



DAREDEVILRY: Indian Air Force's aerobatic team Sarang performs during Defence Expo 2022, at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad, Tuesday
PTI PHOTO

HC seeks SJTA's reply on Ratnabhandar unlocking

The court was hearing a plea seeking judicial intervention in temple treasury issue

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 18: The Orissa High Court Tuesday directed the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to submit a report on how long the Ratnabhandar of Srimandir in Puri has not been opened and why.

Hearing a writ petition on the re-opening of the Ratnabhandar (temple treasury), the HC directed the SJTA to submit its report in an affidavit within four weeks.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar refused to entertain at least three writ petitions in this connection during the day but accepted the one by Abhisek Das of Puri, who sought judicial intervention for taking stock of the



valuables in the treasury of the 12th century shrine.

The court has fixed January 5, 2023, for the next hearing, the petitioner's counsel Alok Mohapatra said.

Demands for opening the Ratnabhandar and making an in-

ventory of the items stored in it are being made across the state by all sections of people for the past several years. Attempts to open the Ratnabhandar had failed in 2018 as the key to the inner chamber was reportedly missing.

It was 1978 when the Ratnabhandar was opened for the purpose of inventory of the valuables. No inventory has since been made so far

The temple treasury was last opened in 1985 to use some gold for the repair of Lord Balabhadra's ornaments

Quoting the 1978 inventory, then Law Minister Pratap Jena had in April 2018 told the Assembly that at least 139 kg gold jewellery, precious stones & 258 kg silver utensils are in the treasury

Continued on P4

Cyclone likely around Oct 24

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday said that a tropical cyclone is likely to form over west-central Bay of Bengal (BoB) around October 23 or 24, 2022.

The regional centre of the IMD here said that the cyclonic circulation formed over south Andaman Sea and neighbourhood Monday now lay over north Andaman Sea and neighbourhood. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over southeast and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours, it said.

"It is likely to move west-northwards and concentrate into a depression over central Bay of Bengal by October 22 morning. It

The state government has put coastal districts on alert in view of possible cyclone 'Sitrang'

The government has cancelled leaves of its employees from October 23 to 25

is very likely to intensify further into a cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal," the weatherman said, adding that under its influence, isolated places in Odisha may witness rainfall till October 23 morning.

Speaking to reporters, IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the prevailing weather system is likely to take the shape of a cyclone around October 23 or 24.

However, he said, "We've not predicted the intensity and possible area of landfall of the impending cyclone as it is yet to take the shape of a low pressure area." The IMD has been closely monitoring the system, he added.

Continued on P4

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Nobody can point a finger on their conduct. They got an early release for their behaviour

7 DEAD AS CHOPPER CRASHES IN U'KHAND

Rudraprayag (U'khand): A helicopter ferrying pilgrims from Kedarnath temple to Guptkashi here crashed into a hill due to poor visibility Tuesday, killing all six pilgrims and the pilot on the spot. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force, disaster response forces of Uttarakhand and Delhi, and police brought the bodies to the Kedarnath helipad. The Rudraprayag disaster management office identified the victims as Poorva Ramanuj (26), Kriti Brar (30) and Urvi Brar (25) from Gujarat, and Sujata (56), Prem Kumar and Kala (60) from Tamil Nadu. Pilot Anil Singh (57) hailed from Maharashtra, it said.

P7

Stars send out signal before they die

Massive stars send out something of an early warning signal when they are about to explode into a supernova and die, according to scientists.

When a star reaches the last stage of its life, it will suddenly go about a hundred times fainter than usual. That condition will last for a few months and then the star will die out, they said.

The dimming effect happens when material suddenly accumulates around the dying star, blocking out the light, they pointed out.

Reporting in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society,



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF BETELGEUSE'S SUPRENOVA

a collaboration of researchers from Liverpool John Moores University in the UK and the University of Montpellier in France, have used archival telescope data to better constrain the

Just as they reach the final few months of their lives, massive stars (those between eight and 20 times the mass of the sun) suddenly go about a hundred times fainter than usual

This faintness is the result of the accumulation of a 'cocoon' of material around the dying star

timeline leading up to the star's demise, resulting in an early supernova warning system.

Just as they reach the final few months of their lives, massive stars (those between eight and 20 times

the mass of the sun) suddenly dim in visible wavelengths. This dramatic faintness is the result of the accumulation of a 'cocoon' around the red supergiant star.

"The dense material almost completely obscures the star, making it 100 times fainter in the visible part of the spectrum," said Benjamin Davies an astrophysicist at the Liverpool John Moores University and lead author of the paper.

"This means that the day before the star explodes you likely wouldn't be able to see it was there," added Davies.

Continued on P4

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leisure



CAMILA CABELLO DELETED DATING APP AFTER 24 HRS

Havana singer Camila Cabello says she deleted a dating app after just 24 hours because one message made her question people's intentions. Cabello, who split from ex Shawn Mendes in November 2021, gave online dating a try but she decided to scrap the idea because of the above reason.

GWYNETH PALTROW FEELS INSPIRED BY TURNING 50

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow has been 50 for less than a month, but she's already loving this new decade. "It's fantastic," Paltrow said. "I feel really inspired by turning 50. I used to care so much what people thought of me. (Now) I don't care. It's so nice," she added.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today will be an industrious day. The stars foretell that you may visit a historical place, or perhaps a museum. However, Ganesh says, you may need to pay a little attention to your health. If such is the case, it would be better to take the evening off for yourself.

TAURUS
You have a very pleasant day ahead. Though you are, by nature, restless and excited you will be very steady and focused in whatever you do today. So says Ganesh. Later you will desire to enjoy the company of your friends and will call them over to chat and gossip with them.

GEMINI
Today, you will have the required intentions and courage to propose your sweetheart. You will be dressed to kill, or rather to marry. You will make a favourable impression with the way you'll look tonight. You will be an open book to your future partner, which is likely to work in your favour.

CANCER
You can improve your finances with your mental capabilities. Ganesh says that you will get success in both private life and career. You will be entrusted many tasks and responsibilities. Yet by evening, you will spend time in your pursuits.

LEO
You may have arguments with your family members today. You need to adopt an accommodating attitude today, since it is not a very promising day for you. Otherwise nothing may go in your favour. You will have to work harder than usual in the office, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Family matters will matter today. They hold more weight in your thoughts than everything else, says Ganesh. Business will be good today. Spend the evening relaxing and chilling out.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a day where you will spend happy moments with your family members. You will feel happy and will get to spend some romantic time with your beloved. Your innermost feeling will be showcased in the internal thoughts of your life partner and both of you will be in tandem with each other today.

SCORPIO
You nearly emerge as a superhero today, as you have the knack of balancing home and work just perfectly. Intellectual discussions and brainstorming with peers would provide food for thought today. You may look forward to merry-making and soiree with family and friends in the evening.

SAGITTARIUS
The way you keep your interests alive will keep your mind occupied. Leisure activities and by-lines will by-pass the mundane routine today, foretells Ganesh. Pamper yourself by doing what you like, be it gardening, cooking or even plain old reading. Ganesh also sees a heavy meal with friends late in the day today.

CAPRICORN
You will feel little lost in the maze of problems and tricky situations. You will, however, find a way out, feels Ganesh. You like to be in a commanding position at work where you guide others and call the shots. But, it has a flip side, too.

AQUARIUS
You will be able to strike a balance between the emotional and rational side of your personality. You will find pleasure in your work and may successfully mix your personal life into your professional life. Financially, there are no major issues, but negligible matters may keep your mind occupied, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
You will be inspired to travel to a far off place or to a foreign land because of a very warm invitation. Some old friend or relative residing in a foreign land will get in touch and please you today.

Ananya is a full outfit repeater

New Delhi: Actress Ananya Panday vouches for conscious consumption of fashion and admits being a full outfit repeater.

The young diva, who was recently spotted at the Lakme Fashion Week x FDCL, talks more about her fashion and beauty secrets.

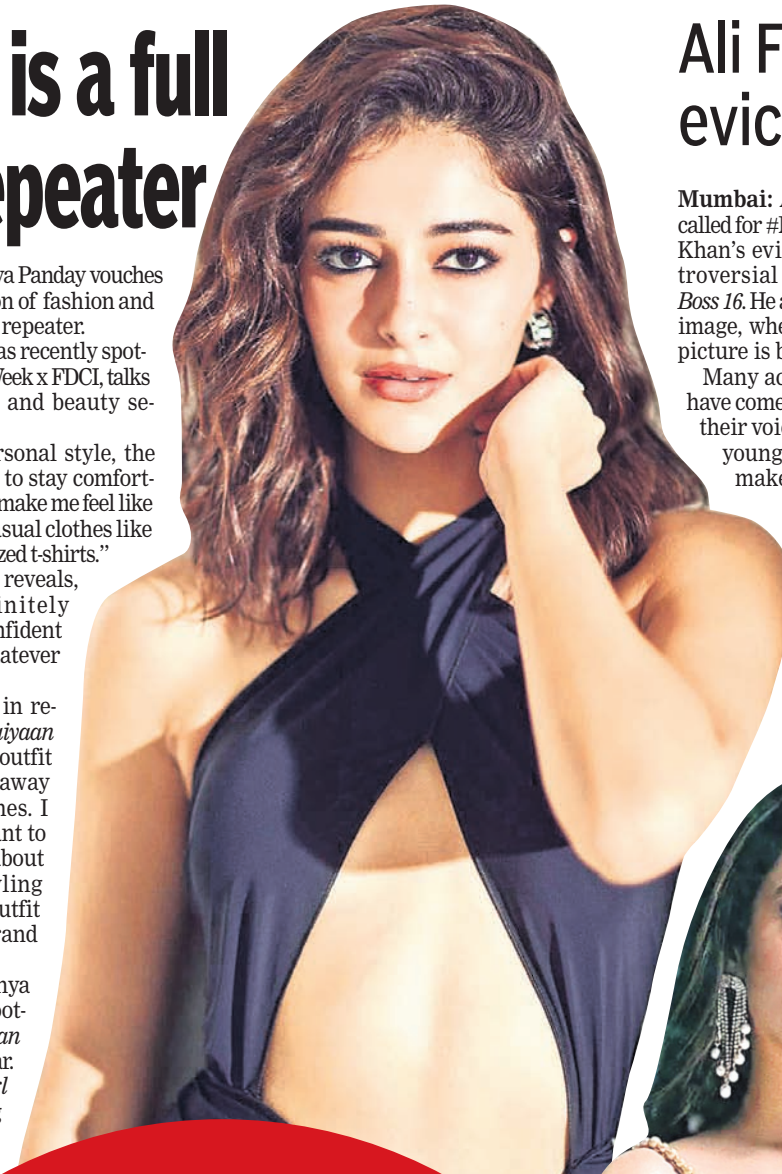
Talking about her personal style, the *Liger* actress says, "I like to stay comfortable and wear clothes that make me feel like myself. I enjoy wearing casual clothes like shorts, graphic tees, oversized t-shirts."

On her style icon she reveals, "My style icon is definitely Zendaya, she is just so confident and looks gorgeous in whatever she wears!"

Asked if she believes in repeating an outfit, the *Gehraiyaan* actress says, "I am a full outfit repeater, and don't shy away from repeating my clothes. I believe it is very important to make conscious choices about buying clothes, also styling and accessorizing your outfit in a way that it looks brand new."

On the work front, Ananya has just wrapped the shooting for *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan* which will release next year. She also has *Dream Girl* and three very exciting movies in her kitty.

IAN S



Ali Fazal demands Sajid's eviction from BB-16

Mumbai: Actor Ali Fazal has called for #MeToo accused Sajid Khan's eviction from the controversial reality show *Bigg Boss 16*. He also shared a graphic image, where the filmmaker's picture is being set on fire.

Many actresses and models have come forward and raised their voice against Sajid, the younger brother of filmmaker Farah Khan, for exploiting his position of power.

Sajid has been accused of sexual assault which includes flashing his private parts at parties, asking female actors to send him their nude pictures as part of the casting process and watching porn in front of women.

Ali took to his Instagram story where he shared an image of Sajid's picture being lit on fire by a person with #MeToo written on the wrist.

He captioned his post: "Evict Sajid Khan from Bigg Boss now."

Ali is not the first person who wants Sajid to be ousted from the show. Previously, Sherlyn Chopra and Sonam Mohapatra had voiced their opinion on Sajid's participation in the show.



Nora's Dhaka show called off

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi is known for her swift moves and entertaining acts on the big screen. The actress often performs at packed shows and was scheduled to be a part of an event in Dhaka this week, but the same has been called off.

The actress was to make an appearance at a women entrepreneur awards ceremony, but the Ministry of Culture of Bangladesh cancelled the same to maintain the balance of foreign exchange reserves in the country. In its notice, the Ministry of Culture reportedly stated that in view of Bangladesh Bank's memorandum to maintain the foreign currency reserves in the country, Nora cannot be allowed to perform at the event which was hosted by Women Leadership Corporation.

Nora Fatehi has also been hitting headlines for her alleged connection to the 200 crore money laundering case involving Sukesh Chandrasekhar. The actress has been questioned several times by Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing and Nora has maintained that she is a victim in this case.

AGENCIES



'Pan-India stardom ended with Big B, SRK'

Mumbai: After making a mark in regional cinema, actress Tamannaah Bhatia established herself in the Hindi film industry as well. Her *Baahubali* certainly broke the barriers and became one of the most popular pan-India films. And, today, the actress enjoys pan-India stardom. However, she believes that there is no concept of "big stars" as it has ended with Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan.

During her conversation with a web portal, the Entertainment actress was asked out of Rashmika Mandanna, Dulquer Salmaan, Samantha Prabhu, Vijay Deverakonda and all the young South stars who are venturing into Hindi films, who have the capability to be the next Hindi superstar. Though she did not pick

any of the names from the list, she gave an interesting twist to her answer.

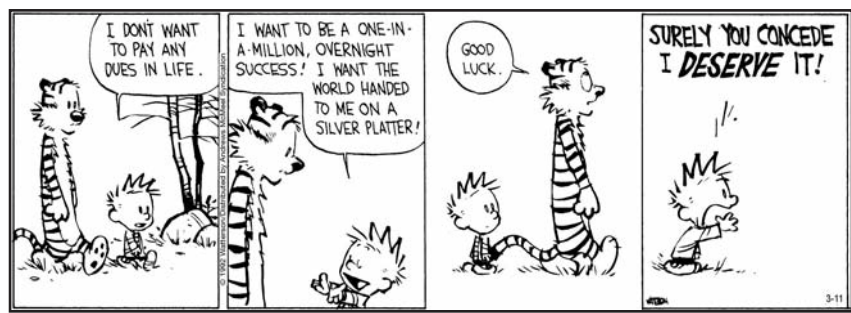
In her response, the *Himmatwala* actress asserted, "I think the idea of stardom has changed. I don't think there is this concept of the biggest star. It ends with Shah Rukh Khan and Mr (Amitabh) Bachchan, if I may say so." As the game progressed further, the portal questioned who her favourite pan-India superstar is. On this, Tamannaah commented, "It's a very fragile term. Unfortunately, this pan-India thing is a new phenomenon, a new fad." AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

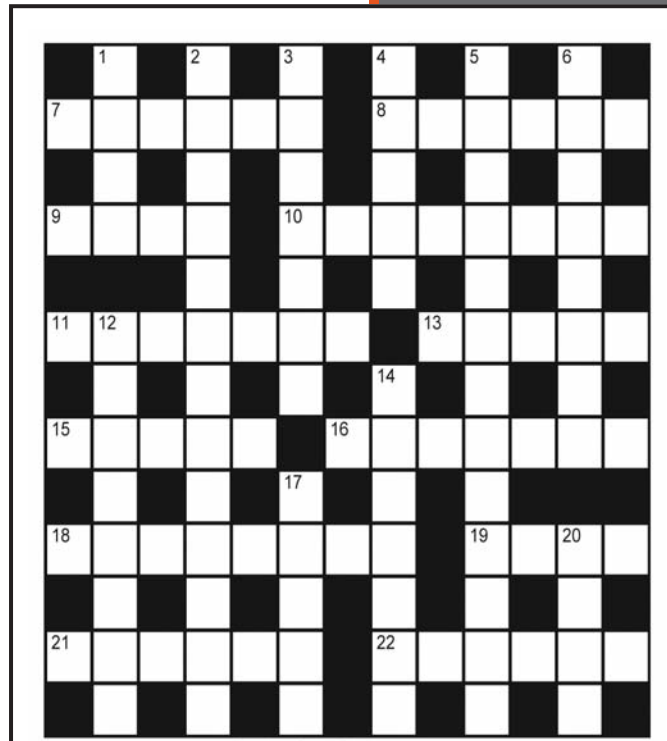


BREVITY



FUN post

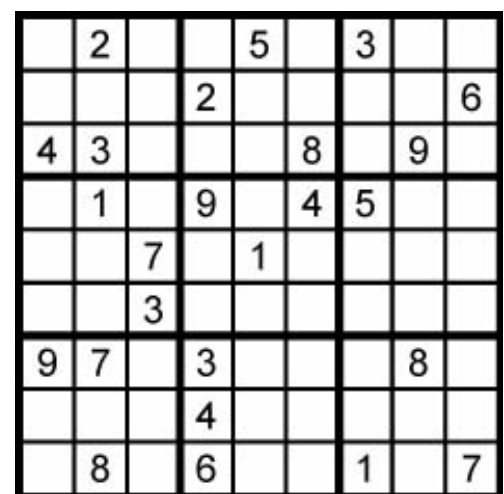
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
7 Ebb
8 Not straight
9 Cordon bleu
10 Drink
11 One of the Balearic Islands
13 Euripides drama
15 Seawall
- 16 Double-dealer
18 Congenial
19 Pottery oven
21 Cling to
22 Tristan's love
- Down**
1 Interlock
2 Like some RVs (4-9)
3 Carelessness
4 Latin dance
5 Win big (3,3,7)
6 Outmoded
12 Tonsils' pals
14 Legendary Arabian bird
17 "The Wild Duck" playwright
20 Female aristocrat

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

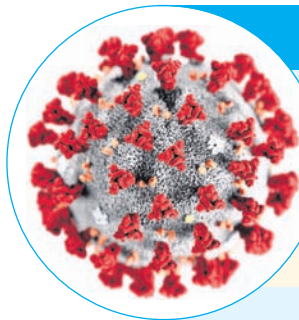


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ENVELOPE RELEASE

Culture Minister Aswini Patra along with dignitaries during the release of a special envelope on freedom fighter Sarangadhar Das at Lok Seva Bhawan, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

Table with 4 columns: Region, Infected, Recovered, Dead. Rows: World, India, Odisha.

EOW nabs ponzi firm MD for ₹2.62cr fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch has arrested the managing director of a chit fund company from Kolkata for his alleged involvement in a cheating case of Rs 2.62 crore in Odisha, an official said here Tuesday.



THE ACCUSED WAS IDENTIFIED AS JAYDEEP RAHA, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF JETEX OCEANAIR PVT LTD

THE ARREST WAS MADE IN A CASE REGISTERED ON THE REPORT OF ONE SUBASH CHANDRA PRADHAN OF BHANAPUR UNDER BALANGA POLICE STATION OF PURI DISTRICT

bers, illegally collected Rs 2.62 crore from 1,968 investors of Odisha during the period 2010 and 2014, under the allurements of repaying

with high rate of interest. Subsequently, they closed their offices without paying the interest as well as the principal amount

and fled away from the locality, the official said.

During investigation, the police found that out of the above collected amount, during the year 2011-12, a sum of about Rs 1.83 crore has been diverted to the account of Jetex Oceanair Pvt. Ltd., whose MD is the present accused Jaydeep Raha.

After being apprehended, he could not give any satisfactory reply in respect of receipt of such a huge amount, they said.

Three cases have also been registered against the chit fund company in West Bengal.

Earlier, MD Omkar Singh and other directors Kunal Tiwary, Arshad Hussain and Mringanka Sekhar Chakrabarty of the chit fund company OAK India Multistate Credit Co-operative Society, have been arrested in the case.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Lokayukta urges SC for early hearing of Panigrahy case

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Odisha Lokayukta Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that the filing of the final report in a corruption case against MLA Pradeep Panigrahy has been held up due to the pendency of the case in the top court.



Requesting for early hearing of the case, senior advocate Ravindra Shrivastava, appearing for the Lokayukta, submitted

before the bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and CT Ravikumar that filing of the final report in a special court has been held up as the matter is sub judice in the apex court.

The case was listed before the bench Tuesday. However, it could not be taken up for hearing by the SC due to shortage of time. Shrivastava pleaded the court to list the matter for early hearing.

The apex court, though, said that there is no urgency and posted the matter for hearing post Diwali vacations.

Earlier, the Lokayukta had told the apex court that "huge" incriminating material was established during the preliminary enquiry against Panigrahy in corruption case.

Rebel candidate adds colour to hustings



DHAMNAGAR BYELECTION

While the leaders of the three political parties have already occupied all hotels and guest houses in the district headquarters town of Bhadrak, which is barely 10 km away from rural pockets of Dhamnagar, Das has none from outside to campaign for him

Das, who was allotted the symbol of a floating boat and boatman, is nevertheless optimistic that he will win the poll fight with the blessings of the local people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The campaign for the November 3 Dhamnagar Assembly bypoll has been formally launched and the presence of the BJD rebel candidate Rajendra Kumar Das in the fray as an independent candidate has added colour to the hustings.

Das, a former MLA of the area who was denied a BJD ticket at the last moment, poses a serious threat to BJD's official candidate Abanti Das. The other two parties who have fielded candidates are the opposition BJP and the Congress.

While the leaders of the three political parties have already occupied all hotels and guest houses in the district headquarters town of Bhadrak, which is barely 10 km away from rural pockets of Dhamnagar, Das has none from outside to campaign for him. Das, who was allotted the symbol of a floating boat and boatman, is nevertheless optimistic that he will win the poll fight with the blessings of the local people.

Interestingly, the BJD, BJP and Congress have announced names of prominent leaders including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, and Union and state ministers. Das' list has people from the Dhamnagar constituency.

The list of campaigners submitted by him to the Election Commission are fa-

ther-mother, chacha-chachi, poor daily wage earners, farmers, brothers and sisters and the general public, sources in the election office said.

"I do not need any campaigning by others. The people of Dhamnagar, who are the voters, will campaign for me. No ministers come here to cast vote here," Das said. He had lost the Assembly election by a margin of 4,625 votes to Bishnu Charan Sethi of BJP in 2019 polls. Sethi's death September 19 necessitated the bypoll in Dhamnagar.

Though there was tremendous pressure on him from the BJD to withdraw the nomination, Das remained adamant about contesting the seat. His entry in the poll scenario is the cause of a major headache for the ruling BJD candidate Abanti Das. She became the chairperson of Tihidi block in the district with the help and support of Rajendra.

The campaign for the bypoll was launched Monday evening and Abanti Das embarked on it by offering puja at Kali temple in Bhadrak in the company of party MLAs and supporters. The Congress candidate Baba Harekrushna Sethi began canvassing from Asurali in Dhamnagar, while the BJP nominee Suryabanshi Suraj, son of BC Sethi began by door-to-door campaigning.

The saffron party expects Suraj, who was the first to file his nomination, to win

by virtue of sympathy votes. "The contest will be mainly between BJP and Rajendra Das. The BJD will slip to the third position," State BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan told reporters.

Congress MP Saptagiri Ulaka on the other hand said that there is every possibility of the party candidate winning as the BJD votes are now divided due to its rebel candidate. On the other hand, the people of Dhamnagar will give a "befitting reply" to BJP for Modi government's failure to check the rise in the prices of essential items, Ulaka said.

BJD leader Amar Prasad Satpathy, however, claimed that Rajendra's candidature will hardly affect the regional party's electoral prospects. "He (Rajendra Das) may get a few votes while BJD is set to win a landslide victory," he said.

Odisha Chief Electoral Officer S K Lohani said six candidates had filed their nominations for the byelection. The nomination of one candidate was cancelled during scrutiny, he added.

The day after the last date of withdrawal of nomination papers Monday, five candidates now remained in the fray. They are: Rajendra Kumar Das (Independent), Abanti Das (BJD), Suryabanshi Suraj (BJP), Baba Harekrushna Sethi (Congress) and Pabitra Mohan Das (Independent).

Ambassadors admire arrangements at WSC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: India's ambassador to Spain Dinesh K Patnaik and Guatemala Manoj K Mohapatra Tuesday visited the World Skill Centre (WSC) in Bhubaneswar and admired the arrangements and facilities over there. They also acknowledged that Odisha is becoming hub of skill development ecosystem.

Both the ambassadors reviewed different skills training being imparted at the centre. They were informed that two new courses - Beauty Wellness & Spa and Hair Fashion & Design have been introduced in 2022-23 session.

In November last year, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had inaugurated the WSC, a premier advanced skill training institute. It was established under Odisha Skill Development Project assisted by Asian Development Bank with ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore as knowledge partner. Set up with an expenditure of Rs 1,342.2 crore, WSC is running long-term manufacturing and services programmes for the best ITI and poly-technic students of the state.

Earlier, both the ambassadors had visited the handloom clusters at Birabarapur, Abhimanpur and Manibandha in Badamba block of Cuttack district.

Both the diplomats met and interacted with artisans including national awardee Arjun Pal and appreciated the new designs. They also visited the Maa Kalapata PG and Manibandha Hastatanta PG to have a glimpse of the beautiful and exquisite designs of women entrepreneurs who acquired the skill through a training programme organised by Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) in association with Tata Trust.

Patnaik and Mohapatra appreciated the efforts of the women weavers and motivated them to further diversify their products and introduce the locally made products on the global platform.

AIIMS doc held for cheating woman

The accused identified as Jaydeep Das Gupta, 33, is a resident of Haridevpur area in South 24 Pargana in West Bengal



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a doctor at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar for allegedly betraying a woman after keeping sexual relationship with her on the pretext of marriage.

The accused identified as Jaydeep Das Gupta, 33, is a resident of Haridevpur area in South 24 Pargana in West Bengal. Jaydeep was working at the Cardiology

department of the AIIMS here.

Police said the victim had taken her ailing father to the Cardiology department where she met Jaydeep December 17, 2020. The accused forcefully took the contact number of the victim by threatening to not let her father go home.

Later, he kept sending messages to the lady and soon both entered into a relationship in January 2021. The accused also deceitfully kept sexual relations with

the complainant on the promise of marrying her.

Meanwhile, the victim got pregnant but had to abort the child after two months due to immense pressure from Jaydeep. Recently, the lady received a shock when she learnt that Jaydeep was engaged with another girl and is soon going to tie the nuptial knot.

The dejected victim was assaulted by the accused when she went to his hostel room at AIIMS Housing Complex to confront him over the betrayal.

Finding no other option, the victim finally lodged a complaint with the Mahila police Monday. Based on the complaint, police registered a case (136/22) and arrested Jaydeep Tuesday. The accused was later produced before the court that sent him to judicial custody.

Advertisement for Boyanika sarees. Features the brand name 'boyanika Since 1956', a 'Happy Diwali' logo, and a 'Special Govt. Rebate 10% + 20%' offer. The offer is available until 24.10.2022. The ad is from the Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Dept., Govt. of Odisha.

Bank of India E-Auction Sale Notice. The notice is for the realization of debts due to the Bank. It lists two properties for auction: 1) SAHID NAGAR BRANCH, PH.:0674-2540728 / Borrower: M/s. Paprika Corporation, Prop.: Mr. Deepak Kumar Gouda, S/o: Sri Krishna Chandra Gouda / Guarantor: Mrs. Sanghamitra Gouda, W/o: Sri Deepak Kumar Gouda, All are at Flat No.: 402, 403, Kamala Villa, Plot No.: 123 and 123/1539, Bhagabanpur, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar / Total Dues: ₹1,65,78,603/- as on 18.02.2016 + interest, costs and expenses from 19.02.2016, less any part amount repaid. Reserve Price: ₹ 37,59,000/- at 11.00 A.M. to 11.30 A.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each. 2) All that part and parcel of Flat No.: 403, 4th Floor at the apartment named and styled as "Kamala Villa" with super built up Area: 1348sqft. along with two car parking space (on the still floor) together with proportionate undivided share of Land measuring Area: Ac.0.014.99dec out of Ac.0.200dec. over Plot No.: 123 & 123/1539, Khata No.: 679/34, KISSAM: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Bhagabanpur, P.S. No.: 9, Patrapada, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, standing in the name of Mr. Deepak Kumar Gouda, Flat is Bounded by North: Flat No.: 403, Lift and Corridor, South: Open to air (Building end), East: Flat No.: 401, West: Open to air (Building end), Landed property is Bounded by North: Road, South: Road, East: Rev. Plot No.: 124, West: Rev. Plot No.: 122. Reserve Price: ₹ 43,32,000/- at 11.30 A.M. to 12.00 Noon with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each. Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 07.11.2022 upto 4.00 P.M. Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day is before 07.11.2022 with prior appointment of the authorised officer. The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (3) www.bankofindia.co.in. Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 19.10.2022 Authorised Officer, Bank of India

MoU inked for weavers, artisans' capacity building



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Oct 18: Indian Institute of Management, Sambalpur (Odisha) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) Tuesday to strengthen the small business/ micro enterprise ecosystem of various weaving and craft clusters across the state and the country.

Several strategic interventions will be undertaken under the partnership focused on strengthening the supply-chains, helping clusters become self-sustainable and developing a culture of entrepreneurship.

The MoU was signed by Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, and Subhansu Acharya, CGM SIDBI in the presence of dignitaries which included Monisha Banerjee, DM & Collector, Bargarh, Ananya Das, DM & Collector, Sambalpur and Akash Mishra, Director, Government Affairs, East

IIM-Sambalpur and SIDBI will work on developing solutions for small businesses to help them grow & compete with the increasingly aggressive markets

Region Flipkart Group. Surendra Meher and Ramkrishna Meher, the master weavers from the Bargarh/Sambalpur handloom clusters also graced the occasion. The event also marked the announcement of IIM's partnership with Flipkart to facilitate access of the weavers to digital e-commerce platforms. Subhansu Acharya, CGM, SIDBI explained about SIDBI's approach towards development of clusters. He mentioned the need for enhancing competitiveness of clusters by identifying and address-

ing the Business Development Service needs of such clusters. He emphasised on increasing the share of non local sales from Bargarh handloom cluster from current 25-30 per cent to about 50 per cent by focusing on contemporary design, packaging and leveraging strengths of online platforms. He suggested that IIM Sambalpur may work for promoting local economy and can even consider setting up of a design and craft incubator. He said that MoU shall endeavor to build the capacity of the cluster in its perceived deficiencies like product costing, invoicing, GST, design and market connect.

Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, highlighted the importance of the MoU with SIDBI and the impact it aims to achieve by building capacities of the weavers operating at the bottom of the pyramid to access formal markets. IIM and SIDBI will work on developing solutions for small businesses to help them grow, thrive & compete with the increasingly competitive markets.

Ananya Das, DM and Collector, Sambalpur while endorsing CGM's craft incubation centre idea assured support from the administration for the initiative. Monisha Banerjee, DM & Collector, Bargarh lauded the much needed initiative and urged the partners to ensure that the benefits of these partnership reach the last weaver possible and are sustained over the long term.



ON WAR PATH: Hundreds of farmers, who had gathered outside Bhubaneswar Tuesday for taking out a march to the Assembly over several demands, including pension, were stopped from entering the City by the police

Drive against traffic rule violation begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The State Transport Authority (STA) Tuesday began a special drive against violation of traffic rules as per the direction of a Supreme Court committee on road safety.

In a letter to all regional transport officers, transport commissioner informed that a special drive against violation of traffic rules is to be conducted from October 18 to October 21, 2022 (from 9am to 2pm)

and (from 3pm to 6pm).

The focus of the drive will be on helmetless riding, using mobile phone while riding/driving, driving without fastening seat belt and driving with excess speed.

The drive will be conducted on National Highways and State Highways preferably at the frequent accident spots/black spots. Additional RTO, assistant Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI), junior MVI, traffic inspector, traffic sub-inspector will be responsible for conducting the drive. The RTO concerned is to chalk out a detailed plan for conducting the drive.

The RTO can request the Superintendent of Police of the respective districts for police assistance, if required, and also may conduct joint enforcement with the police.

The vehicles will be seized if a biker is found without driving licence. The driving licences of the helmetless riders will be disqualified for three months.

Brown sugar worth over ₹1cr seized in Balasore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Brown sugar weighing 1.6 kg valued at over Rs 1 crore in the international market was seized in Odisha's Balasore district, police said Tuesday.

On the basis of an intelligence input, a team of special task force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch conducted a raid near Balasore railway station Monday and seized the narcotic drugs from the possession of two drug peddlers, the police said. The arrested persons are identified as Sk Raju and Amzad Khan, both residents of Balasore district. The police also seized a motorcycle used by the accused. The accused persons were forwarded to the court of district and sessions judge. The STF has registered a case under sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, the police said.

Since 2020, the task force has seized more than 60 kg of brown sugar/heroin, 202 gram of cocaine, 111 quintal ganja, 750 gram opium and has arrested 162 drug peddlers.

CONTINUED FROM P1

Cyclone likely...

The weatherman has advised fishermen not to venture into deep sea of west-central adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal from October 22 morning till further notice.

Holding a high-level meeting on the possible cyclone, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) in-charge Satyabrata Sahu asked the district Collectors to stay alert.

"The state government has cancelled the leaves of its employees from October 23 to 25 in view of the forecast. It has also put Coastal districts on alert," said Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) executive director Gyana Das. If the cyclone forms, it will be named 'Sitrang', a name given by Thailand.

SC pays homage to late justice Mohapatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court in a full court reference Tuesday paid homage to late Justice Deba Priya Mohapatra along with Justice GT Nanavati and S Ranganathan. While remembering Justice Deba Priya Mohapatra, Chief Justice UU Lalit said that Justice Mohapatra always took a liberal approach while interpreting the law. The CJ also said that when he was practicing he got the opportunity to appear before all three judges. Significantly, former Supreme Court judge Deba Priya Mohapatra breathed his last August 31 at a private hospital in Cuttack. Justice Mohapatra served as a Judge of Orissa High Court from November 18, 1983 to February 15, 1996.

CBI court grants bail to prime accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The special CBI court here Tuesday granted bail to Saroj Kumar Das, the chief mechanical engineer of Paradip Port Authority and prime accused in Rs 25 lakh Paradip Port Trust (PPT) bribery case. The court rejected the objections raised by the CBI lawyer who argued that Das might influence witnesses in the case after getting released on bail.

"In the meantime, after completion of the investigation, charge sheet has been submitted. Thus, in view of the nature of offence col-

lected during investigation, vis-à-vis the petitioner being a government servant, there is less possibility to flee from justice and tampering with evidence, this court inclines to allow the bail petition of the accused-petitioner Saroj Kumar Das," the court noted.

Das has also been directed to furnish bail bond of Rs1 lakh with one surety for the bail. Das, along with three others, was arrested by the CBI sleuths August 5, 2022. The CBI alleged that Das hatched a conspiracy along with other co-

PPT BRIBERY CASE

accused persons and demanded Rs.60 lakhs from M/s.OSL towards repairing of a conveyer belt. CBI alleged that the PPT incurred huge financial losses due to the illegal deal by the accused persons. Subsequently, Das's close associate, Sumant Rout alias Bana reportedly collected Rs.25 lakhs from M/s.OSL and from out of that amount a sum of Rs.15 lakhs was paid to a builder, Sisir Kumar Das, on behalf of the prime accused. Earlier, Charchit Mishra, son of noted businessman Mahima Mishra

and the director of Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) has also been granted bail in the above bribery case. "The chargesheet clearly exposed various shortcomings in CBI probe that leveled completely new charges against my client after it failed any evidence to support the allegations mentioned in the FIR. The M/s.OSL was actually charged more than the cost PPT incurred for the repair of the damaged conveyer belt. Now, they alleged that he actually demanded the bribe to extend the license of M/s OSL," alleged Rajat Kumar panda, Das's advocate.



CLEAN AND GREEN BALIYATRA: A public awareness programme was organised by the district administration at the Baliyatra ground for an eco-friendly festival in Cuttack, Tuesday

37 new SIs to strengthen BMC's sanitation drive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Now each ward of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will have a designated Sanitary Inspector (SI) with the joining of 37 new SIs Tuesday. These field level inspectors are trained in All India Institute of Local Self Government to fulfil sanitation related services and educate citizens on new approaches of sanitation.

Speaking at an orientation programme organised for the Sanitary Inspectors, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das said, "It will further strengthen the pace of BMC's sanitation drive as the added resource will be de-

ployed soon to respond to field level requirements. Their involvement and proactive participation will provide solution to the citizens. The workforce will be in touch with communities, corporators and other field officials for ensuring cleanliness of their respective wards."

BMC Commissioner Vijaya Amruta Kulange termed the SIs as field guide who are available to the public. They are to prepare ward level requirements and furnish their wards as per new initiatives of sanitation.

The SIs in each ward will be the sole coordinators to complement the activities required under new initiatives.

| MARKET WATCH | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| INDEX | | VARATION |
| SENSEX | 58960.60 | ▲ 549.62 |
| NIFTY | 17487.00 | ▲ 175.20 |
| DOLLAR | 82.44 | ▲ ₹0.02 |
| EURO | 81.08 | ▲ ₹0.67 |
| GOLD | ₹50,390 | ▲ ₹83 |
| SILVER | ₹56,292 | ▲ ₹15 |

| WEATHER | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------|
| | BHUB | CTK |
| TEMP | | |
| MAX | 33.0°C | 33.8°C |
| MIN | 23.2°C | 24.0°C |
| Humidity | 83% | 78% |
| Rainfall | 0.0mm | 0.0mm |
| Forecast | Light rain likely | |

A soaring US dollar is causing pain worldwide

The cost of living in Cairo has soared so much that to save money security guard Mustafa Gamal had to send his wife and year-old daughter to live with his parents in a village 70 miles south of the Egyptian capital.

Gamal, 28, stayed behind, working two jobs, sharing an apartment with other young people and eliminating meat from his diet. "The prices of everything have been doubled," he said. "There was no alternative."

Around the world, people are sharing Gamal's pain and frustration. An auto parts dealer in Nairobi, a seller of baby clothes in Istanbul and a wine importer in Manchester, England have the same complaint: A surging US dollar



key currencies. The reasons for the dollar's rise are no mystery. To combat soaring US inflation, the Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark short-term interest rate five times this year, and is signaling more hikes are likely. That has led to higher rates on a

wide range of US government and corporate bonds, luring investors and driving up the US currency. Most other currencies are much weaker by comparison, especially in poor countries. The Indian rupee has dropped nearly 10 per cent this year against the dollar; the Egyptian pound 20 per cent, the Turkish lira an astounding 28 per cent.

The dollar is up 18 per cent this year and last month hit a 20-year high, according to the benchmark ICE US Dollar Index

The Indian rupee has dropped nearly 10 per cent this year against the dollar, the Egyptian pound 20 per cent, the Turkish lira an astounding 28 per cent

The soaring dollar in 2022 is adding to global inflationary pressures at a time when prices were already soaring

rich countries aren't immune. In Europe, which was already teetering toward recession amid soaring energy prices, one euro is worth less than a \$1 for the first time in 20 years, and the British pound has plunged 18 per cent from a year ago. The pound recently flirted with dollar parity after Britain's new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, announced huge tax cuts that roiled

financial markets and led to the ouster of her Treasury secretary. Ordinarily, countries could get some benefit from falling currencies because it makes their products cheaper and more competitive overseas. But at the moment, any gain from higher exports is muted because economic growth is sputtering almost everywhere. A rising dollar is causing pain overseas in a number of ways: It makes other countries' imports more expensive, adding to existing inflationary pressures. It squeezes companies, consumers and governments that borrowed in dollars. That's because more local currency is needed to convert into dollars when making loan payments.

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-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Locals fume as stone mafia plunder Chandia hill



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhole, Oct 18: Illegal excavation of Chandia hill near the world famous Buddhist shrine Udayagiri under Darpan tehsil in Jajpur district has created resentment among the locals. They have alleged that excavation is being carried out for smuggling of precious stones.

The world famous Buddhist shrines of Udayagiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri are known as the 'Diamond Triangle' in the tourism map of the world. The place is a favourite destination for tourists, both from India and abroad.

The Odisha government had announced in a gazette notification last year the decision to dig up the hill under the ABADHA scheme. The Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) was assigned the responsibility to do the job. However, the OMC is yet to start work.

Locals alleged that the delay on part of the OMC has only emboldened the stone mafia to plunder the hill with impunity. They informed that the ancient Buddhist



artifacts hidden underneath the Udayagiri shrine are being dug up.

The Chandia hill lying close to Udayagiri is a store house of precious stones. The stones are used to build different types of idols and their prices range from ₹5,000 to ₹1,00,000 in the domestic and international markets. Due to availability of such precious stones, miscreants are now digging up the hill and smuggling is rampant, locals said and added that police and the tehsil officials are playing the role of mute spectators. Neither are they taking any action against the stone mafia, nor are they taking preventive measures to curb smuggling, locals alleged.

Balichandrapur police had earlier seized two tractors during excavation of the hill. However, police failed to contain the stone smuggling from the hill

Due to its close proximity to Udayagiri, environmentalists and Buddhist researchers have warned that the Chandia hill should not be dug up as many ancient artifacts might be hidden under it.

A month back, Balichandrapur police seized two tractors during excavation of the hill. However, it failed to deter the smugglers as they continue to be active due to lack of any systematic crackdown by the tehsil and police officials.

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) during the 'World Heritage Week' celebration at Udayagiri in 2007 had announced that the hills surrounding the Buddhist shrine will not be excavated and will be turned into a green cover. This will help the 'Diamond Triangle' find a place in the World Heritage Site list.

The announcement has not turned into a reality still. Due to illegal excavation, UNESCO has also failed to conduct a survey for placing the site in its heritage list. Locals have demanded immediate and stringent action against the illegal excavators.

When contacted, Darpan tehsildar Subhadarshan Mishra said that he is new to the place and is not aware of the illegal excavation of the hill. He however, assured of action within a hour or two if the charges are found to be true.



MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES: Tribals performing a traditional dance during a demonstration by tribal language teachers in the District Collectorate in Sambalpur, Tuesday

New facilities for tourists in Similipal

Five nature camps set up at Jenabali, Jamuani, Muktapur, Barehipani and Ramatirtha where visitors can also avail of night halts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 18: Similipal National Park (SNP) will reopen for tourists from November 1 and a formal notification to this effect will be out October 20. A special website on Similipal tourism will also be launched October 25.

The park authorities have implemented some eco-friendly steps this year. The tourists will be served food in plates and cups made from sal leaves. In addition, the tourists will sip tea in earthen cups. Online booking has started for entry of



tourists, accommodation and conveyance facilities inside the park. "A special website on Similipal will be launched October 25," said director of Similipal Tiger Reserve, T Ashok Kumar here Tuesday. The authorities have put in place tribal cottages, tree-top houses and bamboo houses for cozy accommodation of the tourists. Thus, they will feel at home with nature in such facilities while enjoying a variety of tasty food items, it was said.

There are two entry points to the sanctuary - one through the Kaliani over 2,750 square kilometres, is a treasure house of nature with dense forests, hills, streams, lakes and vibrant flora and fauna. The Forest department has implemented a host of measures to ensure tourists will have a memorable visit to the park. The scenic spots in the Similipal Tiger Reserve that attract scores of visitors every year include Chahala, Barehipani, Joranda, Naana, Gududia and Jamuani.

check post from Jashipur side and the other through Pithabata from the Baripada side.

Special guards have been deployed for safety of the tourists. Five nature camps have been set up at Jenabali, Jamuani, Muktapur, Barehipani and Ramatirtha where tourist can avail night halts. Fifty nine tribal cottages in five buffer zones are also available. Advance booking for accommodation and food can be done through the website 'similipal.org'

Although two points have been opened to facilitate smooth entry of tourists, certain limitations have been imposed which include the number of vehicles entering the STR every day and the timing of entry and exit. All tourists are required to leave Joranda and Barehipani waterfalls by 3.00pm and all other places by 4.00pm.

Deo river threatens 2 Mayurbhanj villages

LAND EROSION TAKING PLACE AT ALARMING PACE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuamara, Oct 18: The rate at which the Deo river has been eroding its banks, two riparian villages in Gopabandhanagar of Mayurbhanj district will soon cease to exist. Locals have expressed apprehension as the river is eating up land at a menacing speed.

The villages of Hatasahi and Mathasahi are on the banks of Deo river. Locals pointed out that with every passing year the river is coming closer to the two villages. However, the Water Resources department is not doing anything to strengthen the embankments and prevent erosion, they added.

"Since the 1999 Super Cyclone, erosion of banks due to Deo river has been increasing at a rapid pace. Since the last 22 years, people of the two villages that have a population of more than 500 each are living in constant panic. The river has gobbled up acres of land. If nothing is done now to check erosion, the river will also destroy the two villages," locals pointed out.

The river bank was about 700 me-



tres away from the two villages even a couple of years back. Now its distance with the two villages has decreased to less than 500m.

Residents of the two villages informed that during the monsoons, the river plays havoc in the riparian region, destroying farmlands and houses. During the 1999 'Super Cyclone', 'Phailin' and 'Hudhud', large tracts of farmlands had been rendered useless after being covered by huge quantities of sand.

The villagers added that keeping the current situation in mind, the river bank should be strengthened with stones and boulders to prevent erosion. It is the only way to save the two villages, they added.

Angry woman kills self over mobile phone gift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 18: A woman died by suicide by consuming poison over purchase of a mobile phone by her husband at MPV-14 village in this district, Tuesday. The deceased woman was identified as Jyoti Mandal, wife of Kanai Mandal. Kanai also collapsed on seeing his wife consume poison and is at present critical. Family members rushed them to the Malkangiri district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced the woman dead. Kanai is currently undergoing treatment.

Sources said that the two were married a year back and led a happy-go-lucky life. Kanai's wife wanted a mobile, but he did not have the money to buy it. However, he managed to buy a phone on loan and gifted it to his wife. He however, did not disclose to his wife that he had purchased the phone on loan. He also cleared all the loan installments on time.

However, the situation turned tragic due to Kanai's ill-luck. An official of the finance firm visited Kanai's house to give him a clearance certificate and also to obtain his signature on another form. As luck would have been Kanai was not home at that time.

Jyoti however, was unaware that Kanai has taken a loan to gift her a mobile. The concealing of this fact angered her. When Kanai returned home, Jyoti picked up a quarrel with her. In a fit of rage she consumed poison leading to her death.

MAN ELECTROCUTED

Kendrapara: A 30-year-old man was electrocuted and at least a dozen people were injured during an idol immersion ceremony of Goddess Gajalaxmi in Kendrapara district, police said Tuesday. Biswajit Lenka died on the spot when the iron frame he was holding came in contact with high-voltage live wire at Marshaghai, police informed.

Diarrhoea breaks out in Papadahandi again

Papadahandi: After a brief hiatus, diarrhoea has broken out again in Papadahandi area of Nabarangpur district. In the last four days, eight people have been hit by the water-borne disease at Majhiguda panchayat. However, the exact reason for the spread of the disease is not yet known. Notably, diarrhoea had broken out at Tulasipadar in August and at Sorispadar last week. Reports said, three people - Saiba Jani, Masmu Jani and Sukir Jani - of Khadapadar panchayat were hit by the disease Tuesday. They were admitted to a local hospital. Earlier Sunday, two people identified as Hirabati Jani and Deshi Jani were admitted to the district headquarters hospital.

Govt eyes Rusimal hill for boost in tourism

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Oct 18: The Odisha government is banking on the tourism sector to increase its revenue. As a part of this plan, it has drawn up a roadmap to develop Rusimal hill, a scenic place in Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district, into a tourist spot. The picture-postcard place, concealed amid lush green forests and hills, is still inaccessible to people. For many years, locals have been demanding the development of infrastructure in and around Rusimal hill.

The place is important as the Rushikulya river originates from this hill and meanders through Sorada block in Ganjam district. Over the years, the place has gained



in religious importance. People and devotees from various parts of Odisha and outside the state come to this place during the Baruni Yatra festival and take a holy dip in the Rushikulya river. They negotiate hilly tracks to offer prayers at this hallowed place. They also believe that sadhus reside inside the dense forests.

Some weeks back, Daringbadi BDO had undertaken an arduous journey through hilly terrains from Tamangi village under Tajungi panchayat. He reached Rusimal hill after negotiating difficult tracks for approximately five kilometres.

Sources said that the district tourism department in a letter to the BDO had urged him to collect information about Rusimal hill. Accordingly he had taken the trip to explore the area.

Official sources said, the Odisha government is planning to accord 'tourist spot' status to this religiously important place by taking up various development works. The government feels many more tourists will visit the place if the infrastructure is improved.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of **Mr. Gouranga Chandra Biswal** issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. 2222054 has been found missing and/or lost on 24.09.2022. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager, Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Bhubaneswar.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. 2222054.

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

Date: Sd./
Place: Balasore For ICICI Bank, Limited

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BHUBAN
e-Mail: bhubann.hud@nic.in Date: 17.10.22

Letter No.2786

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PREPARATION OF STORM WATER DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN & DPR OF BHUBAN NAC

No.C-1406:NAC Bhuban proposes to undertake Preparation of storm water drainage master plan & DPR for NAC Bhuban area. Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from engineering consultants/Consulting registered architectural firms that have requisite experience in preparation of drainage/Pipeline/Sewerage network plan.

Details of the bid document can be obtained from the office of NAC Bhuban by paying the Bid processing fees Rs. 10, 000 (Rupees Ten thousand) only non refundable during office hour on or before Dt: 25.10.22.

The completed applications, as per instructions in the EOJ document should reach the following address by hand/registered post / speed post/ Courier latest by 3 PM on Dt: 27.10.22.

NAC Bhuban reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Bhuban NAC
OIPR-13096/11/0005/2223

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL PURUSHOTTAMPUR, (GM.) Pin-761018
Email: purushottampurnac@gmail.com Ph No. 06811-295222

Letter No.2547/NAC Dated 18.10.2022

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.C-1398:Sealed quotations are invited in enclosed format from the intending registered suppliers/manufacturers/Agencies/ or any other supplying firms for the supply and Installation of Surveillance systems for the different locations of this NAC area.

| SCHEDULE OF EVENTS | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Publication of Tender: | 19-10-2022 |
| 2. Last date for receipt of Bids: | 27-10-2022 (By 1.00 PM) |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 27-10-2022 (at 03.30 PM) |

The tender documents are available in Notified Area Council Office, Purushottampur and interested bidders can download the tender documents from the ULB website (<https://nacpurushottampur.in>) and submit the bids duly filled in along with the tender document fee of Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand) only with EMD of Rs. 8,000/- (Rupees Eight Thousand) only in the shape of Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque in favour of Executive Officer, Notified Area Council, Purushottampur payable at Purushottampur. The tender documents are also available in the office of the NAC, Purushottampur on submission of tender paper cost of Rs. 1,000/-and receipt therein should be submitted with the bid documents. Conveying in any form shall be liable for disqualification by the undersigned. The last date for submission of tender papers within 27-10-2022 by 01.00 PM. No tenders will be received after the due date and time. The Executive Officer, NAC Purushottampur reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The bidders are to be submitted sealed tender papers separately for General Bid & Financial Bid (both in one sealed cover) by the due date & time only by dropped in the assigned tender box kept in this NAC Office, Purushottampur.

Sd./- Executive Officer, NAC, Purushottampur
OIPR-13187/11/0012/2223

NOTICE

This is to notify that I Ashok Kumar Rath, S/o Late Pitambar Rath, At- Bahalpada, P.O./P.S.-Bentakur, 42 Mouza, Cuttack, Pin- 754112. I have purchased land from Satyabhama Rout, W/o- Sunil Rout, At/P.O.- Paikarali, P.O.- Patkura, Dist.- Kendrapara, which was mutated from her deceased son Trailokyanath Routray, vide Sale deed No.5545 of dtd.1.11.2004, the said sale deed was handed over to me by Satyabhama Rout at the time of purchase which is lost somewhere and not found till date.

Ashok Kumar Rath

PAWRGID POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Approval under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations '1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2014 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations '2019 for Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for Transmission Asset-1: 02 nos of 220 kV bays at Alipurduar Substation and Approval under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations '1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations '2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from 31.03.2019/DOCO to 31-03-2024 for Transmission Asset-2: ±800kV 3000MW HVDC POLE-III and LILO of Bishwanath Charali - Agra HVDC line for parallel operation of the HVDC station at Alipurduar and Earth electrode station and Earth Electrode line at Alipurduar and Agra end and ±800kV 3000MW HVDC POLE-IV at Alipurduar and Agra. Asset-3: LILO of Bongaigaon - Biraguri (Siliguri) 400kV D/c line (quad), LILO of Birpara-Salakati 220kV D/c line, 315MVA/400/220kV ICT-1 & II and 125MVA/400kV Bus Reactor-1 & II along with associated bays at Alipurduar HVDC station and Asset-4: 400 kV D/C Alipurduar- Purnasanchung along with associated bays at Alipurduar substation under "Transmission system for development of pooling station in Northern part of West Bengal and transfer of power from Bhutan to NRWR".

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (1) AEGCB, (2) MIECL, (3) Government of Arunachal Pradesh, (4) Power and Electricity Department Government of Mizoram, (5) Manipur State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, (6) Department of Power Government of Nagaland, (7) TSECL, (8) HPPCL, (9) PSPCL (10) HPPC (11) JKSPDC (12) UPPCL (13) DTL (14) Chandigarh Administration (15) UJCL (16) AVNVL (17) Northern Central Railway (18) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (19) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (20) Tata Power Delhi Dist. Ltd. (21) New Delhi Municipal Council (22) MPPMCL (23) MSECL (24) GUVNL (25) ED Daman & Diu (26) ED Dadra & Nagar Haveli (27) CSPDCL (28) GPCL (29) TANGEDCO (30) APTRANSCO (31) KSEB (32) TNEB (33) Electricity Dept. of Goa (34) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (35) APEDCL (36) APSPDCL (37) TSSPDCL (38) TSNPDCL (39) BESCOM (40) GESCOC (41) HESCOM (42) MESCOM (43) CESCL (44) Ad Hydro PL (45) NEEPCO (46) Jodhpur VVNL (47) Jaipur VVNL (48) WBSECL (49) BSEB (50) WBSETCL (51) GRIDCO (52) DVC (53) Power Dept, Sikkim (54) JSEB (55) Punatsanchung HPA (56) NHPC (57) Tata Steel (58) NTPC (59) DB Power (60) Dhanuial Inf L (61) LBPL (62) Spectrum (63) MB Power (64) BALCO (65) JPL (66) KSK Mahanadi (67) PTC (68) IL&FS (70)APL (71) Torrent Power (72) HWB

3. Tariff details: a) True up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19 Rs. In lakhs

| Project | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Asset-1 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 13.09 | 180.44 |

b) Tariff for 2019-24 block Rs. In lakhs

| Project | DOCO | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | |
|---------|------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Asset-1 | 01.03.2018 | AFC | 140.50 | 145.71 | 144.85 | 165.88 | 186.45 |
| Asset-2 | 21.09.2017 | AFC | 55392.23 | 55605.82 | 55248.21 | 54841.52 | 54346.86 |
| Asset-3 | 21.09.2017 | AFC | 5933.46 | 5890.33 | 5788.01 | 5696.78 | 5604.86 |
| Asset-4 | 03.07.2019 | AFC | 4043.25 | 5389.22 | 5269.16 | 5151.62 | 5033.32 |

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandrakil Building, Janpath, New Delhi-110001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon Sd/
Date: 07.10.2022 Chief General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001
A Maharatna PSU

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

THE GREEN ENERGY RACE



With more governments embracing industrial policies to transform their economies, picking the right technologies to subsidise will become a key challenge. To navigate the minefield of entrenched interests, techno-hype, and political pressures, policymakers must embrace a mix of openness and caution

Competition, has already voiced concerns about a subsidy race. Beggar-thy-neighbour energy policies could ultimately hinder the global green transition, but “we’re nowhere near the global saturation point of needed investments,” as Brian Deese, Director of the National Economic Council, said in far-reaching remarks on the US industrial strategy.

An important early race to watch is the one between greener liquid fuels and all-electric options. Each has its advantages, but there are difficult questions concerning what constitutes an advantage, and for whom.

Liquid fuels might be easier to swap in using the existing infrastructure of pipelines, furnaces, and internal combustion engines. But physics favours electrification in the vast majority of cases, especially in buildings and transportation, which together constitute around 40 per cent of total emissions. Going all-electric with heat pumps and electric-vehicle (EV) engines is clearly the better long-term solution. It is around five times more efficient to heat and cool one’s home with electricity directly than it is to use that electricity to produce a liquid fuel, and EVs can go five times farther

than vehicles running on green liquid fuels – often called “e-fuels” or “electrofuels” – using the same energy.

Still, e-fuels might remain a promising option for industry, which accounts for around one-quarter of total emissions. Current manufacturing processes often require combustion to create high temperatures. Hydrogen burns at over 2,000° Celsius (3,600°F), making it potentially well-suited for cement, glass, or steel production. Those designing the leading low-carbon steel technologies are looking to hydrogen as the fuel of choice to replace coal.

But there also may be other solutions on the horizon, owing to competition among entrepreneurs to reinvent long-established industrial processes. The startup Chement has found a way to produce cement at room temperature, and Electra is making use of a process that produces steel at 60°C. True, it remains to be seen whether either company will revolutionise its industry. And their early successes do not necessarily mean that green liquid fuels will not or should not be part of the solution. But the potential for a shakeup in these sectors shows why governments should be wary

of supporting incumbent energy or industrial companies that lobby hard for subsidies for their favoured technology.

Things gets trickier when a startup claims that it can decarbonise the energy system simply by swapping green liquid fuels for dirty ones. The promise of a seamless technofix can be all too tantalising. As the founder of the “green gas” producer Tree Energy Solutions said recently, “We can go in the same ships, the same pipes, the same factories.” This kind of one-for-one swap might have significant early advantages, especially for industries that will still need to burn liquid fuels.

But there is also a danger of green moral hazard, whereby the mere promise of a simple technofix weakens the incentive to pursue a more comprehensive and ultimately superior transformation. It is one thing to rely on expensive e-fuels for rare, hard-to-abate industrial processes (or to show off that century-old antique car). But it is quite another thing to use them to heat homes and power daily commutes when technologically and economically preferable alternatives are available.

As so often, the Germans have the perfect neologism to capture the challenge at hand: *Technologieoffenheit*, which connotes both an openness to new technologies and a wariness of prematurely locking in inferior solutions. But openness must not mean wishing away basic physical realities. Amid this year’s energy crisis, vested interests with technologies that might otherwise lose out are pushing the point about openness while waving away the need for longer-term thinking.

The last thing we need is for new policy, regulatory, and investment decisions to lock in another highly inefficient technology for the long term. The most successful entrepreneurs are good at focusing on the main task at hand, rather than being distracted by each shiny new thing. Policymakers will need to do the same in determining which technologies to push, and which to drop.

The writer is a climate economist at Columbia Business School.
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The world is deafened with useless words.

THE MOTHER



The Ukraine Safari

I don’t usually write about cultural products from my own country, but I must make an exception for Slovenian filmmaker Miran Zupani’s new documentary *Sarajevo Safari*, which details one of the most bizarre and pathological episodes of the 1992-96 siege of the Bosnian capital.

It is well known that Serb snipers in the hills surrounding the city would arbitrarily shoot residents on the streets below, and that select Serb allies (mostly Russians) were invited to fire some shots of their own. Yet now we learn that this opportunity was provided not only as a gesture of appreciation but also as a kind of tourist activity for paying customers. Through “safari” organised by the Bosnian Serb Army, dozens of rich foreigners – mostly from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Italy, but also from Russia – paid top dollar for the chance to shoot at helpless civilians.

Consider the special form of subjectivity that such a safari would confer on the “hunter.” Though the victims were anonymous, this was no video game; the perverse thrill lay in the fact that it was real. And yet, by playing the “hunter,” these rich tourists, occupying a safe perch above the city, effectively excluded themselves from ordinary reality. For their targets, the stakes were life or death.

There is something perversely honest in this melding of reality and spectacle. After all, aren’t top politicians and corporate managers also engaged in a kind of safari? From their safe perch in the C-suite, executives often ruin many lives.

Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian president who now serves as deputy chairman of Russia’s Security Council, recently imputed a similar logic to Western political leaders. Dismissing warnings by the US and NATO about the consequences of a Russian tactical nuclear strike, Medvedev argued that:

“[T]he security of Washington, London, Brussels is much more important for the North Atlantic Alliance than the fate of a dying Ukraine that no one needs. The supply of modern weapons is just a business for Western countries. Overseas and European demagogues are not going to perish in a nuclear apocalypse. Therefore, they will swallow the use of any weapon in the current conflict.”

Medvedev has also said that the Kremlin will “do everything” to prevent “hostile neighbours” like “Nazi Ukraine” from acquiring or hosting nuclear weapons, as this supposedly would pose an existential threat to the Russian state. But since it is Russia that is threatening Ukraine’s existence as a state, Medvedev’s logic dictates that Ukraine, too, should have arms – and even nuclear weapons – to achieve military parity.

Recall Putin’s own words this past June: “... there is no in-between, no intermediate state: either a country is sovereign, or it is a colony, no matter what the colonies are called.” Since he obviously views Ukraine as a Russian colony, the West should not treat Ukraine as though it agreed with him. That means rejecting the idea that Western powers should bypass Ukraine and broker a settlement with Russia.

Unfortunately, many Western leftists have been playing directly into Putin’s hands on this issue. Consider Harlan Ullman of the Atlantic Council, who writes: “Clemenceau observed that ‘war is too important to be left to the generals.’ In this case, is Ukraine too important to be left to Zelensky? The US needs a strategy with an off-ramp to seek an end to the violence and the war.”

Leftists from Noam Chomsky to Jeffrey Sachs (not to mention the many Russia apologists on the right) have adopted similar positions. After first insisting that Ukraine cannot win a war against Russia, they now imply that it should not win, because that would leave Putin cornered and therefore dangerous.

But if we had followed the peaceniks’ advice and not sent arms to Ukraine, that country would now be fully occupied, its subjugation accompanied by far greater atrocities than those found in Bucha, Izium, and many other places.

A far better stance has been adopted by the German Greens, who advocate not only full support for Ukraine but also structural reforms to accelerate the transition away from oil and gas, which in turn will steer humanity away from catastrophic climate change. The rest of the Western left has been on safari, refusing an intervention that will not challenge its established way of life.

Peaceniks argue that Russia needs a victory or concession that will allow it to “save face.” But that logic cuts both ways. Following Medvedev and Putin’s nuclear threats, it is Ukraine and the West that can no longer compromise and still save face. Recall that Medvedev predicted that the West would refuse to respond militarily to a Russian nuclear strike because it is too cowardly and greedy to do so.

Here, we enter the domain of philosophy, because Putin and Medvedev’s words clearly echo Hegel’s master-slave dialectic. If two self-consciousnesses are engaged in a life-or-death struggle, there can be no winner, because one will die and the victor will no longer have another self-consciousness around who can recognise its own self-consciousness. The entire history of human culture rests on the original compromise by which someone becomes the servant that “averts its eyes” to prevent mutual assured destruction.

Medvedev and Putin presume that the decadent, hedonist West will avert its eyes. And that brings us back to the dynamic captured in *Sarajevo Safari*. Privileged elites feel as though they can intervene in the real world in strategic ways that entail no personal danger. But reality catches up with everyone eventually. When it does, we must not heed the advice of those concerned only with not provoking the beast in the valley.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School.
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WISDOM CORNER

- “The true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality.” **CHE GUEVARA**
- “There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.” **OSCAR WILDE**
- “Everybody has a creative potential and from the moment you can express this creative potential, you can start changing the world.” **PAULO COELHO**

WORDSWORTH

Carnage

Carnage derives from Latin *caro*, meaning flesh or meat, which was the source of the medieval Latin *carnaticum* for the slaughter of animals and for the meat that resulted. In particular it referred to the ration of flesh that tenants had to provide to their feudal lords. This word moved through Italian and French to appear in English as the figurative term carnage. It was introduced by Philemon Holland early in the seventeenth century, to evoke an image of the bloody butcher’s shop transferred to the hand-to-hand hack and slash of the battlefield. He employed it in translations of various Latin and Greek authors, but it was only taken up by other writers many years later. Some other words derived from *caro* are obvious enough, like *carnivore* for a meat-eating animal; *carrion* for the dead flesh of animals; and *charnel house*, a place in which dead bodies were placed. But would you put that attractive flower the carnation in the same group?



Gernot Wagner

ENERGY PLAYS AN ALL-IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR LIVES, AND ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY WILL REQUIRE AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING TRANSFORMATION OF THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY



Slavoj Žižek

Reality catches up with everyone eventually. When it does, we must not heed the advice of those concerned only with not provoking the beast in the valley

IN JEST THIS

Being polite doesn’t cost extra

If you happen to visit Chaii Stop, a café in Preston, England, you’d better be polite when you order your chai, or the price may shoot up.



Melvin Durai

A LOT OF PEOPLE JUST SAY, ‘MORNING!’ THEY MAY NOT BE WISHING YOU A ‘GOOD’ MORNING, BUT AT LEAST THEY’RE WISHING YOU A MORNING

As reported in the Manchester Evening News, the café’s owner, 29-year-old Usman Hussain, has put up a sign telling customers that “Desi Chai” will cost them £5, “Desi Chai please” will cost them £3, but “Hello, Desi Chai please” will cost them only £1.90. And who knows, you might not pay a single penny for “Hello, Desi Chai please, you handsome man behind the counter.”

Hussain is certainly doing his best to avoid charging the higher price. When a customer says, “Desi Chai,” Hussain points to the sign and the customer always switches the order to “Hello, Desi Chai please.”

“I think it’s a nice reminder to use your manners, because unfortunately sometimes we do need reminding,” Hussain told the Evening News.

Yes, we do need reminding. Being polite doesn’t cost anything, but many people just don’t bother. Some never learned good manners while they were growing up. Their parents let them get away with anything, their teachers were too busy teaching them science and math, and their friends found it funny when they threw stones at the neighbourhood dogs.

There are many ways to be polite, but here are five that I consider particularly important:

1. Greet people or at least acknowledge them. The greeting could take many forms, such as “Hi,” “Hello,” “Namaste,” or “Hey bruh!” Of course, an older man may not like to be addressed as “bruh” or even “bro.” And if he’s like me, he may not appreciate “gramps” either. Better to be safe and say, “Good Morning!”
2. Say “please” and “thank you.” When you’re asking for something, it’s polite to use the word “please.” And when someone does something for you, it’s polite to say, “Thank you.” For example, if you are taking a tough exam, you’d be wise to pray, “Please, God, let me get a good score.” And after you get the good score, you’d be wise to say, “Thank you, God, for letting me sit next to a smart student.”
3. Treat everyone with respect and dignity. Everyone deserves to be treated well, no matter their race,

least they’re wishing you a morning. Be polite and wish them a morning back.

When you pass people on the street, all you need to do is nod or smile in their direction, show them that you notice them. Of course, every situation is different and you need to exercise judgement. If you’re a young lady and you smile at the wrong man on the commuter train, he may get the wrong idea and think you want to have kids with him.

When you’re asking for something, it’s polite to use the word “please.” And when someone does something for you, it’s polite to say, “Thank you.” For example, if you are taking a tough exam, you’d be wise to pray, “Please, God, let me get a good score.” And after you get the good score, you’d be wise to say, “Thank you, God, for letting me sit next to a smart student.”

3. Treat everyone with respect and dignity. Everyone deserves to be treated well, no matter their race,

religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or job – even if their job is to play cricket for a team you don’t support. If you spot an opposing cricketer eating at a restaurant, don’t throw anything at him. Just find his car and throw eggs at it. Disrespect the car, but not the man.

4. Accept your mistakes and apologise when you make them. This is the best way to avoid conflicts. If you bump into someone in a public place, say “sorry” before they have a chance to get angry. If you bump into Mike Tyson, get on your knees and say, “Sorry, Mr. Tyson. Please don’t punch me. Love that tattoo on your face!”

5. Accept other peoples’ mistakes and don’t overreact. If someone cuts you off while you’re driving, don’t automatically show them the middle finger. They may have made an honest mistake. Give them the benefit of the doubt. Save your finger for someone who truly deserves it: the young chap who says, “Hey gramps!” to you.

Safe & sufficient water

Sir, A study co-authored by Michael Kremer who got the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2019 reveals that the efforts by the central government to provide drinking water to every rural household under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) could prevent the deaths of about 1.36 lakh children under the age of five in India every year. However, this will require that water delivered through JJM is free from microbiological contamination. India’s child mortality rate – the probability of a child dying between birth and exactly 5 years of age, expressed per one thousand live births – was 41.9, according to the National Family Health Survey-5. The aim of JJM is to improve the living standards of rural communities. But in India water resource is not treated as an economic resource that has monetary value and a price to pay for its consumption. People consume excessively in the belief that rain will replenish the water stock. It is a sorry state of affairs that on a per capita basis, water availability has been declining. A large queue at water tankers outside slums is a common visual in the cities. Can the government alone provide safe tap drinking water to every household by 2024 that it has committed? The government can’t manage the water crisis alone; it will take the combined efforts of civil society, the private sector and the public at large to meet the challenge.

Bhagaban Nayak, BERHAMPUR

Global recession looms

Sir, Now IMF has further lowered its global growth estimate for 2023. A UN report has shown that the fiscal policies of advanced economies raise the risk of global recession. The UN warns of damage being worse than the 2008 global financial crisis because large economies – the United States, China and the European Union have been slowing down drastically. What will be the impact on India? What are the major reasons for economic downturn? Firstly, COVID-19, secondly Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and finally climate catastrophes all around the world that contributed to slowdown. A recession is a significant, widespread, and prolonged downturn in economic activity. In simple terms – less jobs, less public spending and negative business outlook. In this situation, a bank in India writes off Rs 1.29 lakh crore bad loans, refusing to share the names of the defaulters.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

national

of the day quote

100 charging stations with 900 charging points and 103 swapping stations to be operational in 2 months. Under the EV policy, we had set a target of ensuring that 25 per cent of total vehicles purchased in Delhi by 2024 are EVs; we have already achieved 10 per cent in two years

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

From climate targets to COVID-19 vaccines, India has shown willingness to take the lead in any kind of crisis. And now, at a time when nations and societies are becoming inward-looking, India calls for more, not less, international cooperation. Global cooperation for local welfare – is our call

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

I have sought time (with central leaders) this week amidst the Jana Sankalpa Yatre (by BJP in the state), once I get the appointment, I will go this week itself

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

SHORT TAKES

PM to visit Tripura
Agartala: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Tripura on October 27, and this sudden one-day tour - according to the political pundits - is to rejuvenate the BJP, and also to tame the anti-incumbency factors ahead of the assembly election which is around four months away from now.

2 die of suffocation
Surat: Two sanitation workers died of suffocation while cleaning a sewer in the Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT) campus in Surat Tuesday. Another sanitation worker is in a critical condition and is being treated in Surat government hospital.

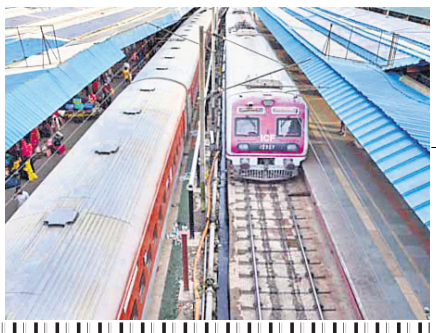
3 crushed to death
Gonda: Three school children were killed and one seriously injured Tuesday morning when they were run over by a speeding car near the Chauri intersection in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district. The injured child has been admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. According to a police spokesperson, the children were on their way to school when the incident took place.

6 killed in Gujarat
Vadodara: At least six people were killed and 13 others injured when a bus collided with a container truck on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai National Highway in Gujarat's Vadodara in the wee hours on Tuesday. The injured were rushed to Government hospital in the city.



FESTIVE NEED

The Railways Tuesday notified 32 additional special services for the festival season, for the convenience of rail travellers and to clear extra rush of passengers



TN panel indicts Sasikala over Jaya's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 18: A panel that probed the circumstances leading to former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's death in 2016 indicted V K Sasikala, the confidante of the late leader, and the Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday said it would initiate action after getting legal opinion.

The panel's report, that was tabled by the state government in the Assembly on Tuesday also indicted former Health Minister C Vijayabaskar, medical doctor K S Sivakumar (Sasikala's relative) and the then Health Secretary J Radhakrishnan and recommended a probe against all the four persons.

The Justice A Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry (CoI) said, they "have to be found fault with and investigation is to be ordered." Sasikala is indicted considering several aspects, it said. The government said that considering the CoI's disagreement on certain aspects vis-a-vis the AIIMS doctors committee's report, "it was decided to initiate appropriate action" against "certain individuals," after obtaining the opinion of legal experts. This is in view of the CoI's recommendations in its report.



The panel recommended investigation against the then State Chief Secretary Rama Mohana Rao and two medical doctors, though it did not specify if it found "fault" with them or not. It said the government may, "decide and investigate" the matter against the chairman of a corporate hospital, where she was treated.

The CoI's Terms of Reference (ToR) was to inquire into the circumstances leading to Jayalalithaa's hospitalisation on 22 September, 2016 and subsequent treatment provided in the hospital till her demise on 5 December, 2016. She was treated at the Apollo Hospitals here.

In its finding, as regards the first part of the ToR on circumstances leading to the late AIADMK

and her relatives. The panel said that it was very clear that, "only on strong suspicion," Jayalalithaa sent Sasikala out of her Poes Garden residence (from November 2011 to March 2012). Subsequently, after getting a letter from Sasikala that she would not interfere in politics, Jayalalithaa allowed her back into her Poes Garden residence and the leader kept her "at a distance."

Citing depositions of witnesses, the panel said that it is "inferable" that due to some strained relationship, Jayalalithaa would have asked Sasikala and her relatives to leave Poes Garden. During Jayalalithaa's hospitalisation here, a cardio thoracic surgeon from USA, Dr Samin Sharma, recommended a life saving cardiac surgery in view of vegetation in her heart. Sharma examined her in the hospital on November 25, 2016 and discussed it with Jayalalithaa and she was conscious and gave her consent to the surgery. It was however not performed after a UK doctor, who was an intensivist, gave an opinion that a cardiac surgery was not needed. When Dr Sharma was confident to perform the angiography procedure, what was the necessity to bring an intensivist into the picture, the panel wondered.

SEVEN KILLED IN CHOPPER CRASH



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rudraprayag (Uttarakhand), Oct 18: A helicopter ferrying pilgrims from Kedarnath temple to Guptkashi here crashed into a hill due to poor visibility on Tuesday, killing all six pilgrims and the pilot on the spot.

The chopper - Bell 407 (VT-RPN) and operated by Aryan Aviation - burst into flames at around 11.45 am at Dev Darshini in Garud Chatti, Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh said.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force, disaster response forces of Uttarakhand and Delhi, and police brought the bodies to the Kedarnath helipad.

The Rudraprayag disaster management office identified the victims as Poorva Ramanuj (26), Kriti Brar (30) and Urvi Brar (25) from Gujarat, and Sujata (56), Prem Kumar and Kala (60) from Tamil Nadu. Pilot Anil Singh (57) hailed from Maharashtra, it said. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia condoled the loss of lives.

"The news of the death of many pilgrims, including the pilot, in the helicopter crash near Kedarnath Dham is very sad. My deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones," Murmu tweeted in Hindi. "Anguished by the helicopter crash in Uttarakhand. In

The chopper -- Bell 407 (VT-RPN) and operated by Aryan Aviation -- burst into flames at around 11.45 am at Dev Darshini in Garud Chatti, Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh said

this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," Modi was quoted as saying in a tweet by his office.

Scindia wrote, "Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in the tragic crash. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. May God give them the strength to bear this loss."

In another tweet, he said the civil aviation ministry was constantly monitoring the situation. "The helicopter crash in Kedarnath is extremely unfortunate. We are in touch with the state government to ascertain the magnitude of the loss, and are constantly monitoring the situation," he said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, too, expressed grief and ordered a detailed inquiry into the crash. In August 2019, three people were killed in a private helicopter crash.

Governor asks Mann to remove PAU V-C



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 18: Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit Tuesday asked Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to remove Satbir Singh Gosal from the post of Punjab Agriculture University (PAU) Vice-Chancellor.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, the Governor termed Gosal's appointment as "totally illegal", saying he was appointed by the state government "without following UGC norms and approval of the Chancellor." The Governor is the chancellor of the Ludhiana-based university. The government and the governor have found themselves at loggerheads on several occasions.

The previous "rift" between the duo was over the appointment of cardiologist Gurpreet Wander as Vice Chancellor of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, with the Governor saying the government violated the rules by recommending only one name.

The move to appoint Wander, who later withdrew his candidature as Vice Chancellor, came a few days after the Governor took strong exception to the absence of the Chief Minister at the civic reception organised by him in honour of visiting President Droupadi Murmu.

Reminding the Chief Minister of his constitutional obligations that have to be met on the civic reception, the Governor, in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, had said publicly from the stage: "I had personally called him (Chief Minister) up, but he has not come apparently due to some compulsion."



A potter moulds an earthen lamp on a wheel ahead of Diwali in Prayagraj

IRCTC scam: Court warns Tejashwi

Yadav's father and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav is the main accused in the IRCTC scam case involving alleged irregularities in handing over the operational contract of two IRCTC hotels to a private firm when he was the Railway Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: A Delhi court Tuesday refused to cancel the bail granted to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on a plea by the CBI in the IRCTC scam, saying it did not find any specific ground to order cancellation of the relief.

Special Judge Geetanjali Goel, while declining the CBI's petition, asked the young RJD leader to be careful with words and use them appropriately in its petition, the CBI had claimed Yadav, at a recent press conference, attempted to subvert the process of law and thwart the entire investigation as well as the consequent trial, and "blatantly abused the liberty granted to him."

It alleged Yadav issued "direct

threat" to CBI officers and their families and "indirect threat" to witnesses. The central probe agency accused Yadav of having attempted to "portray the CBI in bad light and under the influence of political parties" by using innuendoes such as "Jamai" (son-in-law) of a political party.

"You are on very responsible post. It is not right to use such words. Use appropriate words in public because your words impact a huge number of the public. You have to understand the implications of your words. This should not happen again. You must choose words carefully and not use such words which have the potential to influence witnesses," the judge said.

The judge passed the order after hearing the arguments during



which Yadav claimed he did not violate any condition set in the bail granted to him earlier. During the hearing, senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Yadav, opposed the submission made by CBI counsel D P Singh.

"My client's press conference was in another context. He talked about

many things, scams and other political issues in the press conference. I (Yadav) spoke about the land for job scams. I have spoken about the raids in that case. How is he (the CBI counsel) seeking cancellation (of bail) in IRCTC case," asked the defence counsel, adding Yadav was not an accused in land for job scam case.

Pak FIA chief avoids questions on Dawood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Chief of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency Mohsin Butt chose to remain silent when confronted with questions from the media here on Tuesday about handing over to India Dawood Ibrahim and other fugitive terrorists suspected to be safely cocooned in his country.

Butt, who is in the national capital to attend the 90th General Assembly of Interpol, apparently avoided, till the last minute, entering the plenary hall at the Pragati Maidan, the event venue that was swarming with reporters looking for a statement from him on the whereabouts of the most-wanted terrorists.

The officer, who is heading a two-member Pakistan delegation, preferred to stay in the dining hall, where lunch was organised, and entered the venue just before the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was announced.

Once Prime Minister Modi's address was over, he was surrounded by reporters who wanted to know about the location of the 1993 Mumbai blast mastermind Dawood Ibrahim, designated as a global terrorist by the United Nations, and asked when he and other terrorists wanted by India like Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Masood Azhar and 9/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed will be handed over.

Butt stayed mum and walked away even as media persons fired a volley of questions at the top Pakistani officer. He was appointed as the director-general of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) which is also the National Central Bureau of Pakistan to coordinate with Interpol in July this year.



Bihar to review measures to check man-animal conflict

The tiger population of the state jumped by over 50 per cent between 2014 and 2018, from 32 to 50. The 2022 census is yet to be completed but experts believe the numbers will go up significantly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 18: The Bihar government is in a quandary on how to avoid frequent human-animal conflict around the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, where 40 of the state's 50 big cats live.

The tiger population of the state jumped by over 50 per cent between 2014 and 2018, from 32 to 50. The 2022 census is yet to be completed but

experts believe the numbers will go up significantly.

An official said the forest department has taken adequate and effective measures to check human-animal conflicts in and around the VTR, where a tiger was shot dead days ago after allegedly mauling nine people.

Arvind Kumar Chaudhary, principal secretary of the department, said the tiger had spread terror in the area in West Champaran district and the loss of people's lives was "extremely unfortunate." At the same time, there's no point in glorifying the killing of a tiger," he said.

The tiger was shot dead in Bagaha on October 8 by a team of forest personnel who were brought in from Hyderabad and Patna. The order for the killing was issued as per procedure when it was established that the animal was accustomed to living in human habita-



tion. "We're thinking of reviewing measures that are already in place to avoid such conflicts in the future," Chaudhary said.

The official elucidated that since tigers remain in the confines of pro-

TECTED AREAS, the possibility of conflicts among the big cats apparently increases. In that situation, he said, weaker tigers try to move out to human areas, leading to an increase in human-animal conflict.

"We'll look into this aspect also," the official said, adding a meeting would be called soon to discuss and review certain measures. Chaudhary said there were inputs that another tiger killed four goats on Friday evening on the fringes of the VTR, which covers a total area of about 900 square kilometres.

Locals said the tiger came out from Mangaraha forest range of the VTR, which is located on the foothills of the Himalayas. The incident is also being analysed by experts, Chaudhary said.

The state government has taken several measures to protect the habitats of the big cats and conserve its population on the basis of the National Tiger Conservation Authority's guidelines, he said. There are tigers also at the Kaimur and Pant wildlife sanctuaries and the Patna zoo, where Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had named the four

cubs born to tigress Sarita on International Tiger Day on July 30. The grasslands developed by the government at the VTR have resulted in an increase in the number of different wild species, including tigers, according to the official. The grasslands help in the survival of herbivorous wild animals, which are the main prey of tigers and other carnivores thriving in any natural or reserve forests, he said.

Hundreds of cameras are installed in the VTR for observing the movement of wild animals, Chaudhary added. Alokparna Sengupta, managing director of the Indian chapter of the Humane Society International, said tigers don't hunt humans unless they were desperate, weak or hungry. "The state government must look into these aspects first and take other remedial steps then to check man-animal conflicts," Sengupta said.

KPs concerned over targeted killings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 18: Several Kashmiri migrant Pandit organisations Tuesday expressed concern over the unabated targeted killings by terrorists in the Valley and proposed a fact-finding delegation to assess the ground situation.

Panun Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Vichar Manch, Roots in Kashmir, Youth 4 Panun Kashmir and Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) representatives met and discussed the situation in the valley in the aftermath of the continued attacks on minority community members, including pandits, a statement issued here by the parties said.

The joint meeting took place in the aftermath of the killing of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri Pandit in two separate attacks in Shopian district of south Kashmir since Saturday.

"All the organisations in the meeting endorsed several demands including creation of a 'geo-political' foothold to facilitate rehabilitation of Pandits in their homeland and enactment of genocide prevention bill along with setting up of special investigation teams to assist in investigating crimes of genocide," the statement said.

The parties also called for the constitution of a tribunal to look into cases related to the Pandit community and relocation of Prime Minister Package employees outside the valley in order to avoid



Students hold a banner that reads "Stop Target Killing" at a school in Jammu PTI PHOTO

further target killings in Kashmir.

"It was also agreed to send a fact-finding committee to the valley to assess the ground situation, for community deliberation on the future course of action," the statement said.

It said the latest killings of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri Pandit a few days back in Shopian

Angered by recent innocent killings in Kashmir, some social activists Monday damaged the office of the separatist Hurriyat conference in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city

is "another setback to the return of the aborigines of Kashmir". "The internally-displaced Hindus of Kashmir are caught up between the forces that continue to perpetrate genocide on them and the forces of denial of genocide...The neutering of Article 370 and abrogation of Article 35A along with the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and

Two labourers from UP killed in grenade attack

Srinagar: Two migrant labourers hailing from Uttar Pradesh were killed after terrorists hurled a grenade at them in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir in the early hours of Tuesday, police said. A local "hybrid terrorist" of proscribed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was among two people arrested for the attack during a search and cordon operation, they said. "Hybrid terrorists" are unlisted radicalised people who carry out terror strikes and slip back into their routine lives often without leaving any trace. The injured labourers identified as Monish Kumar and Ram Sagar, both residents of Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj, were shifted to a hospital, where they succumbed to injuries, Kashmir Zone Police said in a tweet. During the operation, a hybrid terrorist of LeT, who lobbed the grenade, was arrested, said Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar in a Twitter post.

Kashmir into two Union Territories has dismantled the legal edifice of a Muslim state on the territory of secular India," the statement said.

MAHA GRAM PANCHAYAT POLLS

Despite losing power MVA claims huge gains; BJP single-largest party

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 18: Despite losing power nearly four months ago, the Opposition Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) claim to have made huge gains while the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party emerged as the single-largest entity in the recent Gram Panchayat elections held in 18 districts.

The elections were held to 1,079 of the total 1,165 Gram Panchayats (DPs) where the Maha Vikas Aghadi has claimed to have trumped the ruling BJP-Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena combine, based on the purported political affiliations of the winning candidates.

However, authoritative sources in the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) reiterated to IANS that "the GP elections are not contested on party symbols" and declined to comment on the claims of various parties.

After the final results emerged late Monday, the BJP has contended it has bagged more than 230 GPs, while ally Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena got some 110 seats, totalling to 340.

On the other hand, the NCP claimed to have bagged 155, Shiv Sena (UBT) 150 and the Congress



140 - tallying to 445 seats, and the remaining seats went to independents and others.

Additionally, candidates in 86 GPs were declared elected unopposed and the polls were held for the remaining 1,079 GPs Sunday.

Trashing the BJP's assertions, NCP's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar asked sharply, "How did they arrive at their so-called victory figures... when the polls are not fought on party-lines, adding that all such claims are 'false'."

Referring to the rebels led by Shinde, Sena (UBT) President

Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said the 'gaddaars' (traitors) have been taught a sound lesson in the GP elections.

Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londe said that the party has been on a constant winning spree in the past few months in all the local elections, including the Nagar Panchayat, Panchayat Samitis and now the GPs.

NCP Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said that the MVA allies have made inroads even into areas where they had no presence till now.

Maha: Star gazing project to start soon near Ajanta Caves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, Oct 18: The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has decided to start a star gazing project near the world famous Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad by next month-end, an official said.

The project will be operated from a secluded site called the 'Ajanta view point', which is away from light and gives a 270 degree view of the Ajanta Caves hill, MTDC general manager Chandrashekhar Jaiswal told PTI.

It is the site where the caves were accidentally discovered by Madras Presidency officer John Smith April 28, 1819 while hunting a tiger, as per local officials.

The site already has amenities for visitors, Jaiswal said, adding that it will be a community-based tourism project with local people being trained in the use of telescopes to give a basic knowledge of stars seen in the sky.

"It is a season-based project as the sky is clear in winters and the dark periphery of the site means stars are clearly visible. It will start every evening once the darkness sets in and will end in two to three hours. We plan to start the project by November-end," Jaiswal informed.

Regional Manager Sanjay Harne said basic facilities were being put in place and identification of people for the project was underway.



STRICT VIGIL: Security personnel during a Cordon and Search Operation after two migrant labourers were killed during a grenade attack by terrorists in Shopian district PTI PHOTO

Maha govt warns of Cov spike citing evasive XBB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 18: On the back of a 17.7 per cent rise in coronavirus cases in Maharashtra this week when compared to last week, the state health department Monday cited the XBB variant, found for the first time in the country, as well as winters and the festive season as factors that could fuel further spikes.

A health official department bulletin said the XBB variant reported in the state had "growth advantage over BA.2.75 and immune evasive property".

The BA.2.3.20 and BQ.1 variants have also been detected in the state, a first for the country, it added.



AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID THE XBB VARIANT REPORTED IN THE STATE HAD "GROWTH ADVANTAGE OVER BA.2.75 AND IMMUNE EVASIVE PROPERTY"

It said new Covid-19 cases rose by 17.17 per cent in the October 16 period when compared to last week between October 3 and 9,

with the rise being noticed particularly in densely-populated Thane, Raigad and Mumbai.

"Some experts are predicting a

rise (in cases) in the coming winter season, especially in festive environments," the bulletin cautioned.

It said the proportion of BA.2.75, an Omicron sub-variant, among cases detected had decreased from 95 per cent to 76 per cent.

The state health department said people must not ignore flu-like symptoms and should get medical advice at the earliest.

"They must observe Covid appropriate behaviour at the earliest. Persons with comorbidities need to take extra precaution while visiting public places. Persons suffering with influenza-like illness should avoid public contacts as much as possible," the department's bulletin advised.

Heavy showers cause waterlogging in Pune

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 18: Heavy rains battered Maharashtra's Pune city overnight and Tuesday morning, causing waterlogging and forcing evacuation of people from low-lying areas as the Shivajinagar locality alone received 104 mm rainfall in just five hours.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune city, an education and IT hub, has received 268 mm rainfall so far in October.

Some people staying in low-lying areas and near banks of the Karha river were shifted to safer places, district authorities said. Seven goats were swept away in floodwaters in the Kanhur Mesai area of Shirur tehsil of the western Maharashtra city, they said.

According to the IMD, Shivajinagar recorded 104 mm rainfall in about five hours till 3 am Tuesday, Magarpatta 116 mm and the Pashan area 94 mm during the same period.

Twelve people stranded in rainwaters in Mangalwar Peth and Kondhwa areas were rescued and moved to safer places, fire brigade

officials said. Twenty families staying near the Karha river in Jalgaon Kathe Pathar village of Baramati tehsil were also shifted after the river swelled following the release of water at the rate of 35,000 cubic foot per second (cusec) from the Nazre dam, district officials said.

The rain activity in the city will reduce from Wednesday, he added. Speaking about heavy showers on late Monday night and subsequent waterlogging in various parts of the city, Vikram Kumar, Commissioner, Pune Municipal Corporation, said this year's rainfall in the month of October has been unprecedented.

A few days ago too the city had received heavy showers. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ajit Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) criticised the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over waterlogging in the city.

Pawar, an MLA from Pune district, said the BJP has left the IT and education hub in a "mess" in the name of making it a "smart" city. The BJP was in power in the Pune civic corporation for five years till the tenure of the elected body ended earlier this year.



Waterlogging was witnessed in many areas, including Hadapsar, Market Yard, Sinhadgad Road, NIBM Road, B T Kawade Road, Katraj, Deccan, Karve Nagar, Kothrud and Kondhwa

J&K: 'Major decline' in alcohol consumption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 18: Liquor and other alcoholic beverage consumption in Jammu and Kashmir has marked a major decline over the past five years with boozers drinking nearly 90,000 bottles of different brands per day this year, as per Excise Department data.

In 2017-18, the daily sales of high and low content alcoholic bottles stood at 1.61 lakh. However, revenue generation is on the rise and is likely to reach Rs 1,900 crore at the end of the current financial year, which is more than double compared to the figures of over Rs 845 crore in 2017-18, Excise Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma said.

Sharing the data on the abstract sale of liquor and revenue generated for the last five years with



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PTI, the officer said the government has been making attempts to encourage transition from high content to low content harmless alcohol among the boozers.

Barring marginal increase in 2021-22, otherwise there is a steady decline in the consumption of liquor in Jammu and Kashmir; the official said, adding the J&K special Whisky was the most popular drink of alcoholics with its bottle share standing at 47.84 per cent followed by IMFL at 26.80 per cent, beer at 25.13 per cent and RTD at 0.22 per cent in all these five years.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 18: Two hundred electric buses will soon ply on the roads in J&K's Jammu and Srinagar cities as part of the government's initiative to establish an environmentally, socially and financially sustainable network of public transport.

UT's chief secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta presided over a ceremony to sign an MoU with TATA Motors Ltd. and Chalo Mobility Pvt. Ltd for the deployment of 200 electric buses in twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar here.

Speaking on the occasion on Monday, the chief secretary remarked that the induction of electric buses will transform the transport system in both cities of Jammu



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Apart from reducing pollution levels, the electric buses are also equipped with state-of-the-art facilities like panic button, location system, CCTV, stop request system, and other security related features, as was given out on this occasion

Tata Motors will be responsible for supply, operation and maintenance of the electric buses, 100 each in Jammu and Srinagar

Under this project, Tata Motors and Chalo Mobility will work in collaboration with each other for the functioning of electric buses in both cities in coordination with Jammu Smart City and Srinagar Smart City Limited

and Srinagar: He asked both firms to ensure the

best travelling experience to people in the twin cities.

200 electric buses for J&K Smart Cities

He said that besides being environment friendly, the buses will also give a unique experience to the commuters. He maintained that the government is committed to provide every modern facility in the cities of the UT.

He reiterated that the government would continue its efforts to provide world class comforts to people in both these smart cities.

It was revealed during the function that passengers can also get details like real-time tracking of buses, how congested it is, along with expected time of arrival. It was also informed that the partnership between both firms will also eliminate the need for paper tickets and make contactless ticketing a greener option.

Further, it was said that the initiative will play a significant role in savings on ticketing costs.

Chalo Mobility will deploy its consumer technology solutions to offer convenience like Electronic Ticket Issuing Machines (ETIMs), Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS), Mobile App with Mobile Tickets and Mobile Passes Platform, Smart Cards Platform and Cloud Based Hosting to the commuters.

Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has executed the tendering process for supply and operations of the electric buses and to establish National Common Mobility Card compliant Digital Ticketing Solution in both the Smart Cities, officials said.

of the day quote

Talk of respect for women from the ramparts of the Red Fort but in reality support for 'rapists'

The government is in a denial mode on the poverty and hunger index rankings

DefExpo 22 will be first-ever edition exclusively for Indian companies

SHORT TAKES

Bodies recovered

New Delhi: The bodies of two children, who went missing from Rajasthan's Bhiwadi area three days ago, were recovered from the forest area behind the Qutub Minar station, police said Tuesday.

Couple murdered

Bagalkot (Karnataka): In a case of honour killing, a minor girl and her lover were murdered and their bodies dumped into the Krishna river here, police said Tuesday.

Four arrested

New Delhi: In separate operations in the national capital, the Delhi Police have recovered more than 1,400 kg of banned firecrackers and arrested four people in connection.

Principal booked

Farrukhabad (Uttar Pradesh): On the complaint of a Class 9 girl student in Nawabganj of Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad district, the school principal has been booked under the POCSO Act and other sections of the IPC, police said.

Former Advocate General dies

Chennai: Tamil Nadu's former Advocate General R. Krishnamoorthy passed away in Chennai Tuesday. He was 92.



The BJP should ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi to undergo a lie detector and narco-analysis test and say the CBI and the ED are autonomous and neutral agencies and have nothing to do with the BJP and the Centre

NAGALAND GEARING UP

Preparations are in full swing in Nagaland for the famed Hornbill festival, which will be held with much grandeur this time after two years of subdued celebrations, an official said Tuesday



An exhibit of a tank during the 12th edition of DefExpo in Gandhinagar

Infant mauled by dog dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida, Oct 18: A seven-month-old child died after he was mauled by a stray dog inside a posh group housing complex here, a society representative said Tuesday.



Anguished over the incident, several locals held a protest outside the society in the morning over the death of the child whose parents are daily-wage earners.

PEACE ON LAC BASIS FOR NORMAL TIES WITH CHINA: INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Peace and tranquility in the border areas clearly remains the basis for normal relations between India and China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Tuesday amid the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh.

JAISHANKAR SAID THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE BEEN A PERIOD OF "SERIOUS CHALLENGE", BOTH FOR THE RELATIONSHIP AND FOR THE PROSPECTS OF THE ASIAN CONTINENT

"Peace and tranquility in the border areas clearly remains the basis for normal relations. From time to time, this has been mischievously conflated with the sorting out of the boundary question," he said.

SC slams Gujarat's reply in Bilkis case

The top court granted time to the petitioners to file their response to the Gujarat government's affidavit and said it will hear on November 29 the pleas challenging the remission of sentence and release of convicts in the 2002 case also involving the murder of seven members of her family during the Gujarat riots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Supreme Court Tuesday remarked the Gujarat government's reply to pleas challenging the remission granted to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case is very bulky wherein a series of judgments have been quoted but factual statements are missing.



Justice CT Ravikumar, directed that the reply filed by the Gujarat government be made available to all parties. Senior CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali and two other women have filed the PIL against the remission of sentence of the convicts and their release.

Addressing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Justices Rastogi said he has not come across a counter affidavit where a series of judgments have been quoted.

Nalanda's world heritage tag at risk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 18: The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has asked the Bihar government to quickly submit its plan to conserve Nalanda Mahavihara in order to keep the World Heritage site status for the remains of the ancient centre of learning.



related to World Heritage. "The commitment about submission of the integrated master plan for the protection and preservation of the Nalanda Mahavihara made at the time of inscription of this site in UNESCO's World Heritage list must be respected," Goutami Bhattacharya, Superintending

Archaeologist of ASI, Patna circle, said. Despite repeated reminders by the ASI in recent months, the Nalanda district administration has not submitted the integrated master plan to the ASI, she claimed.

Thanks to the scheme, TN road crash deaths dip

As per state government officials, the state was planning to reduce deaths on road by 50 per cent from the current rate by 2030

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 18: Road crash deaths in Tamil Nadu have come down by 8.1 per cent when compared to the previous year. While 45 deaths are reported per day in the state in the current year, it was around 49 the previous year.

manager of TN Accident and Emergency Care Initiative (TAEI), Dr S. Maruthu Thurai in a statement Monday said that while the number of accidents has gone up, the deaths due to these accidents has come down and this is due to the state government programme, "Innuviri Kaapoom-Nammai Kakkum 48", under which the state will bear the expenses of emergency care for accident victims for the first 48 hours.



duce deaths on road by 50 per cent from the current rate by 2030. The officials of the emergency care department said that drunken driving has been the major cause of accident deaths but a large number

of these go unreported for getting insurance claims. The "Innuviri Kaapoom-Nammai Kakkum 48" was launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at Chengalpattu on December 17, 2021. The Chief Minister had then said that the state government was paying special attention to reducing road accidents, preventing fatalities and improving road safety.

DELHI RIOTS 2020 HC denies bail to Umar Khalid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Delhi High Court Tuesday refused to grant bail to former JNU student Umar Khalid, in custody for over two years, in a UAPA case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the riots here in February 2020, saying he was in constant touch with other co-accused and allegations against him are prima facie true.

The court also said the acts of the accused prima facie qualified as "terrorist act" under the anti-terror law UAPA. A bench headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul said the anti-CAA protests "metamorphosed into violent riots", which "prima facie seemed to be orchestrated at the conspiratorial meetings", and the statements of the witnesses indicate Khalid's "active involvement" in the protests.

"The appellant (Khalid) was in constant touch with other co-accused persons, including Sharjeel Imam, who arguably is at the head of the conspiracy; at this stage (of bail), it is difficult to form an opinion that there are not reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against the petitioner is prima facie not proved," observed the bench, also comprising Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar.



international



Children are starving to death and millions are on the brink of starvation. This is the face of the climate crisis, and here in Kenya it's happening right now. But, there is hope and there are solutions
PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS | ACTOR-PRODUCER

DRUGS INSIDE TRANSFORMERS

A multimillion-dollar stash of methamphetamine hidden in electrical transformers being sent from Mexico to Australia has been intercepted at Hong Kong's airport. The 76 kilograms of crystal meth was found Friday in false compartments in the 3 transformers



of the day quote

I think that what Prime Minister Modi said to Russian President Putin that this is not the time for war is absolutely true. No time is the time for war. But this time in particular is not the time for war. So, I fully support that



ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY GENERAL

We cannot allow the CCP to import their beating of protesters, their silencing of free speech and their failure to allow time and time again protests on British soil. This is a chilling escalation



ALICIA KEARNS | MEMBER OF PARL. OF THE UK

Out of the total number of Nepalese labourers going abroad for jobs, 93 per cent are unskilled, which is posing greater risk to their lives



SHER BAHADUR KUNWOR | NEPALI POLITICIAN

SHORT TAKES

NK fires artillery shells near border with SK

Seoul: North Korea fired artillery shells near its sea border with South Korea late Tuesday, a day after the South began annual military drills to better deal with North Korean provocations. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement early Wednesday that North Korea fired about 100 shells off its west coast and 150 rounds off its east coast. It said the South Korean military broadcast messages several times asking North Korea to stop the firing, but there were no reports of violence between the rivals.

Tulsi compares Biden to Hitler

New York: Fresh off announcing her departure from the Democratic Party, Tulsi Gabbard, who was the first Hindu member of the US Congress, compared President Joe Biden to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. She made the remarks during her first weekend on the campaign trail for the November 8 mid-term elections. Speaking at a town hall event in a town outside Manchester recently, the former Hawaii Congressman and the 2020 Democratic presidential candidate stated she is "pretty confident" that both Biden and Hitler share a "mentality" of good intentions to be authoritarian, justify behaviour, according to audio obtained by The Daily Beast Sunday.

Rat infestation spikes in NYC

New York: New data has revealed that rat infestation in New York City has increased 70 per cent from the same time two years ago. The data by the city's FOX 5 news network said that 21,500 sightings were reported in the city between January 1 and September 30 this year, a huge jump from 18,601 sightings during the same period in 2021, reports Xinhua news agency.

Russian warplane crash death toll rises

Moscow: The death toll from the crash of a Russian warplane into a Russian city rose to 15 Tuesday, including three people who died when they jumped from a nine-story apartment building to escape a massive blaze, authorities said. A Su-34 bomber came down Monday in the Sea of Azov 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 bailed out safely, but the plane crashed into a residential area, igniting a huge fire as tons of fuel exploded on impact.



HUNGER IN HAITI: A man looks for food through piles of trash on the side of a street in Port-au-Prince

REUTERS

Iran agrees to ship more missiles, drones to Russia



- West heavily criticises Iran over drones
- Tehran under pressure from mass protests
- Iran has denied supplying the drones to Russia
- The Kremlin Tuesday denied its forces had used Iranian drones to attack Ukraine

AGENCIES

Moscow, Oct 18: Iran has promised to provide Russia with surface to surface missiles, in addition to more drones, two senior Iranian officials and two Iranian diplomats said, a move that is likely to infuriate the United States and other Western powers.

A deal was agreed October 6 when Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, two senior officials from Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards and an official from the Supreme National Security Council visited Moscow for talks with Russia about the delivery of the weapons. "The Russians had asked for more drones and those Iranian ballistic missiles with improved accuracy, particularly the Fateh and Zolfaghar missiles family," said one of the

Iranian diplomats, who was briefed about the trip.

A Western official briefed on the matter confirmed it, saying there was an agreement in place between Iran and Russia to provide surface-to-surface short range ballistic missiles, including the Zolfaghar.

Ukraine has reported a spate of Russian attacks using Iranian-made Shahed-136 drones in recent weeks. Asked if Russia had used Iranian drones in its campaign in Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Kremlin did not have any information about their use.

"Russian equipment with Russian nomenclature is used," he said. "All further questions should be directed to the Defence Ministry." The ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment. The appearance of

Destruction continues

Kyiv: Airstrikes cut power and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians Tuesday, part of what the country's president called an expanding Russian campaign to drive the nation into the cold and dark and make peace talks impossible. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said nearly one-third of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed in the past week, "causing massive blackouts across the country."

Iranian missiles in addition to drones in Moscow's arsenal in the war with Ukraine would raise tensions between Iran and the United States and other Western powers.

SHIPMENT 'SOON, VERY SOON'
The US State Department assessed that Iranian drones were used Monday in a morning rush hour attack on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, a US official said.

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre also accused Tehran of lying when it said Iranian drones are not being used by Russia in Ukraine.

A European diplomat said it was his country's assessment that Russia was finding it more difficult to produce weaponry for itself given the sanctions on its industrial sector and so was turning to imports from partners like Iran and North Korea.

French strike pits workers vs govt

Rail and other transportation workers, trucking and bus companies, some high school teachers and public hospital employees have heeded a call by an oil workers' union for French industry to push for salary increases and protest government intervention in the refinery strikes



trains. Thousands protested in Prague twice last month partly about high energy prices, airline workers have gone on strike in places like Germany and Sweden for higher pay as inflation rises.

In the UK, everyone from nurses to rail employees have walked off the job to demand their wages keep pace with the rising cost of living.

Tuesday's protests in France come after the left-wing CGT union rejected a deal over a pay increase that oil giant TotalEnergies struck with two other unions Friday.

Strikers demanded higher wages from the windfall profits of energy companies that have seen high oil and gas prices as Russia's war in Ukraine aggravates an energy crisis. Long lines of cars have been seen for weeks across France as drivers waited — sometimes for hours — to fill up. Many gas stations have temporarily closed while awaiting deliveries.

French President Emmanuel Macron's government is losing patience with strikers, who have gathered support by his political rivals on the left.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 18: Industries across France went on strike Tuesday to push for pay hikes that keep up with rising inflation, ramping up the clash between workers and the government after weeks of walk-outs that hobbled oil refineries and sparked gasoline shortages around the country.

"It's time to go back to work," French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said Tuesday about people on strike in the French refineries of oil giant TotalEnergies.

Thousands also took to the streets Sunday to march against rising prices. Similar protests have erupted around Europe in recent months as people complain about the impact of inflation, causing disruptions like cancelled flights and

Man pulls own teeth out after failing to get dentist's appointment

David Sergeant, 50, has an almost toothless grin after pulling out his own teeth for a decade when they are painful as he is unable to get an appointment with an NHS dentist

AGENCIES

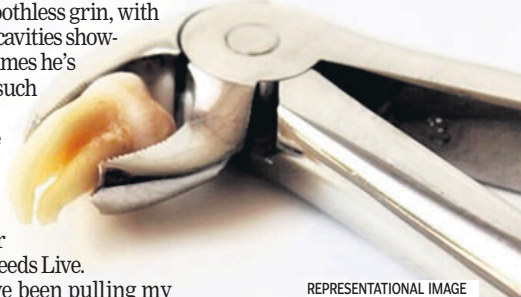
A 50-year-old man from the UK has been removing his own teeth for 15 years because he can't get an appointment at the British National Health Service. David Sergeant from Leeds decided to take this step out of frustration because he said that there was "nowhere that will take me."

Sergeant has been carrying out his own dental procedures for the last 15 years. The Leeds man now has an almost toothless grin, with multiple empty cavities showing how many times he's had to resort to such drastic action. He said he prepares by loosening the offending tooth gradually over time reported Leeds Live. David said: "I've been pulling my

own teeth out. I can't get an NHS dentist, for ten or 15 years. I've tried referrals from the doctors and there's nowhere that will take me.

The former butcher by profession lost faith in the system. He suffered from a toothache for many years and then decided to take to pull out his own teeth.

He also struggles with mental health problems, he receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and has found it difficult to make the ends meet.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

EU faces battle to keep energy prices from tanking economy

EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS ENTER A CRUCIAL STRETCH THIS WEEK TO MAKE SURE RUNAWAY ENERGY PRICES AND SHORT SUPPLIES DO NOT FURTHER TANK THEIR STRUGGLING ECONOMIES AND FOMENT UNREST



Commission, the bloc's executive branch, proposed a blueprint on Tuesday that needs to reconcile the yawning gap between those who want to impose a common gas price cap to keep prices down and those who think it would primarily keep out supplies, further starving industries and businesses.

Then, going into the weekend, EU leaders will seek a compromise during two days of talks, however hard that may be. European Council president and summit host Charles Michel told the 27 leaders in his invitation letter that there were three lines of action: reducing demand, ensuring security of supply and containing prices.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Oct 18: European Union leaders enter a crucial stretch this week to make sure runaway energy prices and short supplies do not further tank their struggling economies and foment unrest. At the same time, they need to keep all 27 members united in their opposition to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Leading up to Thursday's start of a key summit, the European

Ex-UK pilots lured to help Chinese military

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 18: The UK government said on Tuesday that it is taking "decisive steps" to stop lucrative Chinese recruitment schemes attempting to headhunt serving and former British military pilots to train the People's Liberation Army personnel in China.

According to reports, around 30 former UK military pilots are thought to have gone to train members of China's Army and an intelligence alert is being issued to warn Royal Air Force (RAF) and other Armed Forces personnel against such recruitment drives.

While the recruitment does not breach current UK laws, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the new National Security Bill would create additional tools to tackle such "security challenges".

"We are taking decisive steps to stop Chinese recruitment schemes attempting to headhunt serving and former UK Armed Forces pilots to



train People's Liberation Army personnel in the People's Republic of China," an MoD spokesperson said.

"All serving and former personnel are already subject to the Official Secrets Act, and we are reviewing the use of confidentiality contracts and non-disclosure agreements across Defence, while the new National Security Bill will create additional tools to tackle contemporary security challenges - including this one," the spokesperson said.

Armed Forces Minister James Heapey told 'Sky News' that the recruitment of UK pilots to train Chinese counterparts had been a concern within the MoD "for a number of years".

TRUSS VOWS TO CARRY ON

REUTERS

London, Oct 18: British Prime Minister Liz Truss warned of tough times ahead after she scrapped her vast tax-cutting plan and said she would carry on to try to put the economy on a stronger footing, defying calls for her resignation.

After weeks of blaming "global headwinds" for investors dumping the pound and government bonds, Truss Monday said she was sorry for going "too far and too fast" with her radical economic plan to snap Britain out of years of tepid growth.

Truss says she's sorry for mistakes she is 'sticking around' Economic agenda that caused market rout scrapped Some Conservative MPs calling on her to quit

It was not clear whether the apology would quell a growing rebellion in her Conservative Party, with a handful of lawmakers urging Truss to quit just six weeks after she became Prime Minister.



Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka wins Booker Prize

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 18: Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka has won the prestigious 2022 Booker Prize for his second novel 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida', an afterlife thriller set against the backdrop of the country's brutal civil war.

Karunatilaka, 47, became only the second Sri Lankan-born novelist to win the GBP 50,000 literary prize at a ceremony in London Monday night, after Michael Ondaatje who won for 'The English Patient' in 1992.

'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida', described by judges as a whodunnit and a race against time, full of ghosts, gags and deep humanity, tells the story of the photographer of its title, who in 1990 wakes up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. With no idea who killed him, Maali has seven moons to contact the people he loves most and leads them to a hidden cache of photos of civil war atrocities that will rock Sri Lanka.



of the day quote

Air India aims to have a 30 per cent share in domestic and international markets in the next five years as the airline expands services and fleet



CAMPBELL WILSON | AIR INDIA CHIEF

Given India's growth trajectory and the government's focus to network the nation through a massive mesh of air connectivity, it is inevitable that the primary growth of India's airline and airport sector lies ahead of it



ASHISH RAJWANSHI | CEO OF ADANI DEFENCE & AEROSPACE

There is a substantial increase in job openings for freshers, but many demand updated skills and experience due to the accelerated rate of tech and digital advancements globally



SHANTANU ROOD | TEAMLEASE EDTECH FOUNDER AND CEO

SHORT TAKES

Axis Bank hikes MCLR rates

New Delhi: Axis Bank has increased the marginal cost of funds based lending rates (MCLR) by 25 basis points across tenors with immediate effect, the bank said Tuesday. The country's third largest private sector lender in a communication on its website stated that the benchmark one-year MCLR is up by 25 basis points to 8.35 per cent with effect from October 18, 2022. The hike in MCLR rates by Axis Bank follows peer lenders increasing lending rates in response to a 50 basis increase in the repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) September 30. Earlier, Axis Bank charged 8.10 per cent on one-year tenor MCLR-- which is the benchmark for the lenders to price most of the consumer loans such as auto, personal and home.

FinMin seeks tax suggestions

New Delhi: Kickstarting stakeholder consultation for 2023-24 Budget, the finance ministry has sought suggestions from industry and trade associations regarding direct and indirect taxes. Along with the suggestions, the industry has to submit justification for their demand which, if found with merit, could become part of the Union Budget for 2023-24 (April-March), to be tabled in Parliament on February 1, 2023. The deadline for sending suggestions for changes in the duty structure, rates and broadening of tax base on both direct and indirect taxes is November 5. "In the context of formulating the proposals for the Union Budget for 2023-24, the Ministry of Finance would like to be benefited by the suggestions and views of your association," the ministry said.

ICICI Lombard Q2 net rises 32%

Mumbai: Private sector non-life player ICICI Lombard General Insurance Tuesday reported a 32.2 per cent growth in net profit at Rs 591 crore for the September quarter, boosted by a tax reversal of Rs 128 crore. The ICICI Bank group company said excluding this tax reversal, net income inched up by 3.4 per cent. In the year-ago quarter, the company had booked a net income of Rs 447 crore. Gross direct premium income grew 17.2 per cent to Rs 5,185 crore in the reporting quarter from Rs 4,424 crore a year ago, the company said in a statement. During the reporting period, the company booked lower investment income at Rs 111 crore, down from Rs 144 crore on-year.



We can have different tax slabs based on the level of emissions
RAKESH SRIVASTAVA
| MD NISSAN MOTOR INDIA

SBI UPS SAVINGS DEPOSIT RATE FOR ₹10CR & ABOVE

A day after lowering the deposit rate for small savers (under Rs 10 crore in savings deposits) by 5 bps to 2.70 per cent per annum, the nation's largest lender State Bank of India Tuesday increased the savings deposit rates by 30 bps for large accounts. The bank said the new pricing of 30 bps more on deposits, is applicable for Rs 10 crore and above, and is effective from October 15.



RBI's 2013 playbook to rebuild forex reserves unlikely to work

India's forex reserves have tumbled about \$110 billion from a peak of \$642 billion in September last year

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 18: The RBI's 2013 playbook to buffer the domestic currency against steep declines and rebuild foreign exchange reserves is unlikely to prove fruitful in the current crisis as economic fundamentals are vastly different, analysts said.

India's forex reserves have tumbled about \$110 billion from a peak of \$642 billion in September last year, and though that is largely due to the fall in the value of holdings in dollars and other currencies, another significant reason is the central bank's intervention in the currency market to protect the rupee.

The local unit fell about 11% against the U.S. dollar in 2013, a slide it has already matched so far this year, with most market participants expecting further declines by the end of 2022.

To defend the rupee, the RBI has dipped into its forex reserves. It has sold a net \$43.15 billion worth of dollars since the start of 2022, including \$4.25 billion this August, the latest available data released Monday showed.

"It would be important to rebuild FX reserves for sure. There will be urgency as fundamentals are also adverse," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

The RBI, in July, announced some measures to liberalise foreign exchange inflows, including giving foreign investors access to a larger portion of government debt and banks wider room to raise more deposits from non-residents. But these measures are unlikely to



prove as effective right now as they had in 2013.

UNPROFITABLE SPREADS
Back in 2013, the RBI had offered to swap the U.S. dollars banks had raised via foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits or foreign currency funding for rupees at concessional rates.

It swapped FCNR deposits, with a maturity of three years or more, at a fixed rate of 3.5% per year, which was about 3 percentage points less than market rates at the time, while it swapped foreign currency funding at 1 percentage point below market rates.

These two swap windows had brought in around \$34 billion at a crucial time, with \$26 billion via the FCNR route alone.

But these methods are unlikely to be as fruitful now.

"The FCNR deposits route might not be as effective this time around, including for reasons like a narrower US-IN rate spread and less

aggressive rate hikes in this cycle versus back in 2013," said Radhika Rao, senior economist at DBS Bank.

This time around, with India's 3-year bond yields at 7.5% and U.S. yields at 4.5%, the 3% spread is unlikely to help investors make any profits on a fully hedged basis given the current hedging cost is about 6.5%-7%. Profits are unlikely even if the RBI offered a discount window, which it hasn't so far.

"On fully hedged basis, a similar level of subsidy will not be good enough. Either domestic rates have to go up tremendously or the RBI will have to increase the subsidy to make things work," said Vivek Kumar, senior economist at QuantEco Research.

IMPORT COVER
To add to the problems, India's economic fundamentals too have weakened.

The current account deficit has been widening and is expected to stay above 3% of gross domestic

product for the current fiscal year, ending March 2023.

With capital flows also volatile, economists expect the balance of payments to be negative, depleting reserves further.

And while reserves at current levels are adequate to cover more than eight months of imports, analysts say a sustained depletion could cause some concern.

"A fall below eight months of import cover (about \$500 billion) could start catching the market's attention if the current account deficit stays above 3% of GDP," said QuantEco's Kumar.

"A panic situation prompting a forceful policy response could emerge if reserves touch six months of import cover, i.e., around \$380 billion."

POSSIBLE MEASURES
Analysts said while short-term fixes could provide intermittent relief, policymakers would need to continue focussing on strengthening structural macro buffers.

Bank of Baroda's Sabnavis suggested floating sovereign bonds, like the Resurgent India bonds (RIBs) India Millennium Deposit bonds (IMDs) in the past, to help boost forex reserves.

"Such measures can directly bring in dollars," he said.

Sabnavis said the rupee could weaken further towards 82-83 levels in the near-term and fall to 84 if the dollar continues to strengthen. The local unit is currently at 82.28 per dollar.

"Hard to really gauge the level, and expectations tend to be adaptive based on how RBI reacts."

MARKETS RALLY FOR THIRD DAY



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 18: Equity benchmark indices rallied for the third day on the trot Tuesday amid firm global market trends and buying in energy, banking and FMCG counters.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 549.62 points or 0.94 per cent to settle at 58,960.60. During the day, it zoomed 732.68 points or 1.25 per cent to 59,143.66.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 175.15 points or 1.01 per cent to end at 17,486.95.

State Bank of India (SBI) was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 3.41 per cent, followed by ITC, Nestle India, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, L&T, M&M and Reliance Industries.

Only five constituents finished in the red -- HDFC, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma and HDFC Bank, slipping up to 0.72 per cent. In the broader market, the BSE

midcap gauge jumped 1.06 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.71 per cent.

All BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with capital goods climbing 1.97 per cent, realty jumping 1.76 per cent, industrials (1.71 per cent), auto (1.50 per cent), power (1.46 per cent), utilities (1.46 per cent), FMCG (1.22 per cent) and energy (1.13 per cent).

Other Asian markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Shanghai settled lower.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.65 per cent lower at USD 91.02 per barrel.

The rupee pared its initial gains to close 7 paise down at 82.37 (provisional) against the US dollar in muted trade Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the Indian capital market Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 153.40 crore, as per exchange data.

Boeing India, Midhani to make aerospace materials

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Oct 18: Boeing India Tuesday announced it would assess and collaborate with Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) to develop raw materials for standard aerospace parts and components in India.

A press release from Boeing said indigenous availability of special aerospace materials and alloys has been identified as crucial for creating a self-reliant aerospace and defence industry in India.

The availability of essential aerospace materials is the first step in securing the supply chain, and aligning with the NDA government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the release said.

"Public sector units are an important part of Boeing's supply chain footprint in India. The potential collaboration with MIDHANI will strengthen Boeing's supply base and increase material sourcing options from India," Salil Gupta, president, Boeing India, said.

"This would be a key step in building Boeing India supply chain -- from raw material sourcing to supplying a finished product and it will further the firm's commitment for bolstering India's growing aerospace and defence ecosystem,"

Indigenous availability of special aerospace materials and alloys has been identified as crucial for creating a self-reliant aerospace and defence industry in India

he further said.

"We are excited about the prospect of partnering with Boeing on raw materials for the aerospace industry. This sits well with our plans to collaborate with multinational institutions and companies to strengthen our capabilities for producing critically advanced technology products here in India," said Sanjay Kumar Jha, chairman and managing director, Midhani.

Boeing has always supported the development of indigenous aerospace and defence capabilities in India, and has through the years invested in partnerships with the Indian aerospace eco system in skilling, research and technology and manufacturing, the release said.

BIZ BUZZ

BoM cuts interest rates on home, personal loans

Bhubaneswar: Going against the rising interest rate trend, the state-owned Bank of Maharashtra has lowered its home loan interest rates by 30 to 70 basis points from Monday. The Bank also cut personal loan rates by 245 bps. The Bank said it is making retail loans cheaper to bring in cheer among customers during the festive season. Home loans from the Bank will now be available at a minimum 8% per annum rate while the personal loan rate becomes cheaper at 8.9% from earlier 11.35%. Earlier, the lowest home loan rate was available at 8.30% for borrowers with a credit score of more than 800. Borrowers with credit score of 700 and above were charged 8.7%. Now, the Pune-based lender has decided to offer an 8% rate for borrowers with a minimum 700 score, a bank official said. The Bank already waived processing fees for gold, home and car loans under the "Diwali Dhamaka" offer. BoM's net interest margin (NIM) for the June quarter was at 3.28%, which is better than many in the banking industry, allowing the lenders to go for aggressive loan pricing.



A new showroom of Hindustan Jewellers was inaugurated at Janpath in Bhubaneswar, Sunday. Gold, diamond and silver jewellery of different varieties will be available at the showroom.

UCO Bank's Digital Banking Units at Salepur, Puri opened

Bhubaneswar: 75 Digital Banking Units pan-India were dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually October 16. Among the 75, two Digital Banking Units of UCO Bank were inaugurated at Salepur of Cuttack District and at Puri. During the inauguration, Union Minister of State Bishweswar Tudu, MP Anubhab Mohanty, Ishraq Ali Khan, Executive Director of UCO Bank and other dignitaries were present at Salepur DBU. Jayanta Kumar Sarangi, MLA Puri, Bhakta Charan Das representative of MP Puri Pinaki Mishra, and Gautam Patra, General Manager & Zonal Head of UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar were present in Puri DBU along with other dignitaries. The Digital Banking Units will reduce the gap between the common people and banking services. It will be available 365 days & 24 hour for the people.



Drones can help create \$100bn GDP boost in India: WEF report

AGENCIES

Gandhinagar, Oct 18: Putting drones at the centre of a technology-led transformation of Indian agriculture can help boost the country's GDP by 1-1.5 per cent and create at least five lakh jobs in the coming years, the World Economic Forum said in a new report Tuesday.

The report, prepared by WEF's Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India in collaboration with Adani Group and launched here, outlined the potential for drone-based transformation of Indian agriculture.

It also outlines use cases for drones, fusing military and civilian technologies enabled by digital adoption, analytics, digital financing and a well-coordinated local stakeholder effort and provides a framework for development of scalable pilots that can be implemented by various governments, the WEF said.

"Arguably, aviation is one of the most regulated sectors globally. India's bold and measured approach to spur unmanned aviation has been celebrated across a wide spectrum of stakeholders. To make the most of this regulatory landscape, drones must be part of the core agri-equipment repertoire alongside tractors, cultivators, ploughs, diggers and combine harvesters to fortify our farms," said Vignesh Santhanam, Project Lead, Aerospace and Drones (India) at WEF.

Citing different studies, the WEF highlighted the immense potential in improving agricultural outcomes for farms through precision agriculture expertise and advisory that can enable a 15 per cent increase in productivity in India's USD 600 billion agriculture sector.

"Drones can play a critical role in unlocking this value as they provide an effective medium to collect



data and apply inputs, directly impacting yields and farmers' income. Scaling drones in agriculture sector will also boost farm mechanization and nudge India closer to global peers," the WEF said. The report of the Geneva-based

WEF, which describes itself as an international organisation for public-private cooperation, also outlined how civil-military convergence can accelerate research to benefit civil society applications. The mainstreaming of drones in

the agricultural sector needs to be aided with the creation of a "green microcosm" where an integrated 'drone-centric rural hub' is set up and stabilised across crop cycles.

"The microcosm would be a controlled environment that would test varied use cases pertinent to agriculture as well as other rural applications," the WEF said.

Further, considering the complexity of India's agriculture system including different agro-climatic zones, range of crop varieties, despaired use of irrigation technologies etc, drones' integration in Indian agriculture can be achieved with form factor of drones and mission-based approach in partnership and ownership of stakeholders, it added.

India has approximately six lakh inhabited villages, all of which are said to have a reasonable level of agricultural activity. However, productivity in agri-

culture is determined largely by the inputs used by farmers at the time of cultivation, while several studies have indicated that the per-hectare output of a mechanised farm tends to be higher than that of a non-mechanised and irrigated farm.

The report cited a Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) report to highlight that digital tech-based agriculture can unlock further value of USD 65 billion by 2025 and said the gross domestic product (GDP) impact of digital agriculture will be even larger.

Besides, precision agriculture know-how and farm advisory services shared through multiple channels based on multiple existing and new data sources (soil health cards, weather data, farm/tractor-based sensors) can enable an economic opportunity of USD 25 billion through a 15 per cent increase in productivity.

BINNY NEW BCCI PREZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 18: World Cup winner Roger Binny was Tuesday elected as the 36th president of the BCCI, taking over from Sourav Ganguly to run the world's richest cricket board but the sports body's AGM concluded without any discussion on the ICC Chairmanship.

Binny, 67, was elected unopposed at the BCCI AGM (Annual general Meeting) here alongside Jay Shah, who was re-elected as the secretary for a second successive term. Binny, who played 27 Tests and 72 ODIs for India, takes charge ahead of the ODI World Cup in India next year.

The other office bearers who were elected unopposed included treasurer Ashish Shelar, vice-president Rajeev Shukla and joint secretary Devjit Saikia.

However, the issue of the chairmanship of International Cricket Council (ICC) remained unsettled and the new set of office bearers will take a call on the issue.

The observers keenly waited for the outcome of the AGM but the BCCI chose not to take a decision on the issue which is being discussed even in political corridors.



Odisha Cricket Association secretary Sanjay Behera (L) and president Pankaj Lochan Mohanty (R) felicitate newly appointed BCCI president Roger Binny

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had recently applauded that Ganguly be allowed to contest the ICC polls after the former India captain denied a second term as BCCI President.

At the AGM, outgoing treasurer and new IPL chairman Arun Dhimal informed the state units that the BCCI's treasury grew from ₹3648 crore to ₹9629 crore in the last three years. He also said that the disbursement to the state associations "has seen a jump of nearly five times, from ₹680 crore in the CoA time to ₹3295 crore now"

The next ICC chairman will be elected during the board meeting in Melbourne next month but it seems that incumbent Greg Barclay will continue in the role for his second successive term.

"As far as India's representative to the ICC is concerned, it will be decided by the office-bearers. There was no discussion on the ICC chairmanship. Only matters on the agenda were discussed," a state unit official who attended the AGM told this agency.

DHUMAL NAMED IPL CHIEF

Outgoing treasurer Arun Dhimal was elected in the IPL governing council alongside Avishek Dalmiya. Dhimal has become the new IPL chairman, replacing Brijesh Patel. MKJ Majumdar was elected in the BCCI Apex Council as the representative of the General Body.

WOMEN'S IPL APPROVED

The General Body also approved the inaugural Women's IPL, which will consist of five teams and will be held in March. "How the teams will be sold and how the tournament will be conducted will be decided by the GC shortly," said a source.

Shah's words put BCCI, PCB on collision course

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/Karachi, Oct 18: The Indian and Pakistan cricket boards put themselves on a collision course Tuesday after BCCI secretary Jay Shah said the 2023 Asia Cup will be played at a neutral venue, prompting the neighbours to threaten a boycott of next year's ODI World Cup.

The hosting rights of the 2023 edition of the 50-over Asia Cup has been awarded to Pakistan by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Incidentally, Shah is the president of the Asian Cricket Council.

The matter of India playing the Asia Cup in Pakistan was stated in the notes circulated to the BCCI members before Tuesday's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Mumbai.

"We have decided to play at a neutral venue," Shah was quoted as saying by multiple cricket websites after the conclusion of the AGM.

One of the reasons cited for not playing in Pakistan was that there has been precedence in the past of the continental event being shifted at a neutral venue.

India hasn't travelled to Pakistan since the 2008 Asia Cup, and after

the Mumbai terrorist attack November 26 that year, the scheduled bilateral series in early 2009 was cancelled.

The other reason cited was the Sri Lankan team bus being attacked by terrorists in Lahore. Pakistan did travel to India for a short six-match white-ball series in 2012.

The PCB is irked as international cricket has resumed in the country with all top nations like England, Australia, West Indies travelling.

Sources close to PCB chairman Ramiz Raja indicated that one of the options that they are mulling after Shah's statement is to pull out of the 50-over ICC World Cup in India.

The PCB, when contacted, declined to give an official reaction to Shah's statement.

The PCB sources said that Raja would be sending a strongly-worded letter to the ACC on the matter. The insider also disclosed that the PCB had decided to look at several options and would not accept any disruption to its hosting rights.

"If the president of the ACC is going to give statements like these, there is no use for Pakistan to remain in the body," he added.

Indian shooters bag 4 more gold in World C'ships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Oct 18: Indian junior shooters were on rampage claiming as many as four more gold medals at the ISSF World Championship here Tuesday.

The four medals swelled India's tally to 20 medals including nine gold, three silver and eight bronze medals. They are now placed second behind China, who have 18 gold for a grand total of 37 medals.

India's gold rush on competition day six began early with the team of Esha Singh, Shikha Narwal and Varsha Singh winning the air pistol team in the junior women's category, beating China 16-6 in the gold medal clash. The team had made the title round Monday after coming through two stages of qualification.

It was then the turn of the junior rifle girls and the trio of Ramita, Nancy and Tilottama Sen struck gold in the air rifle team women junior competition. They too beat a Chinese team 16-2 in a dominating display. They had earlier in the day also topped round one of qualification with 941.5 points and round two as well with a score of 627.6.

India's third gold of day six came in the Air Rifle Team Men Junior event where Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Sri Karthik Sabari Raj Ravishankar and Vidit Jain trumped China yet again with a favourable 17-11 score line in the final.

The junior riflemen emulated their women counterpart in registering a wire-to-wire victory. They had topped round one early in the day with a score of 937.9 after 90 shots and round two with 626.8 after 60 shots.

In 25m rapid fire pistol, junior mixed team pairing of Payal Khatri and Adarsh Singh won the fourth and final gold of the day, beating the pair of Feng Sixuan and Liu Yangpan 17-9 in the gold medal match.

Sameer picked up his second bronze of the day in the same event, where he partnered with Tejaswini to beat Luo Zizhao and Wang Shiwen of China 16-2, in the bronze medal match.

Three Indians in knockout round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 18: Three Indian players - D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi - have advanced to the quarterfinals of the Aimchess Rapid online tournament. Gukesh will take on Richard Rapport in the knockout round, while Erigaisi will battle it out against World No.1 Magnus Carlsen. Gujrathi will take on Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland.

Gukesh and Erigaisi finished second and fourth respectively. Gujrathi finished eighth to seal the final knockout berth. Gukesh (27 points) ended up one behind Duda, while Erigaisi also logged 27 points.

In the 15th and final round, Gukesh beat Richard Rapport, while Erigaisi defeated Anish Giri of the Netherlands. Gujrathi defeated David Anton Guijarro of Spain.

Benzema, Putellas bag Ballon d'Or awards

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 18: Karim Benzema won the men's Ballon d'Or for the first time after a brilliant season with Real Madrid capped by the Champions League and Spanish league titles.

Spanish player Alexia Putellas Monday won the women's trophy for the second straight year following another standout season with Barcelona.

Benzema had his best season ever at Madrid, being the top scorer in both leagues. He scored 44 times for Madrid, including 15 in Europe's top competition, and equalled Raul Gonzalez as the club's second-highest scorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Benzema, at 34, became the oldest winner since the first recipient in 1956, Stanley Matthews. "Age is just a



number for me," he said. "People play until their later years now and I still have this burning desire. It is this drive that has kept me going and never allowed me to let up."

Benzema won ahead of Sadio Mane and Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne. He succeeded Lionel Messi, who won the award for a record-extending seventh time last year but was not among the nominees this time after



his first season with PSG.

For the first time this year, the Ballon d'Or was based on achievements from the past season. It had previously been awarded based on performances throughout calendar years.

Benzema became the fifth Frenchman to win it after Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini, Jean-Pierre Papin and Zinedine Zidane, who was crowned in 1998, the year

France won their first World Cup. Leading an attack that also included Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo, Benzema played a crucial role last season to drive Madrid to a record-extending 14th European title, and his fifth since he joined from Lyon in 2009. The Frenchman was the tournament's top scorer and found the net when it really mattered, with 10 of his goals in the knockout stages.

Putellas scored 42 goals and delivered 22 assists last season. She became the first player to win the award twice. With Barcelona, she won the Spanish League and reached the Champions League final. She has been sidelined since July after injuring her left knee and undergoing surgery on the eve of the Women's European Championship.

Putellas beat out fellow forwards

OTHER AWARDS

Kopa Trophy (Best U-21 player)
GAVI (Barcelona)

Gerd Muller Trophy (Best striker)
ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI (Barcelona)

Lev Yashin Trophy (Best goalie)
THIBAUT COURTOIS (Real Madrid)

The organisers added a humanitarian prize named after the late Brazil midfielder Socrates. The trophy went to Sadio Mane for his charity work in Senegal including building a hospital and school donations.

Beth Mead of Arsenal and England and Sam Kerr of Chelsea and Australia for the award at the ceremony in Paris. A panel of international journalists chose the winners.



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