

### **OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME**

Actor Kangana Ranaut will be seen playing legendary Bengali theatre actress Binodini Dasi, aka 'Notee Binodini', in her next

### VOLUME 12, ISSUE 199 | www.orissapost.com

### TRUSS FIGHTS BACK

British PM Liz Truss describes herself as 'a fighter and not a quitter' against opposition from the Conservative Party

### SRAF Srabani in 200m Champi

### **SRABANI CLAIMS SILVER** Srabani Nanda wins her 2nd medal, a silver,

in 200m at the National Open Athletics Championships

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

### **SHORT TAKES**

### High Court relief for MLA Moquim

Cuttack: In a major relief for Congress MLA Md Moquim, the Orissa High Court issued Wednesday a stay order on the conviction imposed by a Special Vigilance Court in Bhubaneswar in connection with a loan scam in Odisha Rural Housing Development Corporation (ORHDC). The Vigilance Court had sentenced Moquim to three years of rigorous imprisonment for his alleged involvement in the scam. It had created a fear that the lawmaker will lose his position in the Legislative Assembly. However, Moquim will now be able to continue as an MLA till February 22 next year, which has been fixed for the next date of hearing.

### ₹ plunges to all-time low against dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee plunged 61 paise to decline below the 83-mark for the first time against the US dollar Wednesday to close at 83.01 reversing gains from earlier in the session on more indications that high inflation will keep major central banks in rate-hike mode, hurting the recent risk-assets rally. The rupee closed at its lifetime low after opening the session at 82.30 earlier in the day. Rising crude prices in the international markets and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local currency. traders said.







BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 | 2022

FINISHING TOUCHES: Artisans draw designs on Terracotta items at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

## **Cyclone Sitrang: High alert in seven districts**

In 2021, various districts of Odisha had been ravaged by 3 cyclones namely Yaas, Gulab and Jawad that left a trail of destruction

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: In view of the anticipated cyclonic storm 'Sitrang' over the Bay of Bengal, the Odisha government Wednesday asked collectors of seven coastal



### BJD expels Rajendra

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The ruling BJD expelled Wednesday former MLA and rebel leader Rajendra Kumar Das, who is contesting the bypoll to Dhamnagar Assembly seat as an independent candidate. BJD general secretary

Manas Mangaraj said in a statement that president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has expelled Das for anti-party activities.

Rajendra had been elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly from Dhamnagar as a BJD can-

BJD to withdraw his nomination after the party nominated Abanti Das to contest from the seat.

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

Rajendra remained unfazed at his expulsion from the BJD and said he was not surprised. "I welcome the decision as the people of Dhamnagar are with me. This is a blessing for in disguise for me," Rajendra told re-

I am not at all surprised by the BJD's decision to expel me, it is a blessing in disguise for me

winning," Rajendra said. Th Rajendra had expressed by displeasure after being de-

AP Deputy CM's Kotia visit sparks fresh controversy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Oct 22: The Kotia dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh took a new turn Wednesday with the visit of the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Peedika Rajanna Dora to Neradivalsa village in this block. Dora, who is also the AP Tribal Welfare Minister, visited the village which is under the disputed Kotia panchayat to discuss the state's welfare schemes with the people. The visit of such a topranked AP minister has sparked off a fresh row as it comes days after the district administration held a grievance redressal meeting in the same village.

Sources informed that the Deputy CM held detailed discussions with residents of Neradivasala village regarding the allowances, availability of amenities like drinking water, electricity, ration, anganwadi centres, schools and other welfare programmes being carried out by the Jagan Reddy government.

Dora also spoke to the benefici-



aries and discussed with them the steps taken by the Andhra Pradesh government to solve the problems the villagers are facing. He assured them that his government will provide them with all the opportunities of availing state-backed schemes that are due to the people.

It are due to the people. It should be stated here that officials of the Koraput district administration had conducted\_ September 17 a public meeting in Neradivalsa village to discuss various issues with the residents. The meeting was also attended by people from Arjuvalsa, Dhulipadar, Panukuvalsa and other disputed areas. The villagers had aired their grievances to the block development officer of Pottangi and tensildar in presence of the sarpanch.

#### We have elected such a great party president that even our rivals are celebrating!

M	MARKET WATCH					
IN	DEX		VARI	ATION		
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BOL	NIFTY	17512.25		25.30		
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	82.27	₽	₹0.11		
CURR	EURO	81.24		₹0.14		
NOI	GOLD	₹50,344	₽	₹70		
BULLION	SILVER	₹56,189	₽	₹165		

WEAT	IER		
	BHUB	СТК	Carl
d Max	32.4℃	32.0°	C
	24.0°C	24.0°	<b>Forecast</b>
Humidity	87%	80%	Light rain
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	very likely

districts to remain on high alert. Despite no concrete evidence regarding the direction of the cyclone, the Odisha government doesn't want to take any chances. Hence, the Special Relief Commissioner's (SRC) office has directed the collectors of Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, and Balasore to be on high alert and monitor the situation on an hourly basis.

Various government departments were also informed by the SRC about the latest weather conditions including Commissionercum-Secretary of the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) department, Secretary to Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department, Director ,Agriculture and Food Production, Water Resources department, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), ing

Inspector General (Fire Services), the NDRF commandant at Mundali and OSDMA Executive Director, officials said. The India Meteorological

Department (IMD) in a bulletin Wednesday said that cyclonic circulation Tuesday over north

Andaman Sea and neighbourhood is persisted at the same region and is extending up to mid tropospheric levels. The IMD informed that under its influence a low pressure area is likely to form over southeast and adjoining East Central Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours.

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression by October 22 morning over central Bay of Bengal. It is very likely to intensify further into a cyclonic storm over west central Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours, the IMD added.

Further updates about the cyclone will be known after formation of the low-pressure area, the Met officials said. However, it has not issued any major weather warning till the morning of October 23. IMD Director-General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said that accurate prediction on the intensity and trajectory could be made only after the formation of the low-pressure area.

Under the influence of the low pressure, squally winds with surface speed reaching 45kmph to 55kmph gusting to 65kmph over deep sea areas of west central adjoining North Bay of Bengal will be prevalent from October 22, the IMD said.

The weatherman advised fishermen not to venture into deep sea areas of west central adjoining North Bay of Bengal from October 22 and along and off Odisha coast from October 23 till further notice. didate in 2009. However, now he has gone against the party diktat and filed his nomination as an independent candidate for the November 3 bypoll. He did so despite requests from the

nied a ticket to the bypoll and with the BJD's decision to nominate Abaniti, a self help group activist and chairperson of the Tihidi block in Bhadrak district. **Continued on P4** 

### Kharge is new Cong chief

AICC gets a non-Gandhi leader after 24 years as results of the 6th elections in the history of the 137-year-old party are announced

Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and

Telangana. When asked, Mistry

said he will respond to the letters

point by point. Mistry said there was

no basis for the contents in the let-

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 19: Mallikarjun Kharge was Wednesday elected the Congress president after defeating Shashi Tharoor in an electoral contest, the sixth in the party's 137-year-old history. Out of the 9,385 votes polled, Kharge got 7,897 votes while Tharoor finished with 1,072 votes. A total of 416 votes were declared invalid, Congress' central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry announced at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here.

Tharoor's team earlier had lodged complaints related to polling in

ter and there was nothing specific in the complaint. After the result was announced, Tharoor accepted that final verdict has been in favour of Kharge. He also congratulated Kharge for his victory.

"The decision of the party delegates is final and I accept it humbly. It is a privilege to be a member of a party that allows its workers to choose their president," Tharoor said. "Our new president is a party colleague and senior who brings ample leadership and experience to the table. Under his guidance, I am confident that we can all collectively take the party to new heights," he added. **Continued on P4** 

### US returns Indian antiquities worth \$4.5mn

■ *The return of the antiquities comes at a time when a debate is raging whether the Kohinoor diamond should be repatriated to India by England* 

#### AGENCIES

New York, Oct 19: A globe spanning, 15-year investigation has led to the repatriation of 307 antiquities by the US that were stolen and trafficked from India and valued at nearly 4.5 million dollars. The majority of these antique items were seized from disgraced art dealer Subhash Kapoor who has outlets here and in some other cities in the US.

Manhattan District Attorney

Alvin Bragg announced Tuesday the return of 307 antiquities valued at nearly USD 4.5 million to the people of India.

Of these, 235 antiquities were seized following the investigation by the office of the Manhattan District Attorney into Kapoor, 'a prolific looter who helped traffic items from Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and other countries. All the antiquities were returned during a repa-



triation ceremony at the Indian Consulate here attended by India's Consul General Randir Jaiswal, and US Homeland Security Investigations Acting Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge Christopher Lau.

"These antiquities were stolen by multiple complex and sophisticated trafficking rings – the leaders of which showed no regard for the cultural or historical significance of these objects," Bragg said. "We are proud to return hundreds of stunning pieces back to the people of India that are extremely valuable," he added.

Among the pieces being returned is the 'Arch Parikara', crafted from marble and dating to the 12-13th century. Valued at approximately USD 85,000, it was among the antiquities seized from Kapoor.

Continued on P4

## Panchayats to be directly connected to Secretariat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: In order to<br/>facilitate seamless administration<br/>for the benefit of the people in<br/>Odisha, the government is plan-<br/>ning to connect all the gram pan-<br/>chayat offices with the secretariat.<br/>Once this happens, ministers, sec-<br/>retaries, district collectors and de-<br/>partmental officials will be able<br/>to regularly review the imple-<br/>mentation of government schemes<br/>through video conferencing.for<br/>the<br/>the<br/>sec-<br/>The<br/>ence<br/>the<br/>order the secretariat.

Sources said that the state government is contemplating such a step as many people are not aware of the beneficial schemes floated for them. As a result, they are missing out on the government benefits.

The Odisha government has planned the direct connection of the panchayats with the secretariat for early redressal of grievances, sources informed here Wednesday. They said that the government has decided to provide video conferencing facility to 6,794 panchayats across Odisha. A video conferencing room will be set up in every panchayat office with a seating capacity of 30 persons. Blockdevelopment officers have been

development officers have been asked to prepare a feasibility report.







### leisure



### **KANYE WEST SUED FOR \$250 MN OVER GEORGE FLOYD COMMENTS**

The mother of George Floyd's daughter has filed a \$250 million lawsuit against Kanye West over his recent comments about the man's death. He recently alleged George died as a result of drug abuse and not as a result of police brutality.

### **UNA HEALY FELT ALMOST** EMPTY AFTER HER DIVORCE

Irish singer Una Healy felt almost empty after her divorce from Ben Foden but is now used to being single and finds it exciting. The former Saturdays star was married to the English rugby union player from 2012 until 2018.



### FORTUNE FORECAST



You continue to be a kind and cooperative person. You give generously and it pays back manifold, and today is one of those days. You will treat colleagues and subordinates like an extended family, and successfully mix business with pleasure. A rare ability, says Ganesha.

### TAURUS

There is every possibility that you will keep people around you in good humour. predicts Ganesha. A craving for food might overcome you today. Such a feeling might be because of subdued hunger. Kick back and enjoy as fun will top your priority list, feels Ganesha.

### GEMINI

Today, you will be emotional and practical at the same time. Academically, you will be at the top of your game. People around you will be swept away by your charming and intelligent ways. By evening, you will divert your mind towards beautifying vour home, feels Ganesha.

### CANCER

Ganesha warns you of minor ailments. Don't eat verv cold items. You will help others in tackling their problems. Ganesha savs that you must begin by vourself any auspicious task.

### LEO

Your day will start off very ordinarily. The later half of the day too should prove to be uneventful. However, events occuring in the afternoon will win you the praise of your colleagues. You will try to improve your self today. You will be inspired to take on some challenging projects, says Ganesha.

### VIRGO

Your amazing ability to play with words will stand you in 7 good stead today. So much so that with your silken talk you will be able to charm your way into the heart of a member of the opposite sex later today. Work that has been postponed too often will he finished

### .IBRA Ganesha savs vou will use your creative and artistic

skills in decorating and renovating your home. You will experience a feeling of pride when all will appreciate your home décor. You will want to spend

## Shruti making most of her Greece trip

Mumbai: Actress-singer Shruti Haasan, who is in Greece for a professional commitment, is making the most of her days off.

The actress has been exploring the beautiful country and has been sharing the picturesque sights with her followers on social media. The actress said,

'Getting to know a place is a beautiful thing. Shruti loves travelling and has often shared snapshots of exotic destinations. Greece is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and Shruti is thoroughly enjoying the travels, the culture and the food.

On the professional front. Shruti has her hands full with

### Kangana to play theatre **legend Notee Binodini**

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut will be seen essaying the role of the legendary Bengali theatre actress Binodini Dasi, professionally known as Notee Binodini, in an upcoming film to be directed by Pradeep Sarkar.

Notee Binodini was a key player in the evolution of the theatre culture in India. During a career that spanned 12 years, she enacted over 80 roles, including those of Sita, Draupadi, Radha, Ayesha, Kaikeyi, Motibibi and Kapalkundala under the mentorship of Girish Chandra Ghosh. She was one of the first South Asian theatre actresses to write her own autobiography.

When contacted, Kangana said, "I'm a very big fan of Pradeep Sarkar ii and verv happy for this opportunity. Also this will be my first collaboration with Prakash Kapadia ii and

markable journey with some of the greatest artistes of this country."

This yet-to-be-titled megabudget film has been written by Prakash Kapadia, who has movies such as Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior, Padmavat, Devdas and Black to his credit.



### Varun goes all praise for Akshay

Mumbai: Recently Varun Dhawan and the rest of the team launched the trailer of the creature comedy Bhediya which features the actor in a never-seen-before avatar of a werewolf. Known for his impeccable comic timing, the young actor has been wooing fans with his comic timing. Did you know Varun Dhawan could imitate Akshay Kumar?

At the event, Varun Dhawan had some interesting anecdotes to share about the film. "Abhishek (Banerjee) and I would do a whole scene like we were Akshay Kumar," said Varun. Amidst his conversation about how they would often mimic different actors including the megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Kriti Sanon chimed in, "Basically they would do comedy off screen so that they didn't have to do it onscreen." Further talking like a true fan boy, Varun added, "In case of comedy, it is synonymous with Akshay Kumar. When you think of comedy obviously Akshay Kumar has impacted an entire gen-

eration," he added. Coming to Bhediya, the film is expected to be a part of the horror comedy universe that is created by Dinesh 'ijan. Directed by Amar Kaushik, the film fea-Varun tures Dhawan as a man who turns into a werewolf on full moons. AGENCIES

### Tina reveals what made her come on board BB-16

New Delhi: Actress Tina Datta, who is currently seen on Bigg Boss 16 has never been a fan of reality shows and she always loves doing fictional dramas. However, she disclosed what made her come on board on this reality show.

"I never entered Bigg Boss as a contestant so this time it is altogether a different experience where I have to show my real side and it is fun," Datta said, adding: "But I must say TV shows are my first love as I started my career with them and I look forward to doing it more.'

The 30-year-old actress also made it clear that she joined Bigg Boss; because of Salman Khan: "If Salman sir would not have been the host. I don't think I would have joined the show.'

Tina, who has been part of shows such as Shani, and also acted in films like Chokher Bali and Parineeta', among others, also nixed rumours about her rift with her Uttaran co-star Rashami Desai.

She said: "There are no controversies around my personal relationship and I am always very vocal about them. Of course I have been in a relationship and sometimes it worked out and

> sometimes not. I never had any bitter terms with Rashami Desai and I don't know how people can think of that.' IANS

Salaar. Chiru 154 and NBK 107 op-

posite Prabhas, Chiranjeevi and

Nandamuri Balakrishna respectively

apart from a few other projects that

Commenting on her upcoming

projects, Shruti says, "I'm really re-

ally excited to be a part of these proj-

ects because of the characters I'm

playing and the people I'm working

"I'm having the best time of my life

working on these films as both the

characters (in Salaar and NBK107) are

so different from each other." IANS

are to be announced soon.

with.

the evening all alone as you may feel uneasy in the company of your friends and not particularly in the mood to socialise.





Sports-persons and athletes are in full form today as their energy levels soar Engineers put in their best efforts to kickstart their new business ventures. Social recognition and prestige is on the cards today, foresees Ganesha

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Passionate about work, you are brimming with innovative ideas for new projects. Shoot them in the meeting and you are sure to receive compliments. However, there are chances that you may have to compromise on your family life today. But. it's harmless.

### CAPRICORN

You have paid the price for your mistakes in the past, so you will take every step after considering all the pros and cones. Career issues will hover your mind through out the day and you may think about opting for a job change, also. Compared to morning, evening will be calmer and you may spend some quality time with your near and dear ones.

### AQUARIUS

You have been very busy, but today it is a different day. You will make efforts to be calm and relaxed, and go on the path of spirituality. You may visit a temple or any other religious place, or meditate to find solace, foretells Ganesha. Shopping, probably for clothes, is also on the cards for you.

### PISCES

It is possible that you have a very busy day and that you remain on your toes all day. In order to get your work done you will spend a greater part of your day in the office. On the other hand social responsibilities will contribute to some mental stress.



### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

PEANUTS







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

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DOKU	7846259		2 5 3 1 4 9 7	6 9 1 8 7 3		1 2 7 9 5 8 3	5 4 6 3 1 7 2		9 3 4 5 2	3 7 2 5 8 4 6	4 1 9 7 3 6 8		8 6 5 2 9
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## downtown



### **CRACKING DOWN**

Jagatpur police seized huge quantities of illegal firecrackers from Padmapur and Trilochanpur areas in Cuttack, Wednesday



### **COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	63,10,12,627	61,01,04,884	65,74,628
lia	4,46,34,376	4,40,79,485	5,28,923
lisha	13,35,568	13,25,879	9,202

**SUNDARGARH MISHAP** NHRC for ₹5 lakh aid to electrocution victims

#### POST NEWS NETWORE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chief Secretary to ensure that Rs 5 lakh compensation each is paid to the next kin of the two budding hockey players of Sundargarh who died due to electrocution in May this year. Hearing a plea filed by rights

activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak, the apex rights panel October 11 asked the Chief Secretary to make sure that Rs 5 lakh each is paid as compensation to the next of the kin of Sujal Ekka, 19, a resident of Pandratoli Kukuda under Alanda panchayat, and Birendra Kujur, 20, of Jhagarpur village in the tribal-dominated district within four weeks and submit the compliance report by November 18 this year.

Quoting media reports, Nayak had informed the commission that Ekka and Kujur were electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire May 4, 2022

"Ekka and Kujur were about to return home after a practice session, when their coach asked them to remove an electric wire in front



of his house. They were electrocuted while trying to remove the live wire using an iron rod," Nayak told the NHRC

The duo was rushed to the community health centre at Rajgangpur, where doctors declared them 'brought dead', he said, adding that the coach was booked soon after.

Taking cognisance of the incident, the commission sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the Energy department.

Citing the probe findings, the department informed the rights body that the coach was responsible for the mishap as he engaged the duo illegally. "The coach has agreed to pay Rs 2 lakh each to the next kin of the two players.

On August 3, the commission, however, observed that the mishap occurred due to the negligence of the Energy department for



which two lives were lost. Hence, it cannot slough off its responsibility. The NHRC asked the Chief Secretary to show cause within four weeks as to why a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each should not be recommended to the next of

the victims' kin. In its response, the state government gave a clean chit to the local power discom saying, "The mishap occurred due to unau-

thorised interference by the duo. The mishap could have been avoided, had the local power discom was informed about the dangling wire instead of trying to remove it illegally."

Expressing displeasure, the commission reiterated that the mishap took place due to the negligence of the local power discom. The commission posted the next hearing to November 18 this year.



ommendations by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that mandatory cancer reporting is absolutely necessary for its prevention, control and carry ing out research programmes, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department in a notification Wednesday said that all diagnosed cancer incidences should be reported to the appropriate authority.

In the notification, the departnent said, "Estimation of cancer burden and its distribution with respect to time place and person is essential for evidence based planning and mobilizing the resources Cancer registries are not being maintained properly at health facilities and a lot of cancer cases are remaining un-reported.'

It further said the state government, after due consideration of the matter has also found it imperative that all diagnosed cancer



incidences should be reported to the appropriate authority for early detection and treatment of the disease. The data received on cancer in the state would be used to frame policy on prevention and control of cancer, expansion of treatment facilities and cancer research and training centers in the state, it added.

"Accordingly in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Section 62 of Tamil Nadu Public Health Act 1939, the government hereby declares that 'cancer' is a

It will be the responsibility of every doctor/ pathologist/medical establishment to notify the cancer cases preferably on real time

'Reportable Disease' in Odisha for the purpose of the said Act," the no-

The government ordered all persons concerned in hospitals (private or public), pathological, clinical and radiological labs, institutions imparting medical education and providing diagnostic treatment, palliative care and any other healthcare related facilities to mandatorily report diagnosed cases of cancer. All concerned are required to send the patients for pathological confirmation when he/she be

comes cognizant of the existence or suspicion of cancer in patient, it said

the same would then complete and send the information in prescribed format, it added.

Whosoever is reporting or notifying cancer shall maintain a prescribed register and accordingly document additional printed format for all new cases diagnosed or being treated with effect in the state with effect from the date of this notification. This should be done within the period not exceeding two weeks from the date of diagnosis.

The diagnosing or treating doctor who becomes cognizant of the cancer disease should ensure that the pathologist should be updated of the clinical details of such patients for the purpose of notifying the disease effectively.

It will be the responsibility of every doctor/pathologist/medical establishment to notify the cancer cases preferably on a real time basis

### **3 DRIVING TRAINING INSTITUTES FROM NEXT YR**

tional by the end of this year.

The newly-constructed institute

Both light and heavy motor ve-

hicle (LMV and HMV) driving

training will be provided in these

The training period for heavy

Ashok Leyland, which has ex-

pertise and experience in this

field, will jointly manage the day-

to-day operations of the institu-

Free training with accommo-

dation and food will be given to

youths from various districts of

Odisha in these institutes.

vehicles will be 30 days and that of

the LMVs it would be 21 days.

Panigrahy's wife quizzed by ED

tification reads.

have 140 seats.

institutes.

tions

The pathologist after confirming

DEMOLITION DRIVE: An excavator engaged by the civic body pulls down an illegal structure in Puri, Wednesday OP PHOTO

### **BIZ SUMMIT** Chief Secy meets Indian envoys

national business forums.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Oct 19: The state government held a business summit with a few ambassadors of India in a bid to boost the state's presence in the global market, an official release said Wednesday.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra met Dinesh Patnaik and Manoj Mohapatra, the Indian ambassadors to Spain and Guatemala, respectively, at the State Convention Centre in Bhubaneswar Tuesday evening, it said.

During the deliberations on the The Chief Secretary said with the growth of industries in Odisha, involvement of the Indian mis-Mahapatra expressed hope that sions in different countries, "we the Indian missions would adecan increase our presence in the quately present the state at interglobal market".

sectors," he said.

parel, food processing, IT and ITeS

Representatives of various in-'Odisha is emerging as a major dustry associations said the state industrial hub in eastern India. could enhance export in textile de-We have attracted investments in sign, pharmaceutical, vegetable, the mineral, metallurgy, chemiseafood, cashew, auto and cals, petrochemicals, textiles, apsteel sectors

Bhubaneswar. Oct 19: Inching a step further in 'Skilled in Odisha' campaign, the state government Wednesday said that the construction of three new driving training and research institutes at Sundargarh, Berhampur and Keonihar has been completed and that they would start functioning next year.

This was revealed during a highlevel review meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Wednesday

After reviewing the progress so far, Mahapatra directed the Transport department to make all the three institutions fully func-

A society will be formed under the chairmanship of the transport have 150 seats and Berhampur will commissioner to manage the institutions

It was decided in the meeting that the institutes will be run by the society on public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

About Rs 2.67 crore will be provided to the society for procurement of training vehicles, dual control driving devices, simulators, workshop equipment and training equipment for each institute.

At present, one such institute is fully functional at Chhatia in Jajpur district on PPP mode. Ashok Leyland is managing it. The institute has 150 seats

#### at Keonjhar will have 134 seats. while the one at Sundargarh will

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Suspended BJD MLA Pradeep Panigrahy's wife Sujata Panigrahy Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning over money laundering charges. The ED sleuths grilled Sujata at their Nayapalli office here for around seven hours.

Meanwhile, the Gopalpur MLA's daughter Shruti was also grilled by the ED officials for around seven hours in this connection, Tuesday. The father-daughter duo had earlier been quizzed by the ED in 2021.

The ED is reportedly questioning the Panigrahys to dig out details of illegal financial transactions with dismissed Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Abhay Pathak and his son Akash Pathak.

The ED is questioning the Panigrahys to dig out details of illegal financial transactions with dismissed IFS officer Abhay Pathak and his son Akash

On December 3, 2020, the Crime Branch had arrested the legisla tor on charges of forgery, criminal conspiracy and other cyber offences in a case registered at the cvber police station. He was also investigated for amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income during his tenure as a public servant from May 24, 2009 to November 30, 2020. He was found in possession of DA to the tune of Rs 5.05 crore. Following his arrest, he was expelled from the BJD.

He was also accused of collecting money from various job aspirants in Gopalpur area onbehalf of Akash on the pretext of providing jobs in TATA Motors.

### Astarang youth sows 2,500 mangrove seeds

**MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT** 

Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district has been witnessing rapid erosion for the last few years due to the impact of climate change

t a time when climate change is emerging as a serious threat to marine ecosystem, a young environment warrior from Astarang block has started sowing mangrove seeds in Rushikulva beach, a significant nesting site for endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district has been witnessing rapid erosion for the last few years due to the impact of climate change. To mitigate the climatic impact on the beach and save the 'arribada ground' (a unique synchronized nesting site for Riddleys), Soumya Ranjan Biswal of Astarang block in Puri district has started a campaign to protect the existing man-

groves of Rushikulya. He along with his team has started sowing mangrove seeds in the river estuarine ecosystem with an aim to prevent the beach erosion

Biswal, along with Mujesh Mallik, a teenage eco-warrior, has collected more than 2,500 mangrove seeds from the mangrove forests of Devi river estuary under Astarang block and reached Rushikulya estuary on a scooter to plant the seeds near Purunabandha.

He held discussions with local green activists and volunteers regarding preservation of the existing mangroves which would benefit the locals in terms of livelihood support. During the discussion, he advocated for various topics like presence of mangroves during natural disasters and their ability to mitigate the impact of storms and tsunamis. He also explained how the presence of mangrove ecosystem enriches fish stock and prevents beach degradation.

"Around 70 to 80 per cent of marine aquatic animals depend on

mangrove ecosystems for their nutrition during breeding season," said Biswal.

The discussion focused on importance of carbon sequestration and its role in oxygenation.

Biswal, who has been appointed as the United Nations India YuWaah Advocate, said, "Since my childhood in Gundalba, a small seaside village in Astarang region, I have witnessed the horror of climate change impact. Every year, there would be devastating consequences because of cyclones and sometimes tsunamis. These incidents prompted me to work in this direction. The endangered Olive Ridley turtle, listed in Schedule-1 category, is not only a glory to our state but also plays a vital role in maintaining the balance of the marine ecosystem. Although there are many beaches in the world, Odisha beaches are very suitable for them. Rushikulya estuary is a priceless gift for the turtles from Mother Nature and is one of the three important mass nesting sites in Odisha. Hence, I



Green activist Soumya Ranjan Biswal sows the mangrove seeds

have been visiting this site since 2018. Our organisation Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan has been involved in many environment conservation campaigns such as beach cleaning, community awareness, distribution of sports and education equipment to local children along with spreading awareness for their future role for turtle safety.'

'We also remain associated with various programs from Berhampur Forest Division. But gradual degradation of the beach over the last four vears has worried me. If Olive Ridley turtles do not visit our state, our coasts will experience ecological imbalance and our livelihoods will be under threat.'

In the initial phase, 2.500 seeds were planted in Rushikulya estuary and 500 seeds were sowed in Bahuda estuary in Andhra-Odisha coastal border region in collaboration with Prahallad Mallik of Astarang region and Sagar Nayak, a student from Berhampur.



### downtown

### **HC stays Moquim's conviction**

The Barabati-Cuttack MLA will now be able to retain his membership in the Odisha Assembly for the remaining period of his term



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 19: In a relief to Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim, the Orissa High Court Wednesday granted a stay on the execution of a conviction order passed by a special vigilance court. which had last month sentenced the legislator to undergo three years of rigorous imprisonment in a loan scam case.

**OrissaPOST** 

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 20 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

In its 15-page order, a singlejudge bench of Justice B P Routray said keeping in view Moquim's position as an MLA the loss that may befall him due to conviction would be irreparable, unless the conviction is staved

This will also lead to an un-

timely bye-election which will burden the public exchequer. Further considering the limited period of his sentence for three years and the offences involved, which are neither punishable with death or life imprisonment, it is felt apposite to grant a stay of the conviction pending appeal", Justice

Routray said. The Barabati-Cuttack MLA will now be able to retain his membership in the Odisha Assembly for the remaining period of his term that had begun on May 23, 2019, his lawyer Pitambar Acharya told reporters.

Moquim, an engineer by pro-

fession, was heading a construction company in 2000 when his firm was illegally awarded a loan of ₹1.5 crore by the state-run Odisha Rural Housing Development Corporation (OHRDC). The loan was disbursed in a

hurry intending to bring pecuniary loss to OHRDC for which Moquim and four others, including a dismissed IAS officer, were convicted by the vigilance court. Moquim was sentenced by the

Special Vigilance Court, Bhubaneswar, to undergo three years jail term and ₹50,000 fine for each offence. The first time MLA had filed an

appeal in the High Court with three interlocutory applications praying for bail pending appeal, a stay on the realisation of the fine, and a suspension of the conviction. The High Court had earlier al-

lowed his first two appeals and completed the hearing on the third appeal on October 10.

The court has fixed February 22, 2023 as the date of hearing of the primary petition in the case.



FOR INDUSTRY'S FUTURE: Odia film producers organised a protest rally from Soochana Bhawan to Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar Wednesday demanding help from government to save the Odia cine industry OP PHOTO

### **Bijaya posthumously conferred** lifetime achievement award

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: In recognition of his contribution in the field of education, late Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, founder-chairman, SAI International Group, was posthumously conferred with the lifetime achievement award at the 16th Annual Education World India School Rankings Awards 2022-23 held recently at New Delhi.

Sahoo's son, Vikram Aditya received the award. The award was conferred to Sahoo for his invaluable contribution for the growth and development of K-12 education in Odisha and the country. For more than 35 years, he dedicatedly worked for the betterment of education and for the promotion of scientific temperament and innovation. He is remembered for inculcating leadership quality in children and transforming more than 2 lakh children's lives.

Accepting the award Vikram thanked the Education World for bestowing it on Sahoo. He said, "It's a great honour for us to receive the lifetime achievement. The SAI family pledges to keep up the vision of

**CLASSIFIED** 

AFFIDAVIT

# SAL

Sahoo by imparting quality education to every child following his footprints.

Sahoo's brainchild, SAI International Education Group, comprises institutions namely, SAI International School, SAI Angan, and SAI International Residential School. In 2019, he was elevated to the status of minister of state, advisorcum-working president of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan with the sole mission of establishing 314 CBSE English Medium government schools, one in each block of the state. Sahoo was conferred with the

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The Capital city Bhubaneswar is moving ahead to ensure cleanliness in every nook and corner. For generating community participation models for cleanliness, the city authority is covering ward wise areas to orient its citizens about new initiatives of cleaning strategy. Wednesday, a mass cleaning drive was organised at Master Canteen square.

The drive took place around 6:30am Wednesday where Mayor Sulochana Das and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner, Vijaya Amruta Kulange were present with team of corporators and other officials. On this occasion, Tree Pole and Wall level cleaning and cleaning of grass, plastic and soil from the stretch was done. The cleaning was directly observed by the city authority to set an example of wall to wall

cleaning. Kulange said, "Beauty is dependent on cleanliness; we are inviting public to take part in the drive so that they can understand the situation and extend cooperation. This is a practical approach where each citizen should come for-



ward to make Bhubaneswar clean and make the drive successful. The drive is initiated for in the public interest to uplift city's growth for achieving better livability standard.

In some roads and avenues we find waste and such waste has not been cleaned. "We have deployed our manpower and required machineries to complete the drive in a timeline. Initially, we have a target for Diwali and upcoming world Cup hockey; if required more resources will be utilised to make the city clean. Our observation through corporators, ward level officials and empowered officers will continue. They are vigilant on the situation. Despite intensive awareness and repeated appeal, a few violators are polluting the city. As per the norm, they will be fined with other enforcement steps as applicable.

As instructed by Mayor, a pre post situation analysis was done on the ground and the change of the landscape was demonstrated where newly joined Sanitary Inspectors were directly oriented on the approach.

More than 40 trips of garbage have been generated out of the drive Tuesday. Team BMC visited the households of the area to pass on the message of wall to wall cleaning approach. Dedicated vehicle to generate awareness among the citizens was also engaged to percolate the message of segregation at source.

### **CONTINUED FROM P** leader Shashi Tharoor wrote to

Kharge is new... Tharoor also thanked Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for ensuring a neutral election. Kharge meanwhile said no one in the party is big or small and he will work as a true Congress soldier to strengthen the organisation. "We have to together fight the threat to democracy and the Constitution. We have to fight the fascist forces who are attacking democracy and the people of the country," Kharge said, assailing the forces 'wearing the garb of communalism'.

The campaign team of Congress

### **BJD expels Rajendra**

C ources said that it was Rajendra Owho was instrumental in making Abanti the chairperson of the Tihidi block. Party insiders said that Rajendra's candidature will certainly spilt BJD votes in Dhamnagar as he has been nurturing the constituency for a long time. Even though Rajendra lost the 2019 elections to BJP's Bishnu Charan Sethi, he had been working tirelessly in the constituency

### US returns Indian...

It first surfaced in photographs depicting antiquity in a dirty, prerestoration condition. These photographs—along with dozens of others depicting antiquities lying in the grass or on the ground were sent to Kapoor by a supplier of illicit goods in India, a statement

Uttar Pradesh be deemed invalid, Tharoor's team also raised 'serious issues' in the conduct of the election in Punjab and Telangana. Tharoor's chief agent Salman Soz said the facts are 'damning' and the election process in Uttar Pradesh is 'devoid of credibility and integrity', the letter said. BJD sources said. So when the party nominated Abanati, he felt let down. It should be also stated here that Rajendra is using the green colour on all poster and banner materials.

the party's chief election authority. Madhusudan Mistry flagging

'extremely serious irregularities

in the conduct of the election in

Uttar Pradesh, sources said. Besides

demanding that all votes from

It has certainly added to the confusion of the voters. He has been granted the 'boat' symbol for the upcoming byelection. The BJP has nominated Suryabanshi Suraj, the son of deceased MLA Sethi while the Congress has fielded Harekrushna Sethi.

seized following investigation into antic item dealer Nancy Wiener, who had pleaded guilty last year to charges of conspiracy and possession of stolen property. Over 60 antiquities were stolen from India by multiple smaller trafficking networks. Kapoor and his co-defendants generally smuggled looted antiquities into Manhattan and sold the pieces through his Madison Avenue-based gallery, 'Art of the Past', the DA statement said. From 2011 to 2022, the DA's Office and HSI recovered more than 2,500 items trafficked by Kapoor and his network. The total value of the pieces recovered exceeds USD 143 million.

### Curtains to down on NCC Sailing Expedition today POST NEWS NETWORK Das and Deputy Camp Commandant

Chilika, Oct 19: An 11-day DK

honorary degree of Doctor of

Literature (Honoris Causa) by Utkal

University in 2021.

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name from Mamata Pati to Mamata Kar. Henceforth, I shall be known as Mamata Kar, W/o Pradeepta Kumar Kar for all future purposes.

### LOST

I Sarojini Mohanty, W/o. Sisira Kumar Jena is staying at Nayapalli have purchased a property in the Mouza: Goutom Nagar, at the time of registration my seller was handed over all original documents alongwith Regd. Sale Deed No. 4426, Dtd.15.05.2004 & ROR in respect of Khata No. 1331/530 and I have lost these two documents while I was travelling. I have not created any charge, mortgage, lien with any financial Institutuion by depositing these two documents which belongs to Rupananda Acharya. If someone get this, please handover to SBI, RACPC, Bhubaneswar.

whaler Sailing Expedition was organized at INS Chilika from October 10 to October 20 in which 60 naval wing cadets of 3 Naval and 1 Naval Units of Odisha Directorate participated. A total of over 214 km distance was covered from Naval base Chilka to various Islands like Kalijai. Krushna Prasad, Gupteshwar, Indrapastha, Rambha, Balugaon.



Three DK whaler Boats participated in the expedition. The boats set for the sail everyday early in the morning and returned by evening. The expedition was flagged off by

Commodore Somen Banarjee, Deputy Director General, Odisha Directorate, in the presence of Group Commander Cuttack Group, Col Rajinish Kapoor, Camp Commandant Cdr Piyush Pratim

inculcate leadership qualities of discipline endurance self-reliance and the spirit of adventure amongst the cadets. During the 11-day expedition, cadets also participated in social awareness (Beti Bachao) and environment preservation (Puneet Sagar) programme. They were encouraged by Hon'ble MLA and other dignitaries.

Cdr Kishore Chandra Routa.

The aim of the expedition

issued by the District Attorney's office said. It added that the piece was smuggled out of India and into New York in May 2002.

Kapoor laundered the 'Arch Parikara' to the 'Nathan Rubin – Ida Ladd Family Foundation', who donated the piece to the Yale University Art Gallery in 2007. Five of the antiquities were

### State bags PMAY-U Award Court extends Archana's custody

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The SDJM court Wednesday further extended the judicial custody of lady blackmailer Archana Nag. She was arrested by the Commissionerate Police October 6 in connection with

a case (496/22) registered at Khandagiri police station under sections 385.386.387.420.506 of the IPC

and relevant sections of IT Act. into having sexual relationship

It seems police are trying to hush up the matter to shield the leaders and other influential persons as they did not seek court's permission

to bring her on remand. As per the directions of the Supreme Court of India, the police can seek remand of any accused within 15 days of judicial custody. However, the Commissionerate

Police did not seek the permission of the court to take Archana on remand for further probe. The police are yet to quiz Jagabandhu Chand, Archana's husband and a close accomplice in sextortion case. Similarly, they have not interrogated many other people including some women who were allegedly blackmailed

with the clients. As per the information, Archana is involved in many cases registered at different police stations of the city. The snailpaced investigation is an indication that police are under severe pressure to hush up the matter.

Notably, the arrest of Archana opened a can of worms as her links with several top political leaders, bureaucrats, businessmen and film personalities surfaced.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) conferred the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) Awards 2021 on Odisha for its 'Best Policy Initiatives by State' under special category.

The award has been conferred by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri during the three-day 'Indian Urban Housing Conclave', held at Rajkot in Gujarat Wednesday.

Director of Municipal Administration & Mission Director, Jaga Mission, Sangramjit Nayak along with Mission Director, Odisha Urban Housing Mission-AWAAS, Debasish Singh received the distinguished award on behalf of the state.

The Centre has recognised Odisha as a state that has pioneered in cre-



ating solutions for the landless urban poor, by providing them with security of tenure under its flagship initiative Jaga Mission that has further helped beneficiaries in housing assistance under PMAY-U. The innovation around leveraging such convergence of schemes by the Odisha government has been highly appreciated at the event.

With the prevailing urban challenges like housing, formation of informal settlements that further caused in emergence of multiple is-

sues relating to civic and safety gaps, socio-economic incongruity and disruption to city planning, Odisha has paved a way towards addressing such challenges associated with urbanisation through enactment of a landmark legislation 'Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act 2017'.

Jaga Mission interventions focused on assessing gaps at household level like land rights, housing support, including individual toilet, piped water supply & inhouse electricity, community level access to pavered road, drainage and proper street-lighting in slums and social needs of people -Parichaya community centres, open space development and child play areas with proper play equipment. One of the major highlights of

Odisha government's initiatives is the convergence of Jaga Mission with Odisha Urban Housing Mission (OUHM) to provide land rights and housing to beneficiaries.



A herd of around 20 wild elephants near Nandankanan Zoological Park, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

### State logs 73 new Cov cases

Bhubaneswar: The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,35,635 Wednesday as 73 more people, including eight children, tested positive for the infection, the health department said in a bulletin. The death toll remained unchanged at 9,202 with no new fatalities reported since Monday.

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR FOR **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-Cookieman-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.









### state

### 5-yr deadline never ends for 3 irrigation projects

Every year floods from Baitarani river cause extensive damage in various parts of Keonjhar and Jajpur districts. But flood control has remained an *unfulfilled dream for local people* 



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 19: Nearly two decades are set to pass since three major integrated irrigation projects were taken up on Baitarani and Subarnarekha rivers, but these projects are yet to be completed. Every year floods from Baitarani

river cause extensive damage in various parts of Keonjhar and Jajpur districts. Two integrated irrigation projects in the upstream areas like Anandapur and Kanpur which aimed to control floods are still under construction even after many years. Hence, the dream of Baitarani flood control has remained unfulfilled, locals alleged. The progress in the Subarnarekha irrigation project is discouraging over which the additional secretary of the Water

complete it in time.

special secretary of the department has directed the officials of the Water Resources department at Salapada, Basudevpur and Laxmiposi to expedite construction of the irrigation project and It was in 2005-06 when con-

Resources department has ex-

pressed his displeasure. Meanwhile,

struction work of the Anandapur barrage across Baitarani river was taken up. The deadline was five years. Both the state and Central governments had sanctioned ₹2,864.36 crore for the project.

However, only ₹1,715.93 crore has been utilised for the project. Headwork of the project and 73 percent of the main canal work was completed. However, the work on distribution channels was confined to only 5 percent. The project aims at irrigating 56,720 hectares. Construction of 9-km stream of the right canal and 28.50-km of the left canal has been completed. Sources in the department said

that problems in land acquisition have become major hurdles in this project. However, the department said

that the project will be completed by January 2024. As the project has been getting delayed, people in the downstream areas of Baitarani have to bear the brunt of floods every year, it was alleged.

As for Kanpur irrigation project its work was taken up in 2003-04. Till date, only 81 percent of the work has been completed. Only ₹1,873.67 crore out of the allocated fund of ₹2,301.28 crore has been spent. This project is 3.460 km long and 39.50 metre high. The main canal length is 78.21 km while it has seven distributary canals. The project was to be completed in five years, but its work has been lingering for years.

The project aims at irrigating 47,709 hectares. About 310.11 hectares of forest land is awaiting environmental clearance. The project requires 7,600.60 hectares of land while 578.52 hectares have been acquired for the project. A total of 4,434 people have been identified for displacement while 3,933 of them have been relocated.

In case of Subarnarekha irrigation project which was taken up in 1996-97, 92 percent of work is over. This project was to be completed in five years, but works are going on for over two decades. For this project, ₹4,882.07 crore has already been utilised.



IMMERSION CEREMONY: Artistes perform traditional 'Sahi Jata' dance of Puri during the Lakshmi idol immersion ceremony of Lakshmi Bazaar Puja Pratishthan in Dhenkanal. Wednesday

### NCST summons Bhadrak DM, SP POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 19: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued summons for personal appearance of the Bhadrak district Collector and the superintendent of police in connection with a bomb explosion at Trikona Square under Bant block in this district, March 28 that rendered three tribal girls critical.

Hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the commission has called the two senior officials to personally appear before it at 4.30pm, October 20.

The bomb explosion occurred at Trikona Chowk in Bhadrak district 28 March, 2022, leaving four tribal children injured.

Tripathy prayed before the commission to probe the incident from all angles and ensure rehabilitation and compensation for the tribal children with appropriate medical care. He also mentioned about negligence in providing ex-gratia, free treatment and action against the persons responsible for the incident. Notably, three tribal girls Puja Hansda, Basanti Hansda and Sabita Murmu of Debatagadia village under Bant block were critically injured after a live bomb inside a plastic bag they opened on the embankment of a pond at Trikona Square.

### **Trees on NH-49** median in Keonjhar vanish in a year



planted saplings of trees including

bougainvillea, calliandra, sugar

apple (Sitaphala) and tecoma on

different stretches of the median

island. An agency was appointed

for the job. Now with the saplings

and trees doing a vanishing act,

many wonder whether they had

In the absence of plants, com-

muters and drivers are blinded by

the powerful light of vehicles com-

ing from the opposite direction.

This has led to a number of acci-

dents in the locality.

Environmentalist Pradip Mohanty

said that the saplings could have sur-

vived if the plantation had been

done during the monsoon. Advocate

Suraj Mohapatra has demanded a

probe into the matter and fresh

plantation on the median island.

Cuttack

Dt. 19.10.2022

been planted in the first place.

#### POST NEWS NETWORI

Keonjhar, Oct 19: Thousands of trees planted on the median island of National Highway-49 passing through Keonjhar town have withered and disappeared within a year due to lack of proper upkeep. As a result, funds worth lakhs spent on the plantation have gone down the drain. Commuters and locals have been taken aback by the sudden disappearance of the trees. Fresh plantation drive has also not been undertaken, locals said.

Sources said plants of different varieties were planted on the central median and roadsides of the national highway passing through this town. However, due to lack of proper maintenance, saplings planted on the median island from Belda to Drupada and from Anjar to Suakati on the highway dried up in less than a year of their plantation

### 20-yr jail to 4 over gangrape of minor POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur. Oct 19: A POCSO court here sentenced four persons to 20-years of imprisonment Wednesday after convicting them in a case of gang rape of a minor girl in 2018.

The court also slapped a penalty of ₹30.000 each on Kalu Nayak, 28, of Burapali village, Rabi Nayak, 30, of Gereda village under Tarsingh police limits, Babu Behera, 30, of Landeinari village and Goura Nayak, 28, of Tamanada village under Jagannathprasad police limits. In default, each of them will have to undergo additional three months of rigorous imprisonment, observed Ganeshwar Pati while adjudicating the case. The judge also asked the district legal services authority (DLSA) to pay ₹5 lakh financial assistance to the survivor, special public prosecutor Mohana Singari said.

### EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender No. ELS-ANGL-OT-22-23ame of work: OVERHAULING REPAIRING, REWINDING ANI ASSEMBLING OF AUXILIARY MOTOR OF Start Date: 28.10.2022, Tende 1500 hrs. Annual offers are not allowed against th ender and any such manual offer shall be ignored Complete information including e-Tende documents of the above e-Tenders is available i website http://www.ireps.gov.in

### **'ICG lends help to people** during natural calamity'

Paradip: Indian Coast Guard IG Igbal Singh Chauhan reviewed the expansion of various infrastructures of the Indian Coast Guard headquarters here as he wrapped up his three-day visit to the state, Wednesday. The IG met Governor Ganeshi Lal and visited the site of the proposed airbase at Bhubaneswar and the Indian Coast Guard station at Gopalpur. There. Lieutenant General UV Talur apprised him about the problems of the people living near the coastlines of the state. Later, he attended a review meeting at Paradip headquarters where he said that the Indian Coast Guard always gives priority to protection of Odisha and West Bengal coast. rescue of fishermen from sea and reaching out to people during natural calamity.

### POST NEWS NETWORK Keonjhar, Oct 19: Burglars looted gold and silver jewellery worth over

₹50 lakh from a shop just a few yards away from the SP office in Keonjhar Tuesday night. Reports said, the miscreants made a hole on the boundary wall of DFO office and then managed to

break into the Sairam Jewellery shop last night. They decamped

with about half kg gold jewellery and one and half kg of silver jewellery worth ₹50 lakh. The thieves have also taken away the hard disc of the CCTV in the jewellery shop. Following a complaint, police started an investigation into the matter with a scientific team.

Police also wondered how the jewellery shop owner could keep such big amounts of jewellery in the shop without proper security.

Burglars steal jewellery worth

₹50L from shop near SP office

WAG-7 ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE OI ELECTRICLOCO SHED/ANGUL. Advertised Value: ₹1,93,44,375.10, EMD ₹2,46,700/-, Completion period: Closing Date and Time: Dt. 11.11.20

Sr. Divisional Electr PR-622/N/22-23



Balasore: The much-awaited ESI hospital in Balasore will be operational by January 2023. This was stated by Union Minister of Labour and Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in New Dehi, Tuesday while talking to former Union Minister and MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi. The MP handed out three letters to Yadav, raising three demands before him. Sarangi urged the Union Minister to set up the ESI hospital to ensure healthcare to staff and workers of various industrial units in the district. In another letter, the MP pointed out that most parts of Balasore are enriched with forests, hills, rivers and the sea. There is need for conservation of biodiversity.



MOCK DRILL: Volunteers swim in Mahanadi during a training session on the flood rescue operations held near a relief centre at Chaunrpur in Sambalpur, Wednesday OP PHOTO

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) during construction of the highway had

### Woman shot at by hubby; critical

Dharakote: A man shot at his wife injuring her critically at Rasibadi village under this block in Ganjam Wednesday following a spat. The woman, identified as Sailendri Patra, has been struggling with her life at Aska hospital. Sources said that a spat broke between Mahadev Patra and his wife The enraged man fired shots at her wife from his pistol. As a result, she sustained critical injuries on her shoulder and was rushed to the hospital for treatment. Later she was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital as her condition worsened. Police registered a case and started an investigation into the incident.

oginath Behera, Village: Chhotiamba, P.S.: Gurudijhatia, District: Cuttac has lost Original Sale Deed No. 1223 Dtd.19.10.1990 pertaining to Plo No. 330/885/1098 area Ac.0.160 decimals in Mouza: Chhotiamba, P.S. Athagarh, District: Cuttack.

Ashaya Kumar Behera of the above address has applied for a housing loan to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Cuttack by offering mortgage of the said property documents

All concerned therefore having any claim over the property purchase under the said document, i.e. original Sale Deed No. 1223 dtd.19.10.1990 are required to file their claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will b presumed that the property having link with the said documents is fre from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the application as a mortgager and the Company as the mortgagee shall be void and neffective after the lapse of 15 (Fifteen) days of publication of this noti

Sd./- (U.K. Mishra), Advocate LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Cuttack Area Office, Link Road, Cuttack

QUOTATION DEENABANDHU TRUST (NGO) wishes to receive quotes from interested parties for supply of Furniture & TV for Science/ STEM Lab. to Schools in Odisha & WB. For bid details contact: mitrasaibal@hotmail.com by 25th Oct., 2022.

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O- 1142 **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KUCHINDA**

E-mail: eerw\_kuchinda@yahoo.com

	'e" Procuremen	i Notice for Building works
d	entification No. Onlin	e Tender/05/RWD, Kuchinda/2022-23
4	Name of the Mark	· Duilding Marka

1.	Name of the Work	1	Building Works
2.	Total Number of Works	:	03 Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost		Rs.33.12 Lakhs, Rs.33.48 Lakhs & Rs. 32.85 Lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	Building Work (B & C Class of Contractor)
5.	Period of Completion	:	06 Calendar months
6.	Availability of Tender online for Bidding	••	Dt.21.10.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt.05.11.2022 at 5.00 P.M.
7.	Last date & time of seeking Tender Clarification	:	Dt.07.11.2022 at 5.00 A.M.
8.	Date & time of opening of Tender	:	Dt.10.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
Fu	rther details can be seen f	fro	m the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIF	PR-25151/11/0006/2223		Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kuchinda

### Quacks rule the roost in coastal pockets

LOCALS ALLEGE THAT HEALTHCARE OFFICIALS ARE NOT REALLY CLAMPING DOWN ON FAKE DOCTORS

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Oct 19: With institutional healthcare services in mess in many coastal pockets of Odisha, quacks are having a field day. They are fleecing gullible villagers on the pretext of providing treatment for various ailments, sources said Tuesday. The situation is the same in this block of Kendrapara district.

These fraudsters claim themselves as allopathic, homeopathic and ayurvedic doctors. Mostly they treat patients in a wrong manner, only compounding the latter's problem. Many incidents of deaths of patients due to wrong treatment by quacks have been reported. Complaints about their illegal activities have been lodged in many places. However, these quacks have avoided censure of the law simply because of the lack of doctors and proper healthcare facilities.

At many places of Kendrapara district, these 'fake' doctors have opened shops. At other places, they move around on a cycle with a loud-



speaker proclaiming that they can cure people of all their ailments. Sources also alleged that these quacks buy medicines that have surpassed their expiry dates at nominal rates from Kolkata and then sell those to gullible people in this block at a higher rate.

The quacks are found mostly in the Bengali-dominated localities of Batighara, Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Petchhela, Jambu, Jebi Dandua and Suniti Najura panchayats of this block. It has been alleged that some of these quacks, known as 'Gaon Vaidyas', are even carrying

OUACKS ARE FOUND MOSTLY IN THE BENGALI-DOMINATED LOCALITIES OF BATIGHARA, KHARINASI, RAMNAGAR, PETCHHELA, JAMBU, JEBI DANDUA AND SUNITI NAJURA PANCHAYATS OF MAHAKALAPARA BLOCK

A WOMAN OF BHATENI VILLAGE UNDER JAMBU PANCHAYAT DIED A FEW HOURS AFTER BEING ADMINISTERED WITH A WRONG INJECTION TWO YEARS BACK, THE INCIDENT HAD THEN ROCKED THE WHOLE DISTRICT

out illegal abortions late at night at a secluded place for ₹4,000 to ₹5,000. A Gaon Vaidya on condition of anonymity said this is nothing new, but has been going on in the area for a long time.

Notably, a woman of Bhateni village under Jambu panchayat died few hours after being administered with a wrong injection two years back. The incident had then rocked the whole district but the Health department except conducting a probe

failed to arrest the 'fake' doctor. The same quack still runs a shop in Jambu area and is continuing to treat patients. Lack of any punitive action has only emboldened these fraudsters to carry out their work with impunity.

Similarly, a 28-year old youth of Pankapal village suffering from fever died due to wrong treatment by a quack of Benakandha Milanmod area, a year back. A woman labourer of Pitapata village in Ramnagar panchayat also died due to wrong treatment a few vears back.

Senior citizen Subhas Chandra Swain said that despite the presence of ASHA, Anganwadi workers, selfhelp groups and ANMs in every village, no one is willing to lodge a proper complaint with the authorities against the quacks. This has enabled these 'fake' doctors to function with impunity.

When contacted, CDMO Dr. Anita Patnaik said that awareness programmes will be undertaken in the coastal villages soon to check the quacks.







### power post

### FOCUS BIG DATA

The cup has to be left clean and empty for the divine liquo to be poured into it. SRI AUROBINDO



### Women Fight Back

housands of women and girls have taken to the streets of Afghanistan's cities to protest the repeated violation of their right to an education. The trigger for the protests - occurring simultaneously with protests in Iran - was last month's terrorist attack on an education centre in Kabul that killed 53 students and injured more than 110 - most of them girls and young women. But this was just the latest in a long series of attacks against female students, many of which targeted girls from the Hazara community. September's deadly attack, which occurred as female students were get-

ting ready to take a practice university entrance exam, came on the heels of an extremely damaging year for girls' education in Afghanistan.

When the Taliban took over Afghanistan following the US military's withdrawal in August 2021, its leaders promised to keep all primary, secondary, and tertiary schools open for both boys and girls. But it soon reneged. In March of this year, it barred girls from attending school beyond the sixth grade, effectively revoking the right to learn. When women in Kabul and other cities protested, Taliban forces responded violently, beating protesters and firing warning shots over their heads. Most of the 1,880 girls' secondary schools in Afghanistan are currently shuttered, and the Taliban has threatened to close those that remain in operation.

At the same time, increased levels of conflict and violence, together with a severe drought and a succession of economic shocks, have made Afghan girls and women more vulnerable. These developments have resulted in an even greater degradation of women's rights, as evidenced by Afghanistan's higher rates of early marriage and child labour since the Taliban takeover.

What makes the Taliban's decision to prohibit girls' secondary education even more tragic is that it reversed two decades of significant progress in expanding girls' access to education in Afghanistan. The number of Afghan girls enrolled in school increased from just 100.000 in 2000 to more than 3.5 million in 2019, and female literacy doubled between 2011 and 2018. But while the Education Cannot Wait fund and its partners - including UNICEF, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Save the Children - continue to try to reach these girls, the Taliban ban has undoubtedly forced many more girls out of school.

We must follow the lead of the Afghan women and girls protesting in the streets, risking their lives to fight for their fundamental rights, and take immediate action For starters, the members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation must use their platform and demand that Afghanistan's de facto authorities ensure that secondary-school girls return to school and that educational institutions, teachers, and students, particularly girls, are protected from attacks. Moreover, every young and adolescent girl must be welcomed back into classrooms with the teach-

ers, infrastructure, and supplies needed for a quality education. Given the disastrous economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the international community must ensure that schools have sufficient resources

to provide safe and protective spaces and quality education for all girls and boys, including those living with disabilities. We must also provide Afghan educators with the training and materials they need to teach their students. In a country as ravaged by war and disaster as Afghanistan is, we must

also guarantee that all girls and boys have access to mental-health resources and psychosocial support. And we must all work to establish alternative learning environments for girls and boys who cannot attend public schools.

The Education Cannot Wait fund has invested more than \$58 million in education in Afghanistan since 2017, some of it through emergency responses and some through a multiyear resilience programme launched in 2019. Owing to the dedicated work of our partners, this funding has reached 51 per cent of Afghanistan's young female students and more than 181,000 girls and boys altogether. Soon, we will launch a new multivear programme to increase girls' and boys' access to community-based education, even in the most remote and challenging environments.

But much more needs to be done. The women and girls of Afghanistan are

## **DATA FOR PUBLIC GOOD**

The digital age has taught businesses to see people as individuals rather than just as members of certain demographic cohorts. On social media, we receive personalised ads based on our responses to previous ads, our current location, and our shopping habits. Our massive digital footprint enables companies to know precisely how effective their advertising campaigns are at the individual level and to derive immense value from this knowledge.

Alas, it seems that this technological wave has vet to reach policymakers. Despite the advantages of big data, governments still tend to use a one-size-fits-all approach when planning investments or designing policies. To help improve public services through better use of data, we have developed a new framework we call Quantum Governance

Every successful business is built on three foundations: a shared goal, which serves as its raison d'être: the tools and methods to achieve it: and consumers. who are motivated by their own interests, ambitions, and beliefs. While it has become a staple of public debate that governments should operate like businesses, that is impossible, because these two types of social organisation were created for different purposes. What they do have in common, however, is the human factor. And that should be the focus of public-private partnerships in the digital age.

To perform well, both governments and businesses need to measure, assess, and understand information about people. While preventing abuse requires sound data governance, the status quo offers little hope: large and powerful corporations hoard valuable datasets, lose public trust, and lobby legislators to avoid oversight, while governments resort to top-down regulations



While it is widely acknowledged that intangible assets drive our economies and societies, we still lack adequate tools to measure and value them. Governments and businesses must work together to revise the prevailing metrics by which we value such assets

that alienate voters. Moreover, because large companies have far greater resources to spend on compliance and lawyers than their smaller rivals do, these regulations often benefit the very businesses they were meant to constrain.

Yet data are simply too important to be entrusted to either governments or large corporations that treat them as their private property. Instead, governments should collaborate with companies on joint governance frameworks that recognise both the opportunities and the risks of big data.

Businesses – which are best positioned to understand big data's true value – must move beyond short-sighted efforts to prevent regulation. Instead, they need to initiate a dialogue with policymakers on how to design viable solutions that can leverage the currency of our era to benefit the public good. Doing so would help them regain public trust.

Governments, for their part, must avoid top-down regulatory strategies. To win the support they need from businesses, they need to create incentives for data sharing and privacy protection and help develop new analytical tools through advanced modeling. Governments should also rethink and renew deeply-rooted frameworks inherited from the industrial era, such as those for taxation and social welfare. In the digital age, governments

should recognise the centrality of data to policymaking and develop tools to reward businesses that contribute to the public good by sharing it. True, governments require taxes to raise revenues, but they must recognise that a better understanding of individuals enables more efficient policies. By recognising companies' ability to save public money and create social value, governments could encourage companies to share data as a matter of social re

sponsibility.

But collaboration is just as critical as data sharing. Neither governments nor businesses properly account for the human factor in their decision-making processes. Adapting to the age of big data would mean shifting away from outdated metrics like GDP toward metrics that focus on people.

To this end, our Quantum Governance approach introduces an accounting framework we call the Balance of Public Policy, which treats the intangible and tangible aspects of policymaking as equal. When designing policies, policymakers often grapple with intangibles such as individual policy adoption, public legitimacy, popular narratives, and community beliefs.

Similarly, the accounting standards that businesses use provide little guidance on how to value certain assets - for example, they often consider workers a disposable cost. But workers' talents are a major factor in any company's success or failure. Accounting frameworks should be revised to quantify and record such assets in business performance statements.

While it is widely acknowledged that intangible assets drive our economies and societies, we still lack adequate tools to measure and value them.

Governments and businesses must work together to revise the prevailing metrics by which we value such assets. Both would benefit from developing the tools needed to better leverage big data, and doing so would serve the public good.

Christopher Pissarides, a Nobel laureate economist, is Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics. Fadi Farra is a managing partner at Whiteshield. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### SPECTRUM NATION

## Trailing in the hunger fight

The present government at country in South Asia that per-government had last year slammed the highest of any country in the trast, it never leaves any stone unturned to derive political mileage from any report, genuine or fabricated, or news that exaggerates its performance. For any, success, it is first to take credit but for any failure, it is quick to attribute the same to previous governments or acts of God or national/international situations. The government which has not accepted last year's Global Hunger Index, World Press Freedom Report, Global Democracy Report, and other such reports, has again rejected the Global Hunger Index -2022 which ranks India abysmally low. The GHI score is calculated on four indicators - undernourishment; child wasting (low weight for height); child stunting (low height for age) and child mortality (mortality rate of children under age of five). The GHI scores on a 100-point GHI Severity Scale, where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. In the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 released on 15 October, 2022, India ranks 107th out of 121 countries. What is reprehensible is that India ranks below Sri Lanka (64). Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84), and Pakistan (99). Afghanistan (109) is the only

the Centre never accepts its failure nor any report that mirrors its weakness. By conis not used by GHI, instead, undernourishment is measured using data officially presented by India and other member countries to the UN. The data on undernourishment mentioned in the Hunger Index is the same as the data of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report which is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO to inform on progress towards ending hunger. The above reports revealed that about 56 crore people, 40.6 per cent of the population, in India suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity in 2019-21. The proportion of population that is severely food insecure in the country has risen from 20.3 per cent in 2018-20 to 22.3 per cent in 2019-21. India alone accounts for 37 per cent of the world's total severely food-insecure population. The Global Hunger Index report has given more or less the same figures as found in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 report of India. According to the Global Hunger Index report, "India's child wasting rate, at 19.3 per cent, is

world." According to the NFHS 5 report, the stunting rate is 32 per cent, the wasting rate is 19 per cent underweight is 32 per cent and the under-five mortality rate is 4.2 per cent at all Indian levels It is also argued that the government is doing its job by providing free grain (five kilos of rice or wheat and one kilo of dal) to 60 per cent of population, or over 80 crore people. The question then is: why are so many Indians queueing up each month for free rations? The answer can only be that they lack purchasing power and are hungry, and need it. The government should not forget that as per the World Bank, nearly 5.6 crore Indians have been pushed into extreme poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is true that India made some improvements between 2000 and 2014. But overall, other countries have improved more than India. Before rejecting the hunger index report, the government should contemplate that not only in this index, but also in almost all indices India is trailing behind other countries.

Pissarides & Fadi Farra

Christopher

**ADAPTING TO THE AGE OF BIG DATA WOULD MEAN SHIFTING AWAY FROM** OUTDATED

**METRICS LIKE GDP TOWARD METRICS THAT FOCUS ON** 

**PEOPLE** 

Gordon Brown & Yasmine Sherif

We must follow the lead of the Afghan women and girls protesting in the streets, risking their lives to fight for their fundamental rights, and take immediate action



fighting for their rights in the face of violent attacks, and they are asking for help. It is our collective duty to heed their call.

Gordon Brown is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Yasmine Sherif is Director of Education Cannot Wait.

### WISDOM CORNER

- The fabled musk deer searches the world over for the source of the scent which comes from itself. RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA
- Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher RABINDRANATH TAGORE storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.
- Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today. bear a hardship today.

### WORDS**WORTH**

### Carphology

Carphology refers to the movements that delirious patients sometimes make, as if searching for or grasping at imaginary objects, or picking the bed-clothes. Not a word that's likely to be in most people's vocabulary, nor indeed one that often appears outside large dictionaries. It comes from the Greek karphologia, a compound of the two words karphos, straw, and legeln, to collect. So it means to act as though one was picking up bits of straw, a neat description of the involuntary movements sometimes seen in delirious patients. Brande's Dictionary of Science of 1842 described it as "an alarming symptom in many acute diseases". Dictionaries that include carphology also refer the reader to floccillation (and usually the other way around, too, so generating one of those infinite loops that sometimes turn up in even the most scrupulously edited works). This is the Latin equivalent, formed from floccus, a bit of wool or straw, which has also given us the sense of flock that refers to finely-chopped cotton or wool, as in flock wallpaper. There is an even rarer verb to floccillate, meaning to twitch aimlessly, which turn up in Samuel Beckett's Watt of 1959.

### Carrotmobbing

t's a form of social activism. It was coined by Brent Schulkin, a US environmentalist based in San Francisco. When people carrotmob, they shop at a small business, specially chosen for its good environmental practices, in large numbers on the same day. But Schulkin has introduced a twist: he asks the business to invest a proportion of that day's takings in energy-efficient improvements at its stores. The second part of the name is based on flash mob. The first part borrows the idea of using a carrot rather than a stick to encourage behaviour. It's a form of what's been called a buycott or a procott, the opposite of a boycott, a form of collective action in which people choose to buy from firms whose values - in areas such as social justice and environmental protection - reflect and support their own.



Mohapatra **AFGHANISTAN IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN SOUTH ASIA THAT PERFORMS WORSE THAN INDIA ON THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX** 

1 and 17 having a score of less than five. In 2021, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries while in 2020 the country was placed in 94th position. In 2014, India was ranked 55. With a score of 29.1, India has a level of hunger that is serious. India's GHI score had decreased from 38.8, considered alarming in 2000, to 28.2 in 2014. Since 2014, the GHI score has been increasing.

What is reprehensible is that instead of addressing the proximate causes of problems, the Centre rejected the ranking and said that the index suffers from serious methodological issues and is an "erroneous measure of hunger". It further stated that India's poor ranking is part of a consistent effort to taint the country's image as a nation that does not fulfil the food security and nutritional requirements of its population.

The Women and Child Development Ministry has criticised the estimates based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale survey module data conducted through the Gallup World Poll on a very small sample size of 3000 based on eight questions regarding people's access to adequate food. The

The writer is an **Odisha-based** economist and columnist. Views are personal.

### **Targeted killings**

Sir, This refers to "KPs concerned over targeted killings," Orissa POST, Oct 19. A string of recent targeted killings in Kashmir of non-local residents has struck fear in the hearts of many communities living and working in the Valley. And though security forces regularly track down those responsible for these attacks, and say they've killed many perpetrators, the frequency and accuracy of these strikes point to a deeper malaise. A local 'hybrid terrorist' of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba has been arrested for his involvement in the grenade attack. Such terrorists, who are tough to track as they seamlessly return to their routine lives after carrying out strikes, were responsible for most of the killings that rocked Kashmir last year. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had declared that he would listen and talk to the people of the Valley, not to Pakistan. This was an attempt to reach out to the Kashmiris and dissuade them from falling prey to Pakistani propaganda. There is no doubt that the neighbouring nation wants to keep the terror pot boiling. The Centre should reiterate that the resumption of dialogue with Pakistan is not feasible unless the latter shuns its old agenda of bleeding India with a thousand cuts. At the same time, the Union government can't afford to snub regional leaders, who have considerable sway among the Kashmiris. Cracking down on terrorism and bridging the trust deficit are prerequisites for the return of the ballot in J&K.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### **Religious identity**

Sir, With a larger Bench to hear the Hijab issue after the SC's split verdict, it is quite likely that an entirely new perspective may emerge on the same. However, one hopes that Justice Dhulia's judgment prevails in the end for good, viewed from the perspective of the fundamental right to girl students' education. Wearing hijab is a personal choice, and our Constitution guarantees the right to practice religion. Therefore, the fact that some girl students were allowed only into the college premises, but not inside classrooms is not only discriminatory but also against the law. Though wearing hijab has been a source of controversy in some Western countries for decades, particularly in France, in India it is neither banned nor its use is restricted in public places. In fact, women wearing hijabs are a common sight in India, and for manyof them it symbolises religious identity.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

TO THE EDITOR Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and 101 columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full 

etters

postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

### Orissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



AGENCIES

as their economies struggle

millions of people.



I am very happy that today all the parties and leaders of the country have to talk about education and schools. This is our biggest achievement. I hope that education is not missed only during elections. All governments together can make its schools great in just 5 years ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM

### PUNJAB TO SUPPLY MORE MILK TO DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Wednesday said that due to strenuous efforts of the state government. Milkfed, the state's leading cooperative, will augment milk supply to Delhi from currently 30,000 litres to 2 lakh litres, thereby immensely benefitting milk producers of the state. Mann said that Punjab has inked a pact with the Delhi government in this regard





The 5G telecom service would take the education system in the country to the next level as the latest technology will go beyond smart facilities, smart

classrooms, and smart teachings NARENDRA MODI PM

There are people who are spreading canards that I have driven away the Tatas from West Bengal. I did not force them away, but it was the CPI (M) which drove them away

MAMATA BANERIEE WB CM

Congratulations to Shri Mallikariun @kharge on being elected the President of Indian National Congress. I extend my best wishes to him for a successful and inspiring tenure. Looking forward to working together with him to strengthen the united opposition SHARAD PAWAR NCP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

### Assam: Man attempts suicide in lockup, dies

Guwahati: An accused in a cattle theft case died after attempting suicide inside the toilet of a police lockup in Assam's Bongaigaon district, an official said Wednesday. The deceased, identified as Abdul Jabbar, was arrested in a cattle theft case, and put up at Jogighopa police station. He had tried to end his life inside the toilet where he was spotted in a semiconscious state. The body has been sent for autopsy.

4 killed in Ladakh road accident

Srinagar: Four persons were killed Wednesday in a road accident in Ladakh. Police said that a Thar Jeep skidded off the road near Khardungla Pass in Ladakh and dropped into a gorge around 150 ft deep. The Jeep s still untracoat tourists from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh were killed in this accident -- Three from Delhi and one from UP. The condition of the road had become slippery due to snowfall Tuesday.



Pakistan and Bangladesh have in recent months sought IMF loans as high oil prices mplicate efforts to recover the economic damage of the Covid-19 pandemic

### ones do so, he said.

"I have called for coalitions of New Delhi, Oct 19: UN chief support around countries includ-Antonio Guterres Wednesday ing India, with ambitious plans to sought India's support in mobilaccelerate the deployment of renewables," said Guterres, who ising G20 nations to help out developing countries saddled with meets Indian Prime Minister debt, with three of India's neigh-Narendra Modi and Foreign bours already seeking IMF loans Minister S Jaishankar Thursday.

Guterres also urged the country "I count on India's support in moto condemn hate speech unequivbilising G20 countries around debt ocally, protect the rights and freerelief," Guterres told the students doms of journalists, human rights activists, students and academics, and faculty of the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai. "Many and ensure the independence of developing countries are at or near the judiciary. Speaking after paydebt distress and require multiing floral tributes to martyrs of lateral action, including the exthe 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai pansion and extension of the G20 at Taj hotel, Guterres said people Debt Service Suspension Initiative.' need to recognise the diversity and Established in May 2020 during richness of cultures to stay tothe pandemic, the initiative algether. "Fighting terrorism should lowed nearly 50 countries to suspend be the global priority of every coun-\$12.9 billion in debt-service pavtry." said Guterres. "Terrorism is abments until the end of last year. solute evil and has no place in today's Guterres said climate change world. No cause and no incident was "already a grave threat" to can justify terrorism," Guterres said. "One of my first acts after be-India's economy, agriculture and food sector, and to the health, lives coming Secretary General was to esand livelihoods of hundreds of tablish an office for counter-ter-

rorism to cooperate, guide and roes of our world".

Major terror attack averted INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

"Record-breaking heat waves

droughts and floods in parts of

India are causing havoc already,"

he said. "These are a foretaste of

what is to come without much

He said G20 countries were re-

sponsible for 80% of global emis-

sions and must take the lead in

cutting those. Rich countries should

also financially help developing

greater global climate action."

Srinagar. Oct 19: The security

of India, will be the new Road and Transport Secretary in place of Delhi government bans

of Defence

firecrackers on Diwali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: Road Transport

and Highways Secretary Aramane

Giridhar has been named the new

defence secretary as part of a top-

level bureaucratic reshuffle ef-

fected by the Centre Wednesday.

Administrative Service (IAS) offi-

cer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre.

has been appointed as an Officer on

Special Duty in the Department

Secretary after the retirement of

Aiav Kumar on October 31, 2022, a

Personnel Ministry order said.

He will take over as Defence

Alka Upadhyaya, chairperson

of the National Highways Authority

Giridhar, a 1988 batch Indian

Giridhar. Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra will be the new Revenue Secretary.

Vivek Joshi, Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner. Ministry of Home Affairs will be the new Secretary, Department of Financial Services in place of Malhotra. Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, will be the new Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner in place of Joshi.

Rural Development Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha has been named the new Steel Secretary.

Sinha has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Steel with effect from December 1, 2022. He will take over as Secretary in the Ministry of Steel, after the retirement of Sanjav

### **'Bilkis Bano convict** booked for outraging modesty of a woman'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Kumar Singh December 31, 2022. Shailesh Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, will be the new Rural Development Secretary from December 1. Meena, who has been appointed as the OSD in the

Coal Ministry, will take over as the Secretary after the retirement of Anil Kumar Jain October 31. Sudhansh Pant, a 1991 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been named as Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and

PTI PHOTO

Rizvi is appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and he will take over as the secretary after Arun Goel superannuates from the post December 31. Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, has been named as the new Textiles Secretary. Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, who is currently chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), will be the New and Renewable Energy Secretary.

Woman gangraped for two days in Ghaziabad







prepare countries in the fight against terrorism," he said. "This office is fighting against the roots of violent extremism. Be it religion or ethnicity or beliefs, no reason can justify violent extremism," he said. Describing the 26/11 terror attacks as one of the most barbaric acts of terrorism in history, Guterres said the 166 victims of the attacks are "he-

### India takes over the G20 presidency from Indonesia for a year from December 1 India's neighbours Sri Lanka.

### Speeding car kills 2 cyclists

Gurugram: Two men were killed after a speeding Skoda Rapid car rammed into the cycles they were riding on the Golf Course Road here, the police said. Umesh, the son of one of the deceased persons. Dharampal (70), stated in his complaint that he along with his father were travelling on two different cycles on the Gold Course Road Tuesday evening. "When we reached Sector-42 Rapid Metro station, a speeding car hit my father from behind. My father skidded along with the car for about 50 metres. The car then turned 360-degree and hit another cyclist, Sahib Khan (35), who was on the link road," Umesh told the police.

forces in a swift operation averted a major terror plot by timely neutralising an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Wednesday on the Handwara-Baramulla Highway in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The Army said the IED was defused in a joint operation by them and the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) Wednesday morning based on spotting a suspicious object with wires on the National highway 701 near Langate in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Search parties of the Army and JKP were immediately deployed and the area was cordoned off by the security forces," the Army said. "Explosive Detection Canines of

the Army were deployed, who positively confirmed the presence of explosives. An Indian Army Bomb Disposal squad was rushed in to the location to neutralise the IED. The bomb disposal squad destroyed the estimated 20 kg IED in situ without any collateral damage.

The Handwara-Baramulla highway is an important road for the civil traffic as well as for the Army and CAPF convoys. The traffic, which was halted on the highway briefly, was resumed after the area was thoroughly sanitised.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: Bursting of firecrackers on Diwali in Delhi will attract jail term up to six months and a fine of Rs 200, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Wednesday. Addressing a press conference

here, he said production, storage and sale of firecrackers in the capital will be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 5,000 and three years in jail under Section 9B of the Explosives Act. In September, the city govern-

ment re-imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years. Rai said a public awareness campaign, "Diye Jalao Patakhe Nahi",

Production, storage and sale of firecrackers will be punishable with a fine of up to ₹5,000 and three years in jail

will be launched October 21.

The Delhi government will light 51,000 diyas at Central Park in Connaught Place Friday. "The purchase and bursting of firecrackers in Delhi will be punishable with a fine of Rs 200 and six months in jail under the Indian Penal Code," the minister said

Rai said 408 teams have been set up to implement the ban. The Delhi Police has set up 210 teams under assistant commissioners of police, while the Revenue Department has set up 165 teams and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has constituted 33 teams.

The minister said 188 cases of violations have been detected and 2,917 kg firecrackers seized till October 16.

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Gujarat government has told the Supreme Court that one of the convicts in Bilkis Bano case was charge sheeted for outraging the modesty of a woman in 2020, while out on parole.

The state government has submitted a 477-page affidavit in the Supreme Court in response to petitions challenging the release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case. It said the convicts were out of jail for around 1,000 days even before being released on remission of life sentence.

One of the convicts, Mitesh Chamanlal Bhatt was booked and charge sheeted for offences under sections 354 (outraging the modesty of woman), 504 (insult intended to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC, having a maximum sentence of 7 years, or fine, or both.

The state government further added that all convicts were granted furlough, parole, and even temporary bail at different points during the period of their imprisonment -- 1,576 days being highest and 998 days lowest. The District Magistrate of Dahod gave information about Bhatt in his letter dated May 25, 2022.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Ghaziabad, Oct 19: A woman from Delhi was in hospital Wednesday after being allegedly raped by five men for two days in Ghaziabad, an incident that Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal said reminds her of the Nirbhaya case.

Police said there was a property dispute between the woman and the accused. Four of the five accused have been taken into custody, police said. Authorities at the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital said the woman's condition is stable and no internal injury has been found yet. Sources at the hospital, however, said there were signs of sexual assault and a "foreign object" was found in her body The DCW has also issued a notice to Ghaziabad police in connection with the case.

According to Nipun Agarwal Superintendent of Police (City-I) Ghaziabad, the Nandgram police station received a call October 18. informing that a woman was lying on the Ashram road. The police took her to a nearby hospital but she insisted on getting admitted to a hospital in Delhi. She was then taken to the GTB Hospital, he said.

In her statement to the police, the woman said she had been to Ghaziabad to celebrate her brother's birthday, a day before the incident. The woman has alleged that she was forced to get into the car at gunpoint. "Preliminary investigation has revealed that there is a property dispute between the woman and the accused. That case is already in Karkardooma court. The matter is being investigated," Agarwal said. The SP said the victim claimed that

The incident is very horrific and disturbing. It reminds me of the Nirbhava case. All accused must be arrested immediately and strict action taken against them. I fail to understand how long women and children be subjected to such extreme brutality

SWATI MALIWAL CHIEF OF DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

after raping her, the accused had inserted an iron rod in her private part but when the police tried to get her medically examined at a Meerut hospital, she refused.

"After preliminary treatment, when we tried to get her medical examination conducted, she refused. Doctors referred her to the Meerut Medical college for treatment but she refused to go there. "The woman was then taken to a Delhi hospital and is undergoing treatment there. Police is taking legal advice to obtain evidence," said the SP.

Police said the FIR was filed based on the statement of the victim's brother. According to the FIR. the woman told her brother that she was pushed inside a car forcefully at gunpoint while waiting at Ashram Chowk.

There were four people inside the car whom she knew. After taking her to an unknown place, five men raped her. When she was in an unconscious state, the men allegedly tied her hands and legs and wrapped her inside the jute bag. Thereafter, they took her inside the vehicle to another location where they dumped her, according to the FIR.



### **BE CAREFUL** Chinese websites may steal users' data via fake gift offers



These attack campaigns can effectively jeopardise the privacy and security of sensitive customer data and result in financial frauds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 19: Amid the festive season in the country, the government cyber agency warned that free gift offers can be a trick by Chinese websites to steal users' confidential information.

In an advisory, CERT-In, under the IT Ministry, cautioned users against adwares targeting prominent brands and tricking customers in fraudulent phishing and scams. "Fake messages are in circulation on various social media

platforms (WhatsApp, Telegram, Instagram, etc.) that falsely claim a festive offer luring users into gift links and prizes," it said.

"The threat actor campaign is mostly targeting women and asking to share the links among peers over WhatsApp/ Telegram/ Instagram accounts," it added.

The victim receives a message containing a link to a phishing website similar to the websites of popular brands, and are lured with a false claim of a special festive offer of prizes or money on antackers then entice the users to give sensitive information like personal details, bank account details, passwords, OTPs, or use it for adware, and other adversarial purposes. The website links involved are mostly Chinese (.cn) domains and other extensions such as .top, .xyz.

swering a questionnaire. The at-

These attack campaigns can effectively jeopardise the privacy and security of sensitive customer data and result in financial frauds, the advisory noted.







### **Gandhi family loyalist succeeds** a Gandhi to become Cong prez

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, Kharge is the 2nd AICC prez from K'taka and also the 2nd Dalit leader to hold the post

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 19: Mapanna Mallikarjun Kharge, a staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, has become the Congress' first non-Gandhi president in 24 years.

The 80-year-old leader succeeds Sonia Gandhi at the grand old party's highest office. Kharge defeated Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor in the October 17 Congress' presidential polls, which saw over 9,500 delegates across the country voting.

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, he is also the second AICC President from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa and also second Dalit leader after Jagjivan Ram to hold the post.

Kharge was elected MLA for nine times in a row, seeing a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home district of Gulbarga (renamed as Kalaburagi)

He joined the party in 1969 and went on to become President of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee.

That Kharge was unconquerable at the hustings was mirrored until 2014 Lok Sabha polls in which he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly Hyderabad-Karnataka region, and had won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes.

He has won from Gurmitkal assembly constituency nine times before he plunged into the Lok Sabha poll arena in 2009 and has been a two time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment.



However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls the veteran leader was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes

For Kharge, popularly known as solillada Saradara, (a leader without defeat), this was the first electoral loss in his political life spanning more than five decades.

A hard-boiled Congressman and created a law and order situation loval to the core to the Gandhi in the state. family, Kharge has played multiple Kharge was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka roles in different ministries that has in June 2020 and was the 17th enriched his experience as an administrator. He has also served as Leader of the Opposition in Upper the leader of the opposition in House until recently, ahead of his Karnataka Assembly and President resignation from the post to conof Karnataka Pradesh Congress test the Congress' Presidential election. He had succeeded Ghulam

Committee. Kharge was leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019 but could not become the leader of opposition, as the grand old party could not get the post as its numbers were less than the mandated 10 percent of the total number of seats in the Lower House.

He has served as Union Cabinet Minister for Labour and Employment, also Railways and Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

He had also held various portfolios in successive Congress gov-

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Oct 19: Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly HD Kumaraswamy Wednesday charged that Silicon Valley (Bangalore) has turned into pothole valley under the ruling BJP government in the state. Kumaraswamy's reaction comes after a woman suffered injuries due to pothole and succumbed.

Umadevi (50), who was riding pillion with her daughter Vanitha on a two-wheeler fell near the Sujatha theatre and got run over by the KSRTC bus Monday. She succumbed to her injuries in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The incident took place on the busy Vatal Nagaraj Road. The daughter who was riding the vehicle lost balance while trying

### **ANOTHER DELUGE?** Heavy rain to lash K'taka for 5 days

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Oct 19: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a forecast Tuesday that heavy rain will lash Karnataka for the next five days and issued a yellow alert for several districts.

According to the forecast. Bangalore will also receive heavy downpour in the coming two days. Chamarajanagara,

Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu, Bangalore Rural, Chitradurga, Hassan, Shivamogga, Tumakuru and Mandya districts will receive heavy rain Wednesday, the IMD said

Meanwhile, the yellow alert has been issued for the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Shivamogga, Belagavi, Haveri, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Koppal and Ballary.

This year, Bangalore received a record rainfall of 1,706 mm -- breaking all prior records.



to avoid a pothole on the arterial road Monday.

"The BJP government is directly responsible for the deaths due to potholes. BJP government wants potholes, as if potholes surface in large number, it can mint money in larger proportions.

### Kashmir a 'separate country' says Bihar govt school question

Kumaraswamy charged.

"Bangalore is known as the

Pensioners' Paradise, Garden City

and Silicon Valley. But now, the

city is known as valley of potholes.

The reason behind it is the sys-

tem of percentage (40 per cent com-

mission in contracts)," he alleged.

### <u>िंग्रेश</u> इस विषय में कुल 5 प्रश्न हैं एवर्लक प्रश्न का उत्तर देना आवश्यक प्रत्येक प्रश्न के सामने उनके लिए निपॉरिस अक एव निर्देश अंकित है। आवश्यकतानुसार अलग से अतिरिक्त पन्ना जोड़ा जा सफता है। What are the people of the following countries called? One is done

The people of China are called the (i) The people of Nepal are called the ... (ii)

- The people of England are called the
- (iv) The people of Kashmir are called the ....
- The people of India are called the

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 19: A question paper in a Bihar government school termed Kashmir as a separate country triggering a political war in the state.

The question was asked to the students of Class 7 last week in the minority dominant Araria, Purnea and Kishanganj districts, and came to the fore after the BJP took it up. The Number 1 question of the

English paper had five fill-in-theblank sub-questions.

The question asked was, "What are the people of the following countries called? One is done for vou." The question had five options on China, Nepal, England, 'Kashmir' and India.

Reacting to this, the BJP attacked the Nitish Kumar government. Sanjay Jaiswal slammed JD(U)-RJD combine and said that they are the supporters of Popular "I have posted my comment on

Front of India (PFI)

Facebook Tuesday and removed it later on to respect the law of India government," he said. The officials of Bihar believe

"These potholes are invitation of deaths for people but for some, they

are profitable. Despite the warn-

ings of the Karnataka High Court,

the government is not ashamed.

In spite of the court's warnings to

send officers to jail in this regard,

the bureaucracy is not doing anything," Kumaraswamy charged.

The image of the state has been

dented due to potholes on roads of

the capital city Bangalore. On the

other hand, the government is busy

organising the Global Investor's

Meet (GIM), the Global Tech

Summit. It is better to organise

'Pothole Summit" in Bangalore,'

The government should not wash

its hands off after providing com-

pensation to the family of the de-

ceased. It should see to it that

Bangalore roads are pothole free,

he ridiculed.

he said.

that Kashmir is a separate country just like China, Nepal, England and India, Jaiswal said.

Thinking and ideology of Nitish Kumar has become similar to that of Sharjeel Imam. He is desperate to become prime minister of the country and is misleading the children of Class 7 with anti-national questions. The Bihar government will soon ask questions on the PFI agenda of 2047 and its officers will ask the people to avoid highlighting the issue, Jaiswal said.

'This question was asked in Purnea, Araria and Kishanganj districts. I am leaving this question to the people of Bihar to decide where this government is heading." he said.

### After PayCM, Cong starts SayCM.com against BJP



BJP-led government over its "failure to fulfil 90 per cent of the 600 manifesto promises made in 2018". The website, which also has the official song of the Congress campaign, lists down all the questions

### Conman poses as Bihar chief justice, calls DGP for clean chit to Gaya SSP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 19: A man posed as the chief justice of Patna High Court and applied pressure on Bihar Director General of Police

SK Singhal to give a clean chit to

He was Home Minister of

Karnataka in one of the most try-

ing times, under SM Krishna as the

Chief Minister, as the tenure saw

kidnapping of Kannada thespian

Rajkumar by the notorious poacher

Veerappan and the Cauvery river

water conflict, both of which had

Nabi Azad as LoP in February

He was several times seen as a

top contender to become the Chief

Minister in Karnataka, but could

again and again? Don't say that. I'm

a Congressman," Kharge has said

several times in the past, when-

ever the Dalit CM topic cropped up

Sober by temperament and na-

ture, Kharge has never landed in

any major political trouble spot

with him as the contender.

or controversy.

"Why do you keep saying Dalit

never occupy the post.

last year.



chief minister's secretariat. The of ficials of the chief minister secretariat found something fishy in the report and transferred it to the EOW for a thorough investigation. The EOW officials used cyber



**PK CLAIMS NITISH** 

### 844 770 40 40

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Oct 19: The Karnataka unit of Congress Wednesday launched a new campaign 'SavCM.com', targeting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The campaign also slams the

that the Congress has asked the BJP so far.

warned the ruling BJP Tuesday

that "if PayCM is the only thing that

makes you speak up, we will launch

SayCM to make you answer for

has launched the QR code which

looks similar to the PayCm, but

will take the user to the

SayCm.com," the official state-

already conducted a poster cam-

The Karnataka Congress has

ment of the party stated.

paign with PayCM.

"Today (Wednesday), the party

your failures"

The party said that BJP, which former Gaya SSP Aditya Kumar, an has not answered any of the 50 official said here. questions till now, has "accepted the guilt through silence"

Jitendra Singh Gangwar, the Additional DGP law and order con-At a press conference, Karnataka firmed the incident. He said that the Congress' communications diviaccused was arrested by the sion head Priyank Kharge had

Economic Offence Wing (EOW) and sent to jail. "The matter was under investigation and a departmental inquiry has been initiated against conman Abhishek Agrawal and former SSP

Aditya Kumar," Gangwar said. The incident came to light Monday when an official of EOW revealed about the arrest of Agrawal. He said that Agrawal posed as Patna High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Karol and called the DGP more than 30 times regarding SSP Aditya Kumar. Coming under pressure and not verifying on the caller, the DGP in its report pointed out a mistake of facts in the court and Aditya Kumar got the clean chit as well. After the clean chit, he joined as AIG in the police headquarter in Patna.

Aditya Kumar, the 2011 batch IPS officer was the SSP of Gaya, was booked in Fatehpur police station having case number 312/2022 on the order of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

After the clean chit to Aditya Kumar, the case file reached the cell officials to scan the phone numbers which were used to call senior police officials who prepared the report, including Bihar DGP SK Singhal.

"EOW has registered an FIR against Abhishek Agrawal and Aditva Kumar. Besides them. Gaurav Raj, Subham Kumar and Rajul Ranjan are also co-accused in this case. We will take strong action against the accused, Gangwar said.

Abhishek Kumar is a serial of fender in the country. A case number 43/2021 was registered in the Kamla market police station in New Delhi as well. In that case, he posed as Union home minister's secretary Saket Singh and threatened the MD of MCD. He was sent to Tihar jail for five days as well.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: Political strategist Prashant Kishor claimed Wednesday that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is in touch with the BJP and that he may go for a tie-up with the party again if situation demands so, a suggestion dismissed by the JD(U) as misleading and aimed at spreading confusion.

Kishor, who is on a padyatra in Bihar in what is widely seen as a precursor to his fresh entry into active politics, told PTI that Kumar has kept a line of communication open with the BJP through JD(U) MP and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh.

Harivansh declined to comment but his party rejected the claim and asserted that Kumar will never join hands with the BJP again.

Kishor said, "People who are thinking that Nitish Kumar is actively building a national alliance against the BJP will be surprised to know that he has kept a line open with the BJP. He is in touch with the BJP through his party MP and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh ji."

He suggested that Harivansh has not been asked to resign his Rajya Sabha post for this reason even though the JD(U) has severed ties with the BJP.

People must keep this in mind that whenever such circumstances arise, he can go back to the BJP and work with it, he said.

The Janata Dal (United) slammed Kishor, with its spokesperson KC Tyagi noting that the Bihar chief minister has publicly announced that he will never again in his life

ioin hands with the BJP. "We strongly refute his claims. Kumar is in active politics for over

People who are thinking

that Nitish Kumar is actively building a national alliance against the BJP will be surprised to know that he has kept a line open with the BJP

PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST

50 years and Kishor for six months. Kishor has made such a misleading comment to spread confusion,' Tyagi said.

Kishor started his 'padyatra' October 2 from the Gandhi ashram in Betiharwa in West Champaran. He has set out to complete a 3,500km journey in the next 12-15 months through Bihar, seeking people's support to 'change' the system.

He was in the JD(U) for less than 18 months before being expelled from the party in 2020 for his strident criticism of Kumar for his support to the BJP over contentious measures like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Kumar was then a BJP ally.

The JD(U) leader recently snapped his party's ties with the BJP and joined hands with the RJD-Congress-Left alliance in Bihar and has vowed to work to build an alliance against the saffron party at the national level. A united opposition will topple the BJP from power at the Centre, he has asserted.

After coming to power in Bihar in 2005 as the face of the BJP-led NDA, Kumar first broke ties with the party in 2013 and joined hands with the RJD-led opposition in the state in 2014.

However, he switched sides in 2017 only to dump the BJP again in August this year.

The BJP has accused him of – changing alliances due to his greed for power.

### Modi to unveil 108-feet statue of Kempegowda Nov 11

THE STATUE WEIGHING 220 TONNE **IS BEING INSTALLED AT** THE KEMPEGOWDA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT AT AN EXPENSE OF ₹85 CRORE** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 19: The 108-feet bronze statue of Bangalore's founder Kempegowda will be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi November 11 near the international airport here, Karnataka Minister CN Ashwath Narayan said Wednesday.

The statue weighing 220 tonne is being installed at the Kempegowda International Airport here at an expense of Rs 85 crore.

Renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar has designed the statue. Sutar had built the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat

and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Bangalore's Vidhana Soudha. Besides Kempegowda's statue. there will also be a heritage park in an area covering 23 acres dedicated to the 16th century chieftain. Narayan, who is also the Vice-

Chairperson of the

Kempegowda Heritage Area

Development Authority, said a campaign for collecting sacred mud

from across the state to be used for the development of Kempegowda theme park at the international airport, will be flagged off by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai October 21 in front of Vidhana Soudha here The campaign will

run till

November 7 and during this period, vehicles named as 'Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Ratha' will collect the sacred mud across all the districts of the state. The sacred mud thus collected will be used during the unveiling of the 108feet statue of the Bangalore founder by Prime Minister Narendra Modi November 11. he said.

To ensure the success of the campaign, committees have been formed at the district level, the minister said, CEOs of zilla panchavats in each district will be the nodal officer of the committee.

Religious leaders, elected representatives, writers, progressive farmers, members of self-help groups, senior citizens, milk producers' federations and industrial associations will be involved in the campaign, he added.

Later, Narayan visited the residence of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and invited him to participate in the inaugural event of sacred mud collection October 21.







## national



If militants can kill someone in the custody of police with such ease, it goes on to show what could be the fate of ordinary people MEHBOOBA MUFTI PDP PRESIDENT

### **XBB SUB-VARIANT SCARE**

At least 18 cases of XBB sub-variant of Omicron have been reported in Maharashtra in the first fortnight of October, the state health department said Wednesday. A health official said 13 of these cases are from Pune, two each from Nagpur and Thane and one from Akola district





It is the government's responsibility to provide quality healthcare and welfare to governmen

employees and retired officials MANSUKH MANDAVIYA UNION HEALTH MINISTER

The government is giving utmost importance to industries like IT, which has the potential to change the socio-economic landscape of Kerala

PINARAYI VIJAYAN KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

Many foreign tourists especially those in the age bracket of 50s and 60s, wish to speak in their own language. So it is important to be multilingual as per the needs of the tourists and our policy should factor in that aspect OM BIRLA

### SHORT TAKES

### Women dancing at temple sparks row

Bhopal: A video in which two women can be seen dancing to Bollywood songs at Mahakaleshwar temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain has stirred a row, prompting the state's home minister to order a probe into the matter. The women had gone to offer prayers at Mahakaleshwar temple two days ago. They shot videos while dancing to Bollywood songs, and uploaded them on social media. The temple management has demanded action against the women.

### Moosewala case: **Gangster nabbed**

New Delhi: A gangster and Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala murder accused, who had fled from the custody of police in Puniab's Mansa early this month, has been arrested by the Delhi Police's Special Cell from Raiathan's Ajmer, an official said Wednesday. Five grenades and two automatic pistols were also recovered from the possession of Deepak alias Teenu, a resident of Harvana's Bhiwani. Police said that Deepak, a member of Lawrence Bishnoi-Kala Jathedi-Sampat Nehra gang. was planning to flee from the country for which he had also procured a passport.



### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The campaign team of Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, who Wednesday conceded defeat to Mallikarjun Kharge in the party presidential poll, had written to the party's chief election authority, flagging "extremely serious irregularities" in the conduct of the election in Uttar

Pradesh, sources sad Besides demanding that all votes from Uttar Pradesh be deemed invalid, Tharoor's campaign team had also raised "serious issues" in the conduct of the election in

Punjab and Telangana. In his letter to Central Election Authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry, Tharoor's chief election agent Salman Soz had said the facts are "damning" and the election process in Uttar Pradesh is "devoid of credibility and integrity",

they said He said after a detailed discussion with polling agents, Tharoor's team is constrained to report "disturbing facts". Soz conveyed to Mistry that what has been witnessed in Uttar Pradesh is an open challenge to the authority of "your office" as well as contempt for the orders of the Congress president and the Congress Working Committee to hold free and fair

elections. "We would like to underline that we have no evidence that Kharge ji was aware of how his supporters were engaging in electoral malpractice in Uttar Pradesh. We are certain that if he was aware, he would never allow what happened in Uttar Pradesh," Soz said in his

letter, according to sources. "He (Kharge) would not allow the

### Delhi LG approves probe into links of jail officials with Sukesh



Tharoor managed to garner more votes than

**CONGRESS PREZ POLL** 

### any of the losing candidates in the elections to the top party post held in 2000 and 1997

tainting of an election that is so important for the Indian National Congress," Soz was quoted as saying in the letter.

The "irregularities" in Uttar Pradesh flagged by Tharoor's team include use of unofficial seals for ballot boxes, presence of unofficial persons in polling booths, voting malpractice, no polling summary sheet, presence of AICC secretaries in-charge of Uttar Pradesh. "We do not see how this elec-

tion can be deemed free and fair if the tainted process of Uttar Pradesh is allowed to stand. We, therefore. demand that all votes from Uttar Pradesh be deemed invalid," the letter dated October 18 said, according to the sources.

Tharoor's team said it suspects "voter fraud" in this election, alleging that there were delegates who were not present in the Lucknow area on the day of voting and their votes were cast. There were complaints from people about not being allowed to cast their votes since others had already cast their votes, the letter said.

"When our agents complained about voter malpractice, supporters of the other side would come inside the polling booth and create a ruckus and start threatening our polling agents," Soz alleged, according to sources.



Noting that Tharoor did not contest this election to accept business as usual, Soz said his team is ready to fight for the integrity of this election.

'Winning or losing matters little given that both contestants are part of the same family. However, it matters greatly to our campaign our volunteers, and our support ers, that we ensure that the Indian National Congress emerges stronger after this election." Soz said, according to sources.

"It can only do so if we are able to certify the integrity of this election," he added. Team Tharoor said no election process can be perfect and it understands that. It pointed out that it accepted the numerous violations of the CEA guidelines by AICC (All India Congress Committee) and PCC (Pradesh Congress Committee) leaders

"We kept quiet in the party's interest when we saw unjust and unfair treatment that prevented us from operating on a level playing field. We took it upon ourselves to protect the party's public image when so many of our colleagues were doing things contrary to the directions of the Congress president and the public statements of Rahul Gandhi ji," Soz was quoted as saying the letter.

"However, this can no longer continue. It is not just our campaign's job to protect the party's image. Others will now have to step up and do their part. We will hold them accountable," he added.

Tharoor's team said it does not see how this election can be deemed free and fair if the "tainted" process of Uttar Pradesh is allowed to stand.



PROTEST TURNS UGLY

Police personnel detain AIADMK interim General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and party leaders during a protest against Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker Appavu, at Valluvarkottam in Chennai

### Sameer Wankhede alleges harassment by NCB officer

**Commission of Scheduled Castes** (NCSC) has ordered a probe into the allegations of harassment levelled against Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Deputy Director-General Gyaneshwar Singh, by former Mumbai NCB chief Sameer D Wankhede.

Wankhede met the NCSC Chairman to discuss his case in detail, and the panel has found that "there appears to be discrimination and harassment" in the matter

It has also directed that "no further action in the matter be taken till the pendency of the case" with the NCSC. The developments came shortly after a NCB internal inquiry found lapses in the investigations into the high-profile cruiser party drugs case of October 2021 in which among the celebrities arrested was Aryan Khan.

The NCB probe has pointed the needle of suspicion at around 7-8 of its own officers involved in the raids led by Wankhede - the then NCB Mumbai Zonal Director - conducted on the cruise ship Cordelia.



he NCB had instituted a vigilance probe after several lapses were found in the inquiry into the alleged drug seizure from a cruise ship in Mumbai last October

#### ryan Khan, was arrested after a raid on the ship, but he was later given a 'clean chit' in the case

#### ankhede was the NCB 🛿 Mumbai zonal director when the raid was conducted on the Goa-bound ship

While Aryan Khan and some others got a clean chit, Wankhede moved the NCSC Monday (October 17) with his complaint alleging harassment and atrocities perpetrated by Singh.

### St Stephen's College faces setback after SC move on admissions

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to stay the Delhi High Court order asking St. Stephen's College to follow the admission policy prescribed by the Delhi University under which it cannot hold interviews for non-minority students in un-

dergraduate courses. A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and CTRavikumar said it was not inclined to interfere with the HC judgement, prompting the prestigious college to take down from

its website a contentious prospectus which was at the centre of a discord between the college and its governing Delhi University. "We find no reason to stay the

judgement, therefore the application for interim relief is dismissed," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea of St Stephen's College against a Delhi High Court order which asked it to follow the admission policy of the Delhi University.



### Kin plan PIL to stop misuse of Netaji's name

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Mumbai, Oct 19: The National

### Yasin appears in special court

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail in a terror financing case, on Wednesday appeared in a special court here through Video conferencing in connection with the 1990 killing of four Air Force personnel personnel. The special Terrorist and **Disruptive Activities** (Prevention) Act court has now issued the production warrant to the CBI for crossexamining witnesses in the case October 23.

### TN's debt burden grew by 22.43%

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Chennai: Tamil Nadu's debt grew by 22.43 per cent in 2020-21 and touched Rs 5,18,796 crore, a Comptroller and Auditor General of India report, tabled in the state assembly Wednesday said. The report recommended the government to initiate measures for creating increased fiscal space through augmenting its own revenues so as to avoid utilisation of capital receipts to meet revenue expenditure and to achieve the target set in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 19: Taking a tough stand against the deep-rooted nexus of criminals and jail authorities, the Lt. Governor VK Saxena Wednesdav granted the approval to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police to probe 82 officials of the Delhi Prison Department. They will be probed for their al-

leged involvement in the organised crime syndicate being run by notorious conman Sukesh V Chandrashekhar from Jail No. 10 of Rohini Jail. The EOW had sought the permission of the Competent Authority for investigating these officials under Section 17(A) of POC Act, in a case which is already being investigated under various Sections of IPC dealing with extortion, cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy as well as under special statues including MCOCA

Chandra Kumar Bose, a grand nephew of the freedom fighter, questioned the Central Board of Film Certification's clearance

given to movies based on 'such contentious theories'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 19: Days before the release of a movie on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's "after-life" of what he may have done after the 1945 Taipei air crash, the freedom fighter's kin said they are mulling a PIL to stop "misuse of his name for financial gains"

Reacting to it, director of a film 'Sannyasi Deshonayak' (Monk-National leader), which is slated to be released by October-end, Amlan Kusum Ghosh, claimed on social media that the opposition was from people who were stoking a "fake controversy" would be good for the movie.

The film based on a hypothesis that Bose may have survived the crash which occurred in August 1945 and later returned to India to become a monk, is slated to be released later this week, while another was released in 2019 for an OTT platform which dealt with several such theories of his supposed after-life. Chandra Kumar Bose, a grand nephew of the freedom fighter, questioned the Central Board of Film Certification's clearance given to movies based on "such contentious theories'

"This has become quite a practice ... Filmmakers are making films on Netaji without knowing or reading the reports of the Commissions of enquiry which probed his death in the Taipei "Netaji has been shown crash." in a bad light. You cannot do that. Authors and filmmakers who claim



to be Netaji researchers have denigrated the freedom fighter by comparing him to a recluse (called Gumnami baba) without any clinch ing evidence," Bose told PTI. Netaji's image is being tarnished by such books and films, Bose claimed.

"We are planning to file a PIL in this regard and are consulting lawyers. We are considering filing it in Calcutta High Court or the Supreme Court as it is a national

Under-utilisation of CRM machines a concern

issue," he said. He said he and his family members welcomed the central government's steps inaugurating museums and statues of the leader, but felt actions of the Censor Board in clearing such contentious movies were inappropriate. 'Sannyasi Deshonavak', a film directed by Amlan Kusum Ghosh based on the mysteries surrounding Netaii's death after the Taipei plane crash, is scheduled to be released October 28.



which was on the college website since May, 85 per cent weightage was to be given to the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) score and 15 per cent to interview, which was against the Delhi University's criteria that accorded 100 per cent weightage to the CUET and did not provide for an interview.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the college, said the interview process was applicable to all and not just non-minority students. "Delhi High Court order says interview can only be for minority and rest as per Common University Entrance Test. That is bad in law and unsustainable," he asserted.

The senior lawyer said the college has, for the last 40 years, given 15 per cent weightage to interview for admission against unreserved seats.

### **STUBBLE BURNING**

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

and IT Act by the EOW.

New Delhi, Oct 19: Delayed delivery of Crop Residue Nine Management (CRM) machines in Punjab and out of 22 districts Haryana came up as a in Punjab and 4 out of 22 major concern in the inter-ministerial districts in Haryana are meeting held on the major contributors of stubble issue of of crop residue burning. burning in these states and Amid the poor air these 13 districts quality situation in Delhi and surroundneed to be focused ing cities, the meeting The upon more under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Environment and the Minister of Fisheries. Animal Husbandry was held in the national capital. nificantly better than that in Punjab.

Discussions were held regarding

the status of implementation of the respective action plans of the NCR states and NCTD, utilisation of machinery for management, extensive use of bio-decomposers for in-situ manage ment of paddy straw and other related issues. Minister of Agriculture in his brief presentation highlighted that the status of Parali management in Haryana is sig-

Nine out of 22 districts in Punjab

and 4 out of 22 districts in Harvana are major contributors of stubble burning in these states and these 13 districts need to be focused upon more.

Till October 15, the trend for fire events was less as compared to last vear but now it has started growing rapidly, especially in Punjab. Early harvesting is the reason for

### 'Very poor' **AQI by Saturday**

With "very poor" air quality predicted in Delhi-NCR by Saturday, the Commission for Air Quality Management Wednesday directed authorities to enact stage two of GRAP, which includes banning the use of coal and firewood in hotels, restaurants and open eateries. The use of diesel generators, except for essential services, is also banned under stage two of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which is a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

high fire counts in Amritsar and Tarn Taran. It was also apprised that the coverage of land for the ap-

plication of Pusa decomposer is less in Punjab which needs to be promoted and enhanced.

The representative of the Ministry of Power said it has mandated 5 per cent blending of biomass pellets with the coal for co-firing in Thermal Power Plants (TPPs). The co-firing also helps to prevent CO2 emissions. Till now, 0.1 million MT CO2 emissions have been prevented.

The Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said they have prepared a detailed framework for management of 'parali' and the states have been advised to implement the same to contain stubble burning.

It was mentioned in the meeting that in spite of several meetings andefforts by CAQM, the steps taken by Punjab are inadequate.













### international

As my boss, the **Trade Secretary** [Badenoch], likes to say, it's the deal that's more important than the date when it comes to delivering for businesses and consumers in both our countries (India-UK) **GREG HAND** TRADE POLICY MINISTER, UK

### **UKRAINE AWARDED SAKHAROV PRIZE**

The European Parliament awarded the people of Ukraine Wednesday its annual Prize for Freedom of Thought, in support of Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion that started February 24, which Russia calls a "special military operation". The award comes with prize money of 50,000 euros prize money, which will be granted to civil society representatives 



uote

### PAKISTAN FLOODS World Bank estimates \$40 billion in damages

that OPEC+ made last week, we believe sided with the Russians and were against the interests of the American people and the families around the world

The decisions

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSI Imran Khan

wants to blackmail the government with his protest sit-in and the long march into Islamabad. However, the government will not be blackmailed

KHAWAJA ASIF DEFENCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

Prime Minister Kishida and I will discuss ways to strengthen our cooperation and achieve our shared vision for a peaceful, stable, climate resilient and prosperous Indo Pacific

ANTHONY ALBANESE PM, AUSTRALIA

### SHORT TAKES

### Biden plans to tap into oil reserves

Washington: President Joe Biden will announce the release of 15 million barrels of oil from the US strategic reserve Wednesday as part of a response to recent production cuts announced by OPEC+ nations, and he will say more oil sales are possible this winter, as his administration rushes to be seen as pulling out all the stops ahead of next month's midterm elections. Biden will deliver remarks Wednesday to announce the drawdown from the strategic reserve, senior administration officials said Tuesday the condition of anonymity to outline Biden's plans. It completes the release of 180 million barrels authorised by Biden in March that was initially supposed to occur over six months.

### North fires more shells towards SK

floods that at one point left a third of the country's territory submerged, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to move to safer places ASSOCIATED PRESS ing a meeting in the capital, Islamabad, between Prime Minister Islamabad, Oct 19: Pakistan said Wednesday that the World Bank

Shahbaz Sharif and experts on climate change. There was no imestimates this summer's recordmediate word from the World Bank breaking floods have caused \$40 on the new estimate. Sharif's government last month billion in damages in this impoverished South Asian nation. The figoffered an estimate of \$30 billion ure is \$10 billion more than an ear-

Cash-strapped Pakistan was already facing a serious

financial crisis before the heavy monsoon rains

hit in mid-Iune. The rains triggered unprecedented

from the floods but cautioned that the real figure may be far higher. A final report on the damages is yet to be finalized with the help of in-



ternational aid agencies and lend ing institutions, including the World Bank. The United Nations has revised its appeal for aid for Pakistan five-fold, to \$816 million, from the initial \$160 million. sav-

ing recent assessments about the damages caused by floods pointed to the urgent need for long-term help, lasting into next year.

A government statement following Wednesday's meeting be-

The flooding has killed at least 1.719 people and affected 33 million since mid-June. The waters have damaged or washed away 2 million homes

tween the premier and the newly formed Pakistan Climate Change Council quoted an often-repeated statement by Sharif that despite having less than 1% share in global carbon emissions, Pakistan is among 10 countries most affected by climate change.

According to government offi-

cials, more than half of the flood victims in Pakistan's worst-hit Sindh province have returned to their homes over the past three weeks after floodwaters receded there and elsewhere in the country, including Baluchistan, where the UN Estimates that floods damaged 43% of crops. The flood-related fatalities have

included 345 women and 641 children. The UN says 7 million women and children require immediate access to food.

Pakistan wants the world community to scale up aid for flood survivors, now also threatened by waterborne diseases, malaria and dengue fever. Experts say people in flood-hit areas will face a harsh winter this year and that aid is urgently needed.

### **ANNEXED UKRAINE REGIONS** Putin declares martial law

Putin also issued a decree restricting movement in and out of eight regions adjoining Ukraine

### REUTERS

Kyiv, Oct 19: President Vladimir Putin introduced martial law Wednesday in four Ukrainian regions he says are part of Russia as some residents of the Russian-held city of Kherson left by boat after Moscow warned of a looming assault. The images of people fleeing

Kherson were broadcast by Russian state TV which portrayed the exodus - from the right bank of the Rover Dnipro to its left bank - as an attempt to clear the city of civilians before it became a combat zone.

Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the local Russia-backed administration, made a video appeal after Russian forces in the area were driven back by 20-30 km (13-20 miles) in the last few weeks. They risk being pinned against the western bank of the 2,200-km (1367 miles) -long Dnipro river that

### UKRAINIANS PRESS COUNTER-OFFENSIVES CITY OF KHERSON UNDER PRESSURE, SAYS RUSSIA

MOSCOW SEEKS EVACUATION **OF INHABITANTS** 

#### bisects Ukraine.

In a move which looked designed to help Russia firm its grip on four Ukrainian regions it partly occupies and seeks to fully control - including the Kherson region - Putin told his Security Council he was introducing martial law in them.

Eight months after being invaded, Ukraine is prosecuting major counter-offensives in the east and south to try to take as much territory as it can before winter after routing Russian forces in some areas.

### Annexed regions under nuclear-protection

London: Russia said Tuesday that four Ukrainian regions whose annexation it proclaimed last month are under the protection of its nuclear arsenal. The statement from the Kremlin came at a moment of acute tension, with both NATO and Russia expected to hold military exercises shortly to test the readiness of their nuclear weapons forces. Asked by reporters if the regions were under Moscow's nuclear umbrella, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "All these territories are inalienable parts of the Russian Federation and they are all

### **UK LEADERSHIP TURMOIL** Fighter, not a quitter: Truss

With opinion polls giving the Labour Party a large and growing lead, many Conservatives now believe their only hope of avoiding electoral oblivion is to replace Truss. But she insists she is not stepping down, and legislators are divided about how to

get rid of her

lier estimate by the Pakistani

The new assessment came dur-

government.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 19: British Prime Minister Liz Truss described herself as "a fighter and not a quitter" Wednesday as she faced down a hostile opposition and fury from her own Conservative Party over her botched economic plan.

Truss attended her first session of Prime Minister's Questions since newly appointed Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt ripped up the tax-cutting package unveiled by her new government less than a month ago. She apologized to Parliament and admitted she made mistakes during her short tenure as the UK's head of government.

Some lawmakers shouted "Resign!" as she spoke. Asked by the opposition Labour Party's leader, the national interest to make sure that we have economic stability."

A package of unfunded tax cuts Truss' government announced Sept 23 sparked turmoil on financial markets, hammered the value of the pound and increased the cost of UK government borrowing. The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prevent the crisis spreading to the wider econ-

omy and putting pensions at risk. Under intense political and economic pressure, Truss last week fired her ally Kwasi Kwarteng as Treasury chief, replacing him with Cabinet veteran Hunt. On Monday Hunt scrapped almost all of Truss tax cuts, along with her flagship energy policy and her promise of no public spending cuts. He said the government will need to save billions of pounds and there are "many difficult decisions" to be made before he sets out a medium-

term fiscal plan October 31. Truss faces another test in

### BRAVERMAN RESIGNS: A BLOW TO UK PM

ndian-origin Suella Braverman has resigned as UK Home Secretary, according to reports emerging from her office in London Wednesday. Braverman, the daughter of a Goan-origin father and Tamil-origin mother, was only appointed Home Secretary 43 days ago when British Prime Minister Liz Truss took charge at 10 Downing Street. "I have made a mistake; I accept responsibility; I resign," the 42-year-old barrister said. Her exit followed a face-to-face meeting with Truss earlier Wednesday and is not believed to be the result of disagreement over government policy. The move is expected to further shake up Truss' embattled leadership. Grant Shapps,



Parliament later when lawmakers vote on an opposition Labour Party motion seeking to ban fracking for shale gas - a policy Truss recently greenlit. Conservative Party whips said the vote would be treated as "a confidence motion in the government," meaning the government would fall if the motion passed. The Conservatives' 70-plus majority makes that unlikely, but the vote will be closely watched for signs of dissent about Truss' leadership.

### Inflation bounces back to 40-yr high

**London:** The biggest jump in food prices since 1980 pushed British inflation back into double digits last month, matching a 40-year high hit in July in a new blow for households grappling with a cost-of-living crisis. The Office for National Statistics said the consumer price index (CPI) increased by 10.1% in annual terms in September. A Reuters poll of economists had pointed to a reading of 10.0%, after a 9.9% rise in August. The pound slipped below \$1.13 on the news and was last down 0.2% on the day. Food and non-alcoholic beverages prices were the biggest driver of inflation in September as they rose by 14.5%, the biggest jump since April 1980 according

Seoul: North Korea fired about 100 more artillery shells toward the sea Wednesdav in response to South Korean live firing drills at border areas as the rivals accuse each other of dialing up tensions on the Korean Peninsula with weapons tests. The drills conducted by both sides come amid heightened animosities over recent North Korean missile tests that it calls simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean and US targets.

### US man gets 16 yrs over tweets in Saudi

Dubai: An American citizen has been arrested in Saudi Arabia, tortured and sentenced to 16 years in prison over tweets he sent while in the United States, his son said Tuesday. Saad Ibrahim Almadi, a 72-year-old retired project manager living in Florida, was arrested last November while visiting family in the kingdom and was sentenced earlier this month, his son Ibrahim told The Associated Press, confirming details that were first reported by the Washington Post. Almadi is a citizen of both Saudi Arabia and the US

### HK offers new visa

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader Wednesday unveiled a new visa scheme to woo global talent, as the city seeks to stem a brain drain that has risked its status as an international financial center Chief Executive John Lee said the new Top Talent Pass Scheme will allow those earning an annual salary of 2.5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$318,472) or above and graduates from the world's top universities to work or pursue opportunities in the city for two years

Keir Starmer, "Why is she still here?" Truss retorted: "I am a fighter and not a quitter. I have acted in

### HIJAB PROTEST World's female foreign mins to meet on Iran

#### REUTERS

Ottawa, Oct 19: The world's female foreign ministers will discuss ongoing protests in Iran during a virtual meeting this week hosted by Canada, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly said in a statement Wednesday.

Joly and her counterparts will meet Thursday amid unrest ignited by Iranian Mahsa Amini's death last month while being held by Tehran's morality police, triggering one of the boldest challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution.

"My counterparts and I will gather to send a clear message: the Iranian regime must end all forms of violence and persecution against the Iranian people, including their brutal aggressions against women in particular," Joly said.

Canada will continue to stand by the courageous Iranians who are fighting for their human rights and standing up for their mothers, sisters. wives and daughters. Women's rights are human rights,' she said.

Canada had joined other nations, including the United States,

in imposing sanctions on Iran. Iran has accused countries who have expressed support for the protests of meddling in its internal affairs.

Amini, who hailed from Iran's Kurdistan region, died September 16 after being detained three days earlier by morality police in Tehran for her "inappropriate attire".

who was a major backer of Indian-origin Rishi Sunak during the Tory leadership contest, is likely to be the new home secretary, according to BBC.

### to historical modelled estimates of the CPI.

protected. Their security is provided for at the same level as [it is for] the rest of Russia's territory.'



YEARS OF PROTEST: Demonstrators run from police water cannons on the three-year anniversary of the start of anti-government protests against inequality, in Santiago, Chile. Protests that were sparked by a subway fare hike broke out Oct 18, 2019 and quickly broadened into a social movement demanding greater equality PTI PHOTO

### **DESPITE INDIA'S OBJECTION** US set to provide \$450mn F-16 package to Pakistan

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 19: Notwithstanding India's concerns, the United States is all set to provide \$450 million F-16 sustainment package to Pakistan as there has been no objection to the deal from the Senate within the mandatory 30-day notice period.

On September 7, the Department of State notified the US Congress through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee-about the determination of the Biden Administration to this defence sale for Pakistan under the Foreign Military Sales programme. Last month, the Biden administration reversed the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens for the Afghan Taliban and the Haggani network, and approved the F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan

India has questioned the rationale behind Washington's \$450 million F-16 security assistance to Pakistan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that America's relationship with Pakistan has "not served" either of the two countries and raised questions on the Biden administration's approval of the F-16 package.

### China detects brightest gamma-ray burst to date

GRBs are immensely energetic explosions that have been observed in distant galaxies. They are the most energetic and luminous electromagnetic events since

the Big Bang. Bursts can last from several milliseconds to several hours, producing as much energy as the Sun will emit during its entire existence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 19: Chinese scientists have detected the brightest gamma-ray burst (GRB) to date through combined observations from both Earth and space, according to the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The combined observations were made October 9, 2022, by China's Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO), the High Energy Burst Searcher (HEBS) -an all-sky monitor for gamma-ray transients -- as well as China's Xray astronomy satellite Insight-HXMT (Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope), achieving multi-spectral measurements of the gammaray burst, coded as GRB 221009A.



the state-run Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday.

The GRBs with a longer duration are generated by the collapse and explosion of stars with dozens of times the mass of the Sun, while

GRB 221009A is a long burst, which occurred more than two billion light years away from Earth. A **GRB** with such huge brightness is estimated to occur only once in decades ZHANG SHUANGNAN | DIRECTOR, DIVISION FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS OF IHEP

the short bursts are produced by the merger of two compact celestial bodies, such as black holes or neutron stars, which may also be accompanied by gravitational waves, scientists say.

According to Cao Zhen, the principal investigator of LHAASO, in this observation, LHAASO detected a large number of high-energy photons, reaching maximum photon energy of 18 TeV.

"We found that this event was more than 10 times brighter than the brightest gamma-ray burst previously observed by humans. This observation has broken several records for gamma-ray burst observations and is of great value in revealing the outburst mechanisms of a gamma-ray burst," Cao said.

Insight-HXMT, China's first X-ray astronomical satellite, sent into orbit June 15, 2017, has made a series of discoveries concerningblack holes, neutron stars and fast radio bursts over the past five years.







## business



Automobile industry needs to provide flexi-fuel vehicles at various price points quickly to accelerate the adoption of blended fuel technology HARDEEP PURI UNION MINISTER

### **PIRAMAL PHARMA LISTS ON BSE, NSE**

Piramal Pharma Wednesday listed its shares on the BSE and National Stock Exchange (NSE). In June 2020, the Carlyle Group Inc invested equity capital for a 20 per cent stake in Piramal Pharma Limited. Accordingly, the pharmaceuticals business was vertically demerged from Piramal Enterprises Limited



### uote 77

The sugar industry has set its goal to have approximately 100 lakh tonnes of sugar and thus converting 1,000

crore litres of ethanol only from the sugar industry apart from the grains ADITYA JHUNJHUNWALA

PRESIDENT, INDIAN SUGAR MILLS ASSOCIATION

Our internal target is minimum, one model, the first model of flexi-fue motorcycle to be launched by end 2024

ATSUSHI OGATA CEO, HMSI

The 2nd Quarter of FY23 was impacted by the inconsistency in the content value chain, proving the importance of great quality content yet agair

SIDDHARTH JAIN DIRECTOR, INOX LEISURE

### SHORT TAKES

### Mineral output up 4.2% in April-Aug

New Delhi: The country's mineral output registered a cumulative growth of 4.2 per cent in the first five months of this fiscal compared to the yearago period. However, the index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector during August was at 99.6, which was 3.9 per cent lower as compared to the level in August last year, according to the provisional data of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). The output of important minerals in August includes coal 580 lakh tonne, lignite 29 lakh tonne, natural gas (utilised) 2,829 million cu m, petroleum (crude) 24 lakh tonne and bauxite 14.5 lakh tonne.

### Nestle Q3 net rises; enters D2C space

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New Delhi: FMCG major Nestle India Ltd Wednesday reported an 8.25 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹668.34 crore for the third guarter ended September 30. The company, which follows January-December financial year, had posted a net profit of ₹617.37 crore a year ago, Nestle said in a BSE filing. The brand also launched its own Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) platform, foraying into the fast-growing online channel. It would launch its D2C platform MvNestlé in Delhi-NCR and will expand to other parts of the country, said Nestlé India Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan.

### 'India's external buffers enough to cushion risks' ₹ AT NEW NADIR OF 83

**FITCH SAID PUBLIC FINANCES REMAIN THE KEY DRIVER OF THE RATING AND INDIA IS RELATIVELY INSULATED FROM GLOBAL VOLATILITY DUE TO THE SOVEREIGN'S** LIMITED RELIANCE ON

**EXTERNAL FINANCING** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: India's external buffers are sufficient to cushion risks associated with rapid monetary policy tightening in the US and high global commodity prices, and risk to the sovereign rating from external pressure is limited, Fitch Ratings said Wednesday.

exchange reserves to remain robust and current-account deficit (CAD) to be contained at a sustainable level and reach 3.4 per cent of GDP this fiscal year, up from 1.2 per cent in last financial year.

"India's external buffers appear sufficient to cushion risks associated with rapid monetary policy tightening in the US and high global commodity prices," Fitch Ratings said, adding risk to India's sovereign rating from external pressures is limited.

India's foreign reserves fell by almost \$101 billion in January-September 2022, but are still large at around \$533 billion.

The decline has reversed much of the reserve accumulation that occurred during the pandemic, and reflects valuation effects, a widening CAD, and some intervention by the Reserve Bank of

Jio becomes largest

fixed-line service

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

provider; pips BSNL

New Delhi, Oct 19: Private tele-

com operator Reliance Jio top-

pled state-run BSNL in August

to become the largest fixed-line



India (RBI) to support the rupee's exchange rate.

"Reserve cover remains strong at about 8.9 months of imports in September. This is higher than during the "taper tantrum" in 2013, when it stood at about 6.5 months, and offers the authorities scope to utilise reserves to smooth periods of external stress. Large reserves also provide reassurance about debt repayment capacity. Shortterm external debt due is equivalent to only about 24 per cent of

total reserves," Fitch said. Fitch's commentary comes close on the heels of US-based agency S&P Global Ratings saying India is facing a 'cacophony of factors' that may shake its sovereign credit metrics but the strength of strong economic growth rate and external balance sheet is expected to neutralize the risks inherent in the treacherous global environment. India's strong economic growth

rate has long been an important counterbalance to its high fiscal deficits and debt burdens, and its sound external balance sheet helps as a buffer against global market turbulence, S&P had said in a credit

FAQ published on October 12. In its report, Fitch said India's gross external debt stood at 18.6 per cent of GDP in second quarter of 2022, which is low compared

'BBB' rated sovereigns in 2021. Fitch has the lowest investment grade rating 'BBB-' on India. In June, it had improved the rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative'.

with the median of 72 per cent for

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, Oct 19: The rupee plunged

by 60 paise to record low levels of 83 for the first time against the US dollar Wednesday amid unabated foreign capital outflows and a strong dollar in the overseas markets.

Besides, rising crude prices in the international markets and riskaverse sentiment among investors weighed on the local currency, traders said.

#### RUPEE SLIPPED 10 PAISE TO END AT 82.40 AGAINST THE DOLLAR TUFSDAY

JAPANESE YEN TOUCHED THE HISTORIC LEVEL OF 150 AGAINST DOLLAR; 32-YEAR HIGH

EURO DECLINED 0.8% WHILE THE BRITISH POUND FELL BY 0.6% AGAINST THE US DOLLAR

The rupee had moved in a narrow range in the past three sessions on dollar selling by PSU lenders possibly on behalf of the RBI for curbing volatility and the US dol lar index hovering near 112 level.

However, the dollar index breached the 112.55 level Wednesday while US Treasury yields surged to a 14year high, triggering a panic selling in the rupee, according to traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened strong at 82.32 but later pared gains to hit an all-time trading low of 83.01 against the American currency

The rupee finally settled at a record low of 83.00, showing net loss of 60 paise -- its sharpest single day loss since September 22. In the previous session Tuesday, the rupee slipped 10 paise to end at 82.40



### Indian rupee

underperformed among Asian currencies as corporate dollar outflows, weaker Chinese yuan and position unwinding by traders ahead of near-month contract expiry. Dismal economic data from Europe and UK pushed the dollar index higher which also weighed on the rupee

**BLEEDING CURRENCY** 

The rupee slid by nearly 2 per cent or 160 paise this month to hit the record low of 83

level due to a surging dollar. The local unit had breached the 82 mark October 6

#### DILIP PARMAR RESEARCH ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

### against the dollar.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities said that the rupee witnessed fresh lows at 83.00 on the back of panic selling in rupee amid rising dollar rates taking support at 112 and spiking above 112.55

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.31 per cent to 112.48. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.82 per cent to

\$90.77 per barrel.  $On \, the \, domestic \, equity \, market$ front, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained 146.59 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 59,107.19, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 25.30 points or 0.14 per cent to 17,512.25.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth ₹453.91 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data.

#### REUTERS Mumbai, Oct 19: Indian authorities have asked a court to quash Pernod Ricard's bid to halt proceedings related to a \$244 million tax demand, accusing the French spirit giant of being a "habitual litigant" and conspiring to "defraud" the

**'HABITUAL LITIGANT'** 

**India says Pernod** 

delaying \$244mn

tax demand probe

government, legal documents show. The October 3 Mumbai court filing by India's customs authority, which has not been reported previously, underlines the growing dispute between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and Pernod's local unit over how the company valued some of its imports for over a decade.

The customs authority says Pernod did so to evade full payment of import taxes.

The tussle comes when Pernod Ricard is facing business and regulatory stress in India, one of its key growth markets where it accounts for a 17% share. It has previously told Modi that long-running disputes over the valuation of liquor imports had "inhibited fresh investments" in India.

After India demanded back taxes from the maker of Chivas Regal and Absolut vodka in June, Pernod challenged it in court, saying the investigation should be put on hold as it relied on incorrect industry data, and the process was "neither fair nor reasonable.'

In the 43-page October filing, India's customs authority said the French company was resorting to "delay tactics" by approaching a court for relief, instead of responding to the government's tax demand notice. The Indian investigation assessed Pernod India's import bills of liquor concentrates from a group subsidiary, UK-based Chivas Brothers, and found they were undervalued for years.

### CCI fines MakeMyTrip, Goibibo, OYO PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Competition Commission on Wednesday slapped penalties totalling more than ₹392 crore on online travel firms MakeMyTrip, Goibibo and hospitality services provider OYO for unfair business

practices. A fine of ₹223.48 crore has been

### **UNFAIR PRACTICES**



platforms. Besides imposing penalties, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has directed MMT-Go to "suitably modify its agreements with hotels/chain hotels to remove/abandon the price and room availability parity obligations imposed by it on its hotel/chain hotel partners with respect to other OTAs (Online Travel Agencies)"

"MMT-Go is directed to provide access to its platform on a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory basis to the hotels/chain hotels, by formulating the platforms' listing terms and conditions in an objective manner," it added.

It was also alleged that MMT gave preferential treatment to OYO on its platform, further leading to a denial of market access

### **Evolve Fashion sets foot in City**





### UltraTech net falls 42%; sales up 16%

New Delhi: Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement Wednesday reported 42.09 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit at ₹758.70 crore for the second quarter of FY23, citing higher operating costs due to inflationary headwinds. The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,310.34 crore in the July-September period a year ago, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations rose 15.61 per cent to ₹13,892.69 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹12,016.78 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

service provider in the country. according to a TRAI report released Tuesday.

This is the first time since the beginning of telecom services in the country that a private operator has gained the numero uno position in the wireline segment. According to Trai's subscriber

report for August. Jio's wireline subscriber base reached 73.52 lakh while that of BSNL was at 71.32 lakh. BSNL has been providing wireline

services since the last 22 years, whereas Jio launched its wireline offering 3 years ago. The wireline subscribers in the country grew to 2.59 crore in August from 2.56 crore in July. The growth was dominated by the private sector, with Jio adding 2.62 lakh new customers, Bharti Airtel 1.19 lakh, Vodafone Idea (Vi)

4,202 and Tata Teleservices 3,769. State-run telecom firms BSNL and MTNL lost 15,734 and 13,395 wireline customers, respectively, in August. The overall telecom subscriber

base in the country grew marginally to 117.5 crore in August.

slapped on MakeMyTrip-Goibibo (MMT-Go) and ₹168.88 crore on OYO, according to a 131-page order.

Among others, it was alleged that MMT-Go imposed a price parity in their agreements with hotel partners. Under such pacts, the hotel partners are not allowed to sell their rooms on any other platform or on its own online portal at a price below the price at which it is being offered on the two entities'

Also, CCI has asked it to modify agreements to do away with certain exclusivity conditions.

to other players.

The regulator ordered a detailed investigation into the matter in October 2019.

MakeMyTrip(MMT) acquired Ibibo Group Holding in 2017. MMT continues to operate its hotels and packages business through MMT India under the brand name MakeMyTrip, and Ibibo India under the brand name Goibibo.

### Union Bank organises meet with car dealers

Bhubaneswar: Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar arranged a meeting with car dealers under the leadership of Satyaban Behera, Regional Head and guidance of Ashok Mishra, Deputy Regional Head. A total of 65 people from various car dealers participated in the event. With the support of Pravakar Sahoo, Chief Manager; Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Chief Manager and HK Pahi, RLP Head the programme was a great success. Heads from various branches were also present on this occasion. The bank observed very good response from all the dealers and is expecting good business in coming days.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Evolve, a subsidiary firm of the JMG Automobiles group, has unveiled its first edition of Evolve Fashion in Bhubaneswar October 19. JMG Automobiles is also one of the largest two-wheeler vendors in the Silver City.

The store was launched by renowned Ollywood star Archita Sahu in the presence of proprietor CA Shipra Aggrawal, Pradeep Aggrawal and others.

The 1800 square feet supreme and luxurious multi-designer store provides a broad choice of premium designer clothes at a

one-stop shop. It also gives numerous exquisite casual wear and party wear options by many designers from state as well as across country. The price for designer apparels starts at ₹5,000.

The Evolve Fashion store is located beside Sri Guru Kalyan Mandap, Mayfair Lagoon Road, Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar.

The store primarily deals with modern, contemporary, casual and party wears making it the only store in Bhubaneswar that specialises in these exclusive wear categories. It focuses on offering rich and quality designer apparel. as well as allowing customers to experience designer wonders.

### **INFLATION** Jewellery industry cautiously optimistic this Dhanteras

The industry is cautious despite benign gold prices, which are ruling at around ₹47,000-49,000 per 10 grams, and overall positive consumer sentiment

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### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

San Francisco: Netflix reported that it gained more than 2 million subscribers in the recent quarter, calming investor fears that the streaming television giant was losing paying customers. Netflix said it ended the quarter with slightly more than 223 million subscribers worldwide, up some 2.4 million, after seeing subscriber ranks ebb during the first half of this year. Netflix shares shot up more than 13 percent on the earnings news.

### Netflix gains 2.4mn subscribers in Q3

Mumbai, Oct 19: With the Dhanteras around the corner, the jewellery industry is cautiously optimistic about the demand, mainly due to the exceptionally high base last year, inflation worries and the overall rising cost of living.

After the first wave of the pandemic, revenge purchases along with postponed weddings boosted demand, resulting in an exceptionally good Dhanteras in 2021, with sales crossing even the pre-pandemic levels.

Dhanteras, which marks the

first day of Diwali in India, is considered auspicious to buy gold and silver as part of Hindu festivities.

'The demand for jewellery during Dhanteras is likely to be at par with last year as 2021 was an exceptional year for the industry when the country slowly inched towards normalcy after the pandemic. Postponed weddings and revenge purchases last year boosted demand with sales crossing the pre-pandemic levels," All India Gem And Jewellery Domestic Council chair-

man Ashish Pethe told PTL World Gold Council Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR



said that over the years, India has developed a strong cultural bond between gold and auspicious festivals, such as Dhanteras, supported by sound economic reasoning.

"The purchase of gold as a token boosts the positivity surrounding these festivals. Moreover, with recent corrections in local gold prices and a favourable monsoon. festive sentiment among retail consumers ap-

This year, the consumer sentiment is dampened following high inflation, rising costs and unseasonal rains affecting agriculture activities. Even the pre-booking of jewellery, which usually begins during Dussehra, is very slow this year. However, the weak gold price is likely to favour the sector

ASHISH PETHE | CHAIRMAN, ALL INDIA GEM AND JEWELLERY DOMESTIC COUNCIL

pears to be positive," he pointed out. However, the impact of inflation on household finances may lead to an immediate impact on gold jewellery demand, he cautioned.

"Unlike the Diwali season of 2021, this season may not have the

advantage of pent-up demand or savings from muted wedding celebrations, fuelling higher gold purchases. Having said that, this is a busy buying season, and with gold being a valuable hedge against inflation, any further price declines in the coming weeks could result in a surge in demand," he added.

Meanwhile. Kalvan Jewellers India Executive Director Ramesh Kalyanaraman said with consumer sentiment shifting from unorganised to the organised sector, the organised players will gain during this Dhanteras.

"Last year was an exceptional year as the country came out of the pandemic, however, with the ruling weakness in gold prices and no pandemic-related uncertain-ties, things are looking positive this year," he said.











PCB knocks on ACC door BHANWALA FEAT AT U-23 WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Oct 19: The PCB

Wednesday said BCCI secretary

Jay Shah's statement that India

won't travel to Pakistan for the

Asia Cup next year has the poten-

tial to split the cricketing com-

munities and requested the Asian

Cricket Council (ACC) to convene

an emergency meeting on the issue.

ond stint as BCCI secretary, said

India would like to play the conti-

nental tournament at a neutral

Shah's statement, the PCB said.

"such statements can spilt the

Asian and international cricket

communities" and impact

Pakistan's visit to India for the

2023 World Cup. Shah, who made

the statement after the BCCI AGM

Tuesday, also happens to be the

"The overall impact of such

statements have the potential to

split the Asian and international

cricketing communities, and can

impact Pakistan's visit to India for

the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

and future ICC Events in India in

ACC president.

the 2024-2031 cycle.

In its first official response to

venue and not tour Pakistan.

Shah, after beginning his sec-



Jay Shah (L) was involved in a conversation with BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla, Tuesday PTI PHOTO

### PAKISTANI BOARD SAYS JAY SHAH'S STATEMENT CAN 'SPLIT' CRICKETING **COMMUNITIES, URGES ASIAN BODY TO CALL EMERGENCY MEETING**



"The PCB has to date not received any official communication or clarification from the ACC on the statement of the ACC President, As such, the PCB has now requested the Asian Cricket Council to convene an emergency meeting of its Board as soon as practically possible to discuss this important and sensitive matter," the PCB said.

Pakistan has been allotted hosting rights for the Asia Cup which will be held ahead of the ODI World Cup in India in October-November. The T20 Asia Cup held last month had to be shifted from Sri Lanka to the UAE amid the economic crisis in the island nation.

The 2018 Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in India, was also moved to the UAE after the BCCI couldn't procure clearance from government security agencies to host Pakistan.

India and Pakistan only play each other in the Asian and the ICC events due to the political tensions between the two countries. India last toured Pakistan in 2008 while Pakistan's played last series in India in 2012-13.

The PCB said Shah's statement was surprising and disappointing at the same time. "The PCB has noted with surprise and disappointment of yesterday's comments made by the ACC President Mr Jay Shah with regards to shifting of next year's Asia Cup to a neutral venue.

"The comments were made without any discussion or consultation with the Board of the Asian Cricket Council or the Pakistan Cricket Board (event host) and without

any thoughts towards their longterm consequences and implications

"After having presided over the ACC meeting during which Pakistan was awarded the ACC Asia Cup with an overwhelming support and response from the ACC Board Members, Mr Shah's statement of shifting of the ACC Asia Cup has clearly been made unilaterally," the PCB said.

The officials from both the PCB and BCCI will be confronted with the issue at the International Cricket Council's board meeting in Melbourne next month. The ICC is yet to comment on the matter.

A top official from an Asian cricketing nation hoped the matter would be sorted amicably and said there is no Asia Cup without India or Pakistan.

The PCB is also irked because international cricket has resumed in the country with all top nations like England, Australia, West Indies travelling there to play Test and white-ball series in recent years.

"This is contrary to the philosophy and spirit for which the Asian Cricket Council was formed in September 1983 - a united Asian cricket body to safeguard the interests of the its Members and organise, develop, and promote the game of cricket in Asia," the PCB added

A PCB source told PTI that the board is ready to play hard ball with the BCCI this time around and will approach the ICC during the meeting in Melbourne. The PCB has also threatened to pull of the ODI World Cup in India if the Asia Cup matter is not resolved.

The ICC tends to put India and Pakistan in the same group in world events, with the game between the two teams drawing a massive television audience and full house at the stadium.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pontevedra (Spain), Oct 19: Sajan Bhanwala became the first Indian Greco Roman wrestler to win a medal at the U-23 World Championship when he edged past Ukraine's Dmytro Vasetskyi on 'criteria' to emerge winner in the bronze play-off, here.

It was the Ukrainian who pulled off a four-pointer on the edge of the circle for a solid start but Bhanwala bounced back immediately with a strong move that got him into a position from where he could pin his rival.

Though he could not pin his rival, it was good enough to earn four points. Bhanwala lost two more points and got into defensive mode.

For staying passive, Bhanwala put on 'Par Terre' position, something Indian wrestlers are very poor at defending and the Ukrainian pulled off another four-pointer from the ground position for a handsome 10-4 lead.

Bhanwala scored two points with a take-down move and with 35 seconds left in the bout, managed to push his rival on the back to level the scores. The bout ended at 10-10 but since the Indian had scored the last point he was declared winner on criteria. Bhanwala had begun with a 3-0

win over Lithuania's Aistis

Liaugminas but lost his pre-quarterfinal bout to Moldova's Alexandrin Gutu. As Gutu made the final. Bhanwala bounced back into medal contention via the repechage route and he made full use of that with a 9-6 win over Kazakhstan's Rassul Zhunis.

Meanwhile, Vikas will fight for a bronze in the 72kg after losing his semifinal by technical superiority to Croatia's Pavel Puklavec. He will be up against the winner of repechage contest between Georgios Theodoros Sotiriadis and Jpana's Daigo Kobayashi.

Before losing his semifinal clash, Vikas beat Kyrgyzstan's Adilkhan Nurlanbekov and home team rival Marcos Sanchez Silva Mejias by technical superiority, losing just one point across bouts.

In the 60kg category, Sumit got back to medal reckoning when he made the repechage round. He will be up agianst Kazakhastan's Olzhas Sultan.

In the 67kg competition, Ashu had bowed out after losing his qualfication bout by technical superiority to Georgia's Diego Chkhikvadze.

Six Greco Roman wrestlers travelled to the Spanish city for the championship along with two women and one free style wrestler while visas of 21 other Indians were rejected by the Embassy of \_\_\_\_ Spain.

### Srabani secures 200m silver at Nat'l C'ships

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Odisha sprinter Srabani Nanda secured her second medal at the National **Open Athletics Championships** capturing the silver medal in women's 200m on the fifth and final day - Tuesday, following her goldwinning act in the 100m on the second day of the meet at the Sree

Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore. Srabani finished the race with a

Srabani had opened her account in the meet with a 100m gold with a timing of 11.55 seconds. The 31year-old sprinter had trailed at the 50m mark but she sustained her pace long enough to win the race by a hundredth of a second from Railways' Himashree Roy, who settled for silver. Archana S Suseendran of Tamilnadu clinched the bronze.

Earlier on the fourth day of the meet, Kishore Kumar Jena claimed the bronze medal in the men's javelin throw event covering the distance of 78.05 mtr in his third attempt. DP Manu of Services bagged the gold with the distance of 81.23m, while Rohit Yadav (78.80m) of Railway settled for silver.

Indian girls swept the women's

50m pistol junior event after

Divanshi topped the field with a

score of 547, Varsha Singh came sec-

ond with 539 and Tiyana finished

third with 523. The fourth place

was also captured by India, with

in the women's 25m standard pistol,

shooting 573 to finish behind China's

Xiao Jiaruixuan who shot 575. A

second silver came via Abhinav

Choudhary who shot 546 in the men's

50m pistol junior event to go down

narrowly to Korea's Song Seungho.

The Korean had the same score as

ond bronze on the day, finishing

third in the men's 25m standard pis-

tol. He was behind Tokyo Olympics

fourth-place finisher Pavlo

Korostylov of Ukraine who won

gold and Christian Reitz of

Germany who claimed silver.

Vijayveer Sidhu won India's sec-

Abhinav but won on countback.

RIFF

Υ

C.

Rhythm Sangwan won a silver

Khushi Kapoor shooting 521.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hobart, Oct 19: West Indies kept alive their hopes of reaching the Super 12 of the ICC T20 World Cup with a comfortable 31-run win over Zimbabwe here Wednesday. Described as a must-win game

by skipper Nicholas Pooran after their shock defeat to Scotland, West Indies posted 153/7 after opting to bat first at the Bellerive Oval. The total proved to be enough

# VEST IND

**IMPRESSIVE SHOW:** Alzarri Joseph reacts after dismissing a Zimbabwe

batter during their match, Wednesday

ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2022 CORNER

Windies keep Super 12 hopes alive

### **Rain plays spoilsport**

BRISBANE: India's second and final warm-up game against New Zealand was Wednesday abandoned without a ball being bowled due to persistent rain at The Gabba here. Both the Indian and New Zealand teams failed to hit the ground as heavens opened up during Pakistan's chase of 155 against Afghanistan at the same venue in the first practice match of the day. India had earlier defeated

### **Special allocation** of ₹25cr for STC training centres

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: In a major boost to grassroots level athletes, the Sports Ministry Wednesday approved a special grant of `25 crore for the upgradation of equipments at SAI Training Centres\_\_\_\_ (STCs) across the country.

The decision to give grassroots level athletes access to modern equipments was taken during the Sports Authority of India's 56th General Body meeting, which was attended by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and his deputy in the ministry, Nisith Pramanik, among others. Besides, it was also decided to ensure that the unutilized infrastructure at SAI centres are used for sports related activities. "All the decisions taken in today's meeting are athlete centric. We have decided that SAI will partner with suitable organisations for the usage of infrastructure," Pramanik said while briefing the media here. It was also decided to make the recruitment rules of SAI flexible so that specialists from different sporting fields are hired with ease, in order to strengthen the sporting ecosystem of the country. The meeting was attended by senior SAI officials, including Director General Sandip Pradhan. "The government has also committed to extending the same facilities to para athletes as able-bodied athletes and ensue that para athletes are provided with facilities as per their personalised requirements," Pramanik said. The ministry has decided to give guide runners to para athletes in all SAI Training Centres. It was also decided in the meeting to create a panel of visiting specialised doctors at all SAI NCOEs to take care of the athletes' specific medical needs.

timing of 23.71 seconds, only behind Archana Suseendran of Tamil Nadu (23.43s), who clinched the gold medal in the event. Chandralekha Anandhan (Railways) claimed the bronze clocking 23.84s.

Srabani Nanda (L) shows off her medal alongside the other 200m medallists

### **RAMITA CROWNED 10m AIR RIFLE JUNIOR WORLD CHAMP**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Oct 19: India's Ramita was Wednesday crowned World Champion in the women's 10m air rifle junior event after she defeated China's Ying Shen 16-12 in a close gold medal contest at the ISSF World Championship here.

Ramita's gold and a 1-2-3 finish by the Indians in the women's 50m pistol junior competition, were the highlights for the country on the seventh competition day, taking the country's tally to 25 medals --10 gold, five silver and 10 bronze medals. They stood second behind China in the medal table.

Tilottama Sen won a second medal for India at the event – a bronze-after she shot 261.0 in the ranking round to finish third. Earlier she had topped qualification with a sizzling 633.4 which equals the current listed world record in the event

3

the West Indies packed off Zimbabwe for 122 in 18.2 overs. with pacer Alzarri Joseph picking for 4/16 runs in his full quota of four overs. The seasoned Jason Holder also shone with the ball, taking 3/12 in 3.2 overs.

Opener Johnson Charles topscored for the West Indies with a knock of 45 in 36 balls. Charles came into the line-up in place of Brandon King, who is unwell. There were useful contributions from Rovman Powell (28) and Akeal Hosein (23 n o). Sikandar Raza was the most successful bowler for Zimbabwe, finishing with figures of 3/19 in four overs.

In their chase, Zimbabwe were off to a flyer but lost their way after scoring 55 runs in the six powerplay overs, losing wickets at regular intervals. Following the West Indies' victory, Group B has become wide open, with all four teams currently on two points each.

### CAMPHER PROPS IRELAND

HOBART: Curtis Campher struck his maiden half century after a fine show with the ball to guide Ireland to a six-wicket win over Scotland and keep their T20 World Cup Super 12 stage hopes alive here Wednesday. Campher bailed out Ireland from a spot of bother -61/4 – while chasing a challenging 177-run target and took his side home with one over to spare in the first round Group B match. The win infused a fresh lease of life to Ireland's T20 World Cup campaign, which had a stuttering start as they lost by 31 runs to Zimbabwe in the opener. In trouble at 61 for 4 in the 10th over, Campher (72 n o, 32b, 7x4, 2x6) joined hands with George Dockrell (39 n o) as the duo shared 119 runs for the unbroken fifth-wicket stand to chase down the target comfortably in the end. Campher's exploits with the bat came after the all-rounder turned out to be the pick of bowlers for Ireland with figures of 2/9 from his two overs. Earlier, Michael Jones also hit his maiden T20I fifty, a blazing 55ball 86, to power Scotland to 176/5. Captain Richie Berrington (37), Matthew Cross (28) and Michael Leask (17 not out) also played useful hands for the Scots.

### SEN, PRANNOY THROUGH; SAINA BOWS OUT

ODENSE: World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy advanced to the pre-quarterfinals after straight-game wins in men's singles while veteran Saina Nehwal crashed out in the first round of women's singles in the Denmark Open here Wednesday. The unseeded Sen beat sixth seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia 21-16, 21-12 in a first round match to set up a mouth-watering pre-quarterfinals clash against fellow Indian Prannoy in the Super 750 tournament. Prannoy had to toil hard during his 21-13, 22-20 win over Zhao Jun Peng of China. In the women's singles, Saina made a first round exit after losing to Zhang Yi Man of China 17-21, 21-19, 11-21. The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat the Korean duo of Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae 21-15, 21-19. The Indian duo will face Indonesia's Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Maulana Bagas in the pre-quarterfinals.

hosts Australia by six runs in their first warm-up match here Monday. India will open their T20 World Cup campaign in a blockbuster clash against arch-rivals Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Sunday.

### Asia Cup title is history: Shanaka

GEELONG (AUSTRALIA): The Asia

Cup title is a thing of the past now, insists Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka, saying their only focus right now is to produce a perfect performance in their must-win match against the Netherlands to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup. Stunned by Namibia in their tournament opener, Sri Lanka bounced back strongly to beat UAE by 79 runs in a first round Group A game. But occupying the third spot in Group A, Shanaka's men will now have to win their last match against table toppers Netherlands on Thursday to ensure their place in the Super 12 stage. "I think Asia Cup champions is history, so it's just a title for us. There is no pressure at all. We just need to concentrate on our own performances and what we need to do to make sure that we

get into that second round after the next game," said Shanaka. "We know our strength. The first game we didn't execute in that match, so we got beaten by Namibia. But we are a far better team from the team we performed in the first game," added Shanaka.

**KAUR OUT OF WBBL** 

Kaur was Wednesday ruled out of the

ongoing Women's Big Bash League

her side Melbourne Renegades.

opening two matches due to

**MELBOURNE:** India captain Harmanpreet

(WBBL) due to a back injury according to

Harmanpreet, the reigning WBBL player

international commitments as she led

India at the Asia Cup, winning the title.

English batter Eve Jones may play in

place of Harmanpreet in the squad

of the tournament, had missed her side's

**INDIA'S VICTORY GOES IN VAIN** 

KUWAIT CITY: Skipper Taison Singh and Gurkirat Singh struck in either half as India edged past hosts Kuwait 2-1 in their final qualification match but the thirdplace finish in Group H was not good enough to qualify for the next year's AFC U-20 Asian Cup. Saleh Almehtab pulled one back for the hosts at the Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium. India finished ahead of Kuwait but behind toppers Australia and secondplaced Iraq qualification event, which identified participants for next year's tournament in Uzbekistan. India had lost 2-4 and 1-4 to Iraq and Australia respectively in their previous group matches.

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