciary said Monday, doubling the death toll from a blaze that has increased pressure on the government as it struggles to contain mass protests. The fate of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who died in custody on Sept. 16 after she was apprehended by Iran's morality police for "inappropriate attire", unleashed a wave of protests that spread rapidly and to all layers of society. The unrest has 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 protests do not seem close to toppling the system.



Iran's judiciary said the blaze on Saturday evening was started by prisoners in a workshop after a fight, and that those killed had died of smoke inhalation. Evin, which in 2018 was blacklisted by the U.S. government for "serious human rights abuses", also holds political prisoners and many detainees facing security charges, including Iranians with dual nationality.

GRIM SITUATION

Pregnant women struggle to find care after Pak floods

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rajapur (Pakistan), Oct 17: The first five months of Shakeela Bibi's pregnancy were smooth. She picked out a name, Uthman, made him clothes and furniture. She had regular checkups at home and access to medicine. Then an ultrasound revealed the baby was upside down. The doctor told Bibi to take extra care and rest. And then came this summer's massive floods. Bibi's home in the southern Pakistani city of Rajapur was inundated. When she spoke to The Associated Press last month, she was living in a camp for displaced families. With her due date approaching, she was afraid over the possibility of a breech birth with almost no health care accessible. "What happens if my health de-

teriorates suddenly?" Shakeela said. She has a blood deficiency and sometimes low blood pressure, but she said she can't have a proper diet in the camp. "I've been in a camp for two months, sleeping on the ground, and this is making my situation worse." Pregnant women are struggling to get care after Pakistan's unprecedented flooding, which inundated a third of the country at its height and drove millions from their homes. There are at least 610,000 pregnant women in flood-affected areas, according to the Population Council, a US-based reproductive health organisation. Many live in tent camps for the displaced, or try to make it on their own with their families in flood-wrecked villages and towns. Women have lost access to health services after more than 1,500 health facil-



ities and large stretches of roads were destroyed. More than 130,000 pregnant women need urgent care, with some 2,000 a day giving birth mostly in unsafe conditions, according to the United Nations. Experts fear an increase in infant mortality or health complications for mothers or children in a country that already has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Asia. They also warn of dangerous, long-term repercussions for women, such as an increase in child mar-

riage and unwanted pregnancies because of the disruptions in the lives and livelihoods of families. Rashed Ahmed, a humanitarian analyst at the UN Population Fund, said the health system was already poor before, and he warned now of "death, disability, and disease" if the health of pregnant women is ignored. "The biggest shortage is female health care workers, medical supplies and medicine," he said. "Resources are another challenge. What are the government's priorities? Are they willing to spend the money?"

At camps in the flood-hit towns of Fazilpur and Rajapur, pregnant women told the AP they had received no treatment or services for their pregnancies since arriving at the camps nearly two months ago. Clinics handed out medicines for minor ailments, but nothing for mothers-to-be. The next day, after the AP visited a local medical centre to alert their plight, female health workers went to check on the women and distribute calcium sachets and iron supplements. Shakeela Bibi and her family eventually left the camp, taking their tent with them and setting it up close to their wrecked home. Authorities gave them a month's worth of flour, ghee, and lentils. She is now past her due date, but doctors have assured her that her baby is fine and don't think she will need a Caesarian. Pervene Bibi, an 18-year-old who is five months pregnant and not related to Shakeela, said the lack of health facilities in the camp forced her to travel to a private clinic and pay for an ultrasound and check-up. But she was prescribed medicine she can't afford to buy.

for mothers-to-be. The next day, after the AP visited a local medical centre to alert their plight, female health workers went to check on the women and distribute calcium sachets and iron supplements. Shakeela Bibi and her family eventually left the camp, taking their tent with them and setting it up close to their wrecked home. Authorities gave them a month's worth of flour, ghee, and lentils. She is now past her due date, but doctors have assured her that her baby is fine and don't think she will need a Caesarian. Pervene Bibi, an 18-year-old who is five months pregnant and not related to Shakeela, said the lack of health facilities in the camp forced her to travel to a private clinic and pay for an ultrasound and check-up. But she was prescribed medicine she can't afford to buy.

for mothers-to-be. The next day, after the AP visited a local medical centre to alert their plight, female health workers went to check on the women and distribute calcium sachets and iron supplements. Shakeela Bibi and her family eventually left the camp, taking their tent with them and setting it up close to their wrecked home. Authorities gave them a month's worth of flour, ghee, and lentils. She is now past her due date, but doctors have assured her that her baby is fine and don't think she will need a Caesarian. Pervene Bibi, an 18-year-old who is five months pregnant and not related to Shakeela, said the lack of health facilities in the camp forced her to travel to a private clinic and pay for an ultrasound and check-up. But she was prescribed medicine she can't afford to buy.

business

of the day quote

India will have more than 65 per cent of its power generation capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030

RK SINGH | POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

It is a great opportunity to nurture the renewable energy industry and grow into becoming a world supplier

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

When you look forward, for the next 12 to 18 months, that excitement level (towards digital transformation) has died down, but the funding commitments have not gone away. What we are getting into is the second leg of these transformation journeys, which is very critical

RAJESH GOPINATHAN | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TCS

SHORT TAKES

Byju's raises \$250mn

New Delhi: Edtech major Byju's has raised \$250 million (about Rs 2,000 crore) from its existing investors, including Qatar Investment Authority, in a fresh funding round, the company said Monday. The funding round follows Byju's recent announcement to become profitable by March 2023. "Byju's raises \$250 million in a fresh funding round. Existing investors, including QIA, (were) part of this round," the company said in a statement. Byju's founder and CEO Byju Raveendran said that the company is now at that sweet spot of its growth story where the unit economics and the economies of scale both are in its favour.

Garuda, Lockheed Martin sign pact

Chennai: Drone-manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has signed a pact with Lockheed Martin Canada CDL Systems for defence and commercial purpose. Under the agreement, Lockheed would integrate made-in-India products with its aerial systems software solutions, the Garuda Aerospace said on Monday. The companies would explore opportunities by working closely to build a strong data processing capability and develop algorithms that would cater to a wide range of drones and drone-based service applications.

PVR Q2 loss wider than expected

Bangalore: India's top multiplex operator PVR Ltd Monday reported a bigger-than-expected second quarter loss, as lacklustre Bollywood and Hollywood movie performances drew fewer crowds, hitting ticket prices. PVR's consolidated net loss for the quarter ended September narrowed to Rs 712.3 million (\$8.64 million) from Rs 1.53 billion in the pandemic-hit period a year ago, but was bigger than analysts' expectations for a loss of Rs 99.2 million, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

Unacademy rolls out 'Compete'

Bangalore: With an aim to help students boost their preparation, leading edtech platform Unacademy Monday announced that it has rolled out a new product on its platform called "Compete". According to Unacademy, the new product is the first-of-its-kind experience in online education that allows students to go head-to-head against other Learners, and evaluate their preparation in real-time.



The price rise in wheat and rice is normal and the government will intervene in the market to offload the grains if there is any abnormal increase in the rates

SUDHANSHU PANDEY | FOOD SECRETARY

STELLAR DEBUT FOR ELECTRONICS MART

Shares of consumer durables retail chain Electronics Mart India Monday made a strong market debut and ended over 43 per cent higher against the issue price of Rs 59. The scrip made its debut at Rs 89.40, registering a jump of 51.52 per cent on the BSE



'Pause rate hikes as growth fears loom'

IN ORDER TO CONTROL RISING INFLATION, THE RBI SEPTEMBER 30, HAS RAISED SHORT-TERM LENDING RATE FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE TIME BY 50 BPS TO TAKE THE REPO RATE TO 5.9 PER CENT. SINCE MAY IT HAS CUMULATIVELY INCREASED THE KEY INTEREST RATE BY 190 BASIS POINTS

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 17: India's central bank should pause interest rate hikes, despite unacceptably high inflation, to avoid stalling a recovery in economic growth, monetary policy committee member Jayant Varma told Reuters Monday.

The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee has raised its key repo rate by 190 basis points since the start of its tightening cycle in May, with net impact of all steps taken resulting in a close to 250 basis points increase, Varma said.

"There is no denying that inflation is unacceptably high but the thing is that we have given a strong dose of medicine and the time has come to wait and see if that medicine works or if we need something even more potent," he said.

"It might conceivably be adequate. We don't know because we started acting in April, the effects of which will be seen only in early to mid-2023. So we need to let another quarter pass before we know whether our medicine is working"

Varma, in his written MPC minutes, had said the country's economic growth outlook is "very fragile" and warned it could be "dangerous" to push the policy rate much higher. "I am really worried about the export engine stalling completely."

With private investments slackening over the last decade, the latest recovery in growth is being fuelled by government expenditure and retail consumer spending.

"Out of four engines, two are gone and we are running on two. And there is a limit to how far the

Retail inflation spiked to 7.41 per cent in September, remaining above RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent for the ninth month in a row

World Bank projected 6.5 per cent growth rate for the Indian economy for 2022-23, a drop of one percentage point from its June 2022



No doubt it (inflation) will come down. Because we have done monetary policy tightening. That tightening will have its impact. The monetary policy takes, you know, five to six quarters to have its impact and cool prices

JAYANT VARMA | MPC MEMBER

already underway would be adequate.

"But once it has come down below 5%, then how quickly you bring it further down to below 4% is really a question of risk-reward."

"We should accept the growth sacrifice to bring it down to below 5%, but we should be wary of excessive growth sacrifice to do the next round of 5% to 4%," he said.

Varma said he would prefer the repo rate being held close to 6% for several quarters until inflation is stamped out.

Varma pointed out that the current fall in the rupee was on account of the sharp gains in the dollar globally and not on account of India's economic fundamentals. India's inflation is actually lower than several advanced economies for the first time in a very long time, "so I do not see this as a rupee weakness story," he said.

Further, raising the repo rate to ensure the interest rate differentials remain favourable for India was not a part of the MPC's mandate, particularly when there was lower risk of it causing imported inflation,

government can keep that engine running because there are fiscal constraints," Varma said.

LOWERING INFLATION: RISK VS REWARD

Having raised rates aggressively to tackle inflation that has remained well above the mandated 2%-6% target band, further tightening could pose risks to economic growth, particularly given the lags with which monetary policy acts, Varma warned.

"So the urgency to bring inflation down to 5% or below is pretty high and you cannot take two years to do that. That has to happen pretty quickly," Varma said, adding that he hoped that the tightening

SBI, Kotak, Federal Bank revise lending rates under MCLR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: State-owned SBI and private lenders Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank have revised their lending rates under marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR), making consumer loans such as personal, home and auto costlier.

Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has revised the MCLR for the benchmark one-year tenor to 7.95 per cent, up by 25 basis points from previous rate. SBI said the new MCLR is effective from October 15, 2022.

The one-year tenor MCLR is the rate against which most consumer loans are tied to. Besides, SBI has also raised the two- and three-year tenor MCLR to 8.15 per cent and 8.25 per cent respectively, as against 7.90 per cent and 8 per cent.

The overnight, one-, three- and six-month rates have been raised in the range of 7.60-7.90 per cent.

Kotak Mahindra Bank said the MCLR for various tenors has been set in the range of 7.70-8.95 per cent with effect from October 16, 2022. Its revised one-year MCLR rate is 8.75 per cent. South-based Federal Bank said its one-year MCLR on loans and advances has been revised to 8.70 per cent with effect from October 16.

MEGA 5G NETWORK

Ericsson, Nokia bag deals from Jio

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: European telecom gear makers Ericsson and Nokia Monday separately announced bagging contracts from India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio to build a mega 5G network.

The announcements - neither divulged the deal sizes - came amid large network deployments across the country for 5G services, the next-generation technology that promises ultra-high internet speeds, lag-free connectivity, and new-age applications.

Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson announced a long-term strategic 5G contract with Reliance Jio to roll out a 5G standalone (SA) network in the country.

Ericsson's energy-efficient 5G Radio Access Network (RAN) products and solutions from Ericsson Radio System and E-band microwave mobile transport solution will be deployed in the 5G network for Jio, the equipment company said in a statement.

All products and solutions are deployed on new-build 5G SA networks, designed to maximise the benefits of 5G to communications service providers and their customers, be it individual subscribers or enterprise and industry customers. This is the first partnership between Jio and Ericsson for radio



access network deployment in the country, according to a release.

Separately, the Finnish company Nokia said it has won a multi-year deal from Reliance Jio to build one of the largest 5G networks in the world.

Under the contract, Nokia will supply equipment from its AirScale portfolio, including base stations, high-capacity 5G Massive MIMO (multiple input multiple output) antennas, and Remote Radio Heads (RRH) to support different spectrum bands, and self-organising network software.

Reliance Jio plans to deploy a 5G standalone network which will inter-work with its 4G network. The network will enable Jio to deliver advanced 5G services such as massive machine-to-machine communications, network slicing, and ultra-low-latency.

\$1 TRILLION HEADACHE

China's local fiscal shortfall poses broader growth risks

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 17: By any account, \$1 trillion seems huge. That's the scale of budget shortfalls facing Chinese provinces, reducing their fiscal firepower to fund infrastructure spending and tax cuts, and raising risks for the world's second-biggest economy in 2023.

Local governments have long been a pump-primer of China's growth, but declining state land sales revenue in the wake of an ongoing crackdown on debt in the sector has severely eroded their financial power - a situation exacerbated this year by China's feeble growth, weak tax income and crippling Covid restrictions.

Local governments must also make debt payments in coming months, portending more financial pain and limiting their ability to meet Beijing's requests to boost spending. Already, many of them have resorted to cutting salaries, reducing headcounts, lowering subsidies and even imposing disproportionately hefty fines to meet budget shortfalls.

In the first eight months, China's 31 provincial-level regions reported a gap between general public revenue and expenditure totalling 6.74 trillion yuan (\$948 billion). That's the widest for the period since at least 2012, Reuters calculations



from local government data in the past decade showed, with the populous provinces of Sichuan, Henan, Hunan and Guangdong suffering the largest shortfalls.

In the same period, government land sales, counted separately, tumbled 28.5% year-on-year to 3.37 trillion yuan, adding urgency to the need to restore the financial health

BLEEDING RUPEE

RBI's ₹ defence plan may not be right one

India's foreign exchange reserves have fallen to \$532.9 billion from a peak of \$642.5 billion last year

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 17: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forex intervention through forward dollar sales instead of an on-spot basis may undermine its effort to boost the rupee, analysts said.

Since last week, the central bank has been intervening in the over-the-counter forward market that lifted the rupee from record lows of 82.6825 to the dollar.

The central bank has been selling dollars in spot and conducting buy/sell swaps to shift the delivery of dollars to a future date.

A buy/sell swap involves an agreement to buy dollars at the spot date and to sell dollars at a future predetermined rate. The difference between the sell rate and the buy rate is the forward premium. The buy/sell swaps by the RBI have prompted forward premiums on the rupee to plunge. For instance, the 1-year USD/INR implied yield or the cost of carry has dropped to a 11-year low of 2.45% from an intraday high of over 3.07% October 10.

The fall in forward premiums reduces the cost of carrying or holding dollar positions and leads to higher demand for dollar from importers.

For the same level of spot, it is now cheaper for importers to buy dollars for a later date.

"RBI reducing cost of carry while



wanting to defend the rupee seems counterintuitive," said Abhishek Goenka, founder and CEO of forex advisory firm IFA Global.

As to reasons the RBI may be selling dollars forward and not on spot basis, Goenka said that the central bank does not want its spot dollar sales to impact banking system liquidity, which is perilously close to getting into deficit.

Another reason could be that RBI would be concerned "about the optics of falling forex reserves making headlines every week", Goenka said.

Last month, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das referred to the divergent views on the exchange rate and the adequacy of India's forex reserves, saying, the RBI does not have any fixed exchange rate in mind and intervenes to curb excessive volatility.

Meanwhile, the fall in premiums also dissuades exporters to sell dollar forward.

"A lower forward premium makes it easier to short rupee and disincentivises hedging from exporters," said Anindya Banerjee, head research - FX and interest rates at Kotak Securities.

7th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair a big success: Sujeet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The 7th Bhubaneswar International Trade Fair - 2022, Eastern India's Largest Fair is being held at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar from October 7 and will conclude October 18.

Sujeet Gupta Managing Director of Gupta Events Management (GEM), the organisers of the event, said that everyday around 15,000-20,000 footfalls is reported in the trade fair. The trade fair which was organised for the first time in 2015 with an aim to avail the opportunity to sell different types of products at one place had done the business of more than Rs 100 crore in the 11 days of the fair.

Gupta said in the trade fair people of Bhubaneswar gets the chance to see, check and buy all lifestyle and important products of high quality made by national and international skilled artisans at one place.

Gupta said earlier people from the City used to get the items of international standard little late compared to big cities but with this trade fair they get the chance to avail those items at same time and that too with discount and benefits. He said that the main USP of this expo is that we satisfy all types of customers as well as sellers from seven countries and 20 states which participated in this fair. We are planning to organise this trade fair in



We plan to organise 8th edition of trade fair in February next year

SUJEET GUPTA | MD, GEM

February next year and we will increase the number of countries also, Gupta added. This year the countries that participated are Dubai, Thailand, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

The trade fair this year also organised a real estate fair expo for the first time in which many well-known builders participated. In the evening various cultural programmes and fashion shows were organised. The trade fair was held from 2 pm to 10 pm.



Release of economic indicators delayed

China will delay the release of economic indicators originally scheduled for publication this week, including the country's third-quarter gross domestic product due Tuesday, according to an updated calendar on the statistics bureau's website. The data for third-quarter GDP - originally scheduled for release Tuesday - had been highly anticipated after the world's second-largest economy grew just 0.4% in the second quarter from a year earlier.

said Jennifer A Wong, analyst at Moody's, which expects 2022 economic growth to slow to 3.5% from 8.1% in 2021.

In the past, shortfalls were largely offset by transfer payments from the central government and carryover funds from previous years, but analysts say cooling economic growth may limit any such help this time around.

Policymakers will also be wary of picking up the fiscal slack with large-scale monetary stimulus as a wave of global interest rate hikes to rein in red-hot inflation has sent US bond yields soaring, widening the yield gap between US and Chinese debt.

Around 380 billion yuan of on-shore local government financing vehicle bonds from economically weaker provinces are due for repayment in the next 12 months, according to a Moody's report in August.

INDIAN GM BECOMES YOUNGEST PLAYER TO BEAT WORLD'S TOP STAR BREAKING COMPATRIOT PRAGGNANANDHAA'S RECORD



GUKESH stuns world champion CARLSEN

Chennai, Oct 17: Teenager Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh upset Magnus Carlsen in the ninth round of the preliminary phase of the Aimchess Rapid online chess tournament and in the process became the youngest player to beat the world champion.

The 16-year old from Chennai beat the World No.1 with white pieces early Monday to move up to third position behind Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda (25 points) and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan, 23) with 21 points after the 12th round.

Gukesh's 29-move dismantling of the World Champion comes a day after his 19-year old compatriot Arjun Erigaisi had posted a maiden win over Carlsen.

mentous win: "Beating Magnus is always special, but I was not very proud of that game."

Gukesh suffered a setback in round 10 when he lost to Duda but bounced back superbly to beat Mamedyarov and Eric Hansen in the next two rounds.

Erigaisi has as many points (21) as Gukesh and is in fourth as the race for the spot in the knockout phase gets closer.

The 19-year old Erigaisi began the third day of the preliminaries with a loss to Mamedyarov before scoring over Hansen and talented German Vincent Keymer. However, a defeat at the hands of fellow Indian

GM Aditya Mittal in the 12th round spoiled what would have been a good day.

Gukesh continued what has been a superb year so far for the young Indian players as he became the third one to put it across Carlsen after Praggnanandhaa and Erigaisi, who did so at last month's Julius Baer Generation Cup online event.

Even as Gukesh and Erigaisi underlined their talent and scored wins, the other Indians - Vidit Santhosh Gujrathi, Aditya Mittal and P Harikrishna - failed to impress.

World Champion Carlsen is in fifth spot after having a quiet day. After losing to Gukesh, he drew against Harikrishna and world rapid champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov and ended with a win over Daniel Naroditsky.

I think the result shows that Gukesh is a very strong player who can compete well against whoever is sitting on the other side of the board

VISWANATHAN ANAND

AGENCIES

"Gukesh just became the youngest player to ever beat Magnus after he became WC! Hats off to the 16-year-old Indian superstar," Meltwater Champions Chess Tour of which the Aimchess Rapid event is a part of, said on its Twitter feed.

Gukesh is 16 years four months 20 days while the previous record before his win was R Praggnanandhaa's 39-move victory over Carlsen in the Airthings Masters in February this year. Praggnanandhaa was 16 years six months and 10 days old when he defeated the World No.1.

The Indian on his part, was quoted as saying after the mo-

Sizzling Shami show scripts Indian success

FAST BOWLER COMES TO THE PARTY AFTER LONG COVID-19 LAY-OFF

AGENCIES

Brisbane, Oct 17: Mohammad Shami (3/4) put the concerns over his fitness to rest with a sensational 20th over as India pulled off a six-run win over Australia in their first warm-up fixture of the T20 World Cup here Monday. KL Rahul (57, 33b, 6x4, 3x6) and Suryakumar Yadav (50, 33b, 6x4, 1x6) smashed entertaining half centuries to power India to 186 for seven after Australia opted to bowl at the Gabba.

Needing 16 runs off the last 12 balls with six wickets in hand, Australia were on course for a comfortable win before Shami, Harshal Patel and Virat Kohli the fielder scripted a turnaround for India.

Shami, who last played a competitive game in July and landed here after suffering a long bout of Covid-19, turned up to bowl the last over of the game and made a decisive impact. He was on the money with his yorkers and ended up with three wickets in the over besides a run out. Shami was drafted into the squad as a replacement for the injured Jasprit Bumrah.

In the penultimate over, under-fire Harshal Patel delivered after being hammered early on, as he conceded only five runs in an over that also included a brilliant run out off a Kohli direct hit. The star India batter had also picked a stunning one-handed catch out of thin air at the boundary line to dismiss Pat Cummins.

However, concerns over India's bowling remain ahead of their tournament opener October 23 against Pakistan.

"There is room for improvement, but I want more consistency from the bowlers. You need to keep things simple and hit the



TERRIFIC SPELL: Mohammed Shami (left) walks off the Gabba after ensuring victory for the Men in Blue

deck hard. Overall a good game for us, they had a decent partnership and that put us under pressure," said skipper Rohit Sharma.

Rohit was also all praise for Shami. "He is coming back after a long time, so we wanted to give him an over. Wanted to give him a challenge and let him bowl the final over, and you saw what he did," Rohit said.

Earlier, the Indian batters enjoyed the pace and bounce of the wicket, especially Rahul who scored the bulk of the runs in the power play, taking his team to 69 for no loss. However, Rohit (15) and Virat Kohli (19) looked a bit patchy in their knocks.

Barring Hardik Pandya (2), who was outdone by a slower ball

from Kane Richardson (4/30), all the Indian batters got to spend some valuable time in the middle. The bigger boundaries in Australia are already making an impact with Kohli, Dinesh Karthik (20), Rohit and Rahul getting caught in the deep.

When the Australians batted, skipper Aaron Finch (76, 54b, 7x4, 3x6) and Mitchell Marsh (34, 18b, 4x4, 2x6) threatened to take the game away from India. However, Shami pulled off a heist in the last over.

BRIEF SCORES
India 186 for 7 (KL Rahul 57, Suryakumar Yadav 50, Kane Richardson 4/30) beat Australia 180 in 20 overs (Aaron Finch 76, Mohammed Shami 3/4) by 6 runs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Historical feat

Bangalore: Jyothi Yarraji created history Monday by becoming the first Indian woman to clock a legal sub-13 second time in the 100m hurdles while smashing her own record at the National Open Athletics Championships here.

The 23-year-old Yarraji, representing Railways, cruised to victory in 12.82 seconds and, with the wind gauge reading 0.9m/s, she could not be denied her national record timing a second time.

New boxing guru

New Delhi: Irish boxing legend Bernard Dunne, who has produced Olympic and world champions, was Monday named the High Performance Director for Indian boxing. The 42-year-old, who has won the WBA World Championship (2009) and the European Championship (2007), will take over the position which was left vacant after Santiago Nieva's departure. "India have huge boxing talent and their boxers have been performing exceedingly well," said Dunn. "It will be a great opportunity for me to work with them and contribute to their success," he added.

Title for Swiatek

San Diego: Top-ranked Iga Swiatek overcame a challenge from qualifier Donna Vekic to win the San Diego Open tennis tournament title with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 victory here Sunday. Swiatek earned her tour-leading 64th victory of the season heading into the WTA Finals that begin Friday in Fort Worth, Texas. "I've worked hard with my coach and my psychologist to keep focused on those moments that make it easier to close the match," Swiatek said. "I just wanted to be proactive in making my shots," she added.

U-20 colts lose

Kuwait City: India succumbed to their second consecutive defeat at the AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers, going down to Australia 1-4 at the Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium here Monday. Skipper Gurkirat Singh scored the lone goal for India while Garng Koul, Adrian Segecic and Max Caputo registered their names on the scoresheet for Australia. India's Bikash Yumnam scored an own goal.

INDIAN CRICKET'S APEX BODY STILL UNDECIDED ON ICC CHAIRMANSHIP

BCCI SET FOR BINNY ERA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 17: The issue of ICC chairmanship will be up for discussion when the BCCI holds its AGM here Tuesday, where former India cricketer Roger Binny will replace Sourav Ganguly as the new board president. The election of the next set of office-bearers will be a mere formality as all are set to be elected unopposed. However, the member will deliberate if BCCI should field a candidate for the ICC chair or support incumbent Greg Barclay for a second term.

The last date for filing the nominations for the ICC top job is October 20. The ICC board will meet November 11-13 in Melbourne.

The much-debated exit of Ganguly from the BCCI has already garnered attention not just in sporting but in political arena too and it will be interesting to see if the former skipper is considered for the top job. The other names doing the rounds include Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and former BCCI president N Srinivasan.

Srinivasan is eligible to contest but it remains to be seen if BCCI wants him to throw his hat in the ring, considering his age. He is 78.



ered for the top job. The other names doing the rounds include Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and former BCCI president N Srinivasan.

Srinivasan is eligible to contest but it remains to be seen if BCCI wants him to throw his hat in the ring, considering his age. He is 78.

Thakur is expected to be busy during the ICC board meet as Himachal Pradesh is going to polls in a single phase November 12.

The other BCCI office-bearers, who will be elected unanimously include secretary Jay Shah, Ashish Shelar (treasurer), Rajeev Shukla (vice-president) and Devajit Saikia

MAIN OFFICE-BEARERS

Jay Shah	: Secretary
Ashish Shelar	: Treasurer
Rajiv Shukla	: Vice-President
Devajit Saikia	: Joint Secretary

(joint secretary). Outgoing treasurer Arun Dhumal will be the new IPL chairman.

"It is almost certain that Jay will be India's representative at ICC board meeting. But members need to decide if we want someone to become the ICC chairman or let Greg Barclay of New Zealand complete his second and final term," a senior BCCI official said Monday on conditions of anonymity.

As per the agenda of the 91st AGM, there will be induction of two representatives of Indian Cricketers' Association on the BCCI Apex Council to replace Anshuman Gaikwad and Shantha Rangaswamy.

More than 1L students to watch Women's U-17 WC

Special seating arrangements for kids at all the 3 stadia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: More than one lakh school students are expected to watch the ongoing FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup with a section of each of the three stadia hosting the matches being reserved for them, FIFA said Monday.

The initiative was undertaken jointly by the tournament's local organising committee and FIFA at the three venues here and in Margao and Navi Mumbai. The tournament began October 11 and will end October 30.

"The presence of a special set of fans seen consistently cheering from the stands - young boys and girls - has been facilitated by a special community engagement initiative undertaken jointly by the tournament's local organising committee and FIFA," world football's governing body said in a release Monday.

"Thousands of young children across the three venues have enjoyed some world-class football action, and many more will get a

chance to do the same in the coming days," it added.

FIFA director of tournaments Jaime Yarza said, "The matches where the kids are dancing, celebrating, and laughing created the 'pictures of the day' for me."

The joy of watching the tournament take-off is even sweeter for him because of the uncertainty that surrounded its fate due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It was a hard time for a lot of people, especially for those who were here for the FIFA U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017," said Yarza. "Having experienced the passion that we did back then, it was hard to be unsure if it (the 2022 tournament) could happen in India. So, now seeing the games being played, it's a real pleasure for all of us," he added.

A section of each stadium has been reserved for the school kids. Around 3,000 of them watched the first match at the Kalinga Stadium here while in Navi Mumbai, 5,000-6000 were in attendance. The number is going to go up during the final, officials informed.

Eves bow out without whimper

INDIA FAIL TO SCORE A SINGLE GOAL IN U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: India ended their FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup campaign with an all-loss record and without scoring a single goal as they suffered a 0-5 defeat to formidable Brazil in their last group match at the Kalinga stadium here Monday. India, in the process also conceded 16 goals having lost to the USA 0-8 and Morocco 0-3.

Brazil and USA, who beat Morocco 4-0 in the other simultaneous Group A match in Margao, qualified for the quarterfinals with seven points each - two wins and a draw. Brazil and USA had played out a 1-1 draw October 14.

Aline (40th and 51st minute), who was a constant threat to the Indian defence with her pace and guile and substitute Lara (86th and 90+3) scored a brace each after Gebi Berchon had given the South American champions a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute.

The Indian defence did well to shock the relentless attack from



Brazilian players and support staff celebrate after a goal against India at the Kalinga Stadium, Monday

the Brazilians who had six shots on target in the first session as against one of India. The South American champions had 70 per cent possession in the first half.

After her attempt went just a few inches wide off the target in the ninth minute, Berchon made amends as finished clinically connecting a fine cross from the right by Ana Flavia who dodged past India captain and left-back Astam Oraon.

Striker Neha had a golden chance to score for India in the 30th minute

with only the opposition goalie to beat. However, she took the shot feebly and the ball was collected easily by the Brazilian goalie. India goalkeeper Keisham Melody made a couple of fine saves, but in the 40th minute she was beaten with Aline hitting the target. The second half was also completely dominated by the visitors.

In another match played earlier in the day, Nigeria beat Chile 2-1 to book a last eight spot in the tournament.

SAMEER WINS SILVER AT SHOOTING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Oct 17: Sonipat's Sameer won a silver medal in the junior men's 25m rapid fire pistol event in the ISSF World Championship here Monday. He got 23 hits in the medal match, finishing behind Wang Shiwen of China, who won gold with 25. Liu Yangpan won bronze in a match which pitted three Chinese against one Indian.

Sameer had shot 573 in qualification to finish fourth and then had 10 hits to Yangpan's 12 in the ranking round to make it to the medal round.

Meanwhile, teammate Udhayveer Sidhu also made it to the ranking matches but finished fourth to be eliminated. He was seventh in qualification with a score of 569.

The women's air pistol team reached the gold medal match scheduled for Tuesday. Esha Singh, Shikha Narwal and Varsha Singh topped their first qualification stage with a score of 855 and then came second to China's Wang Siyu, Zhao Nan and Shen Yiyao with a score of 576 in stage two, to make the title round.



School students at the Kalinga Stadium during India-Brazil match, Monday