



RAKUL'S RELIGIOUS BENT

Actor Rakul Preet Singh says she is a spiritual person and believes a lot in her 'karma'

LEISURE P2



CANNABIS REFORMS

Germany unveils plan to allow the sale of cannabis in limited quantities to adults for recreational purposes

INTERNATIONAL P10



STUNNING VICTORY

Ireland upset England by 5 runs in a rain-affected match of the T20 World Cup at Melbourne

SPORTS P12



TOTAL DESTRUCTION: Railway traffic was severely disrupted after 53 wagons of a coal-laden goods train were derailed early Wednesday morning between Koderma and Manpur stations PTI PHOTO

Put Lakshmi, Ganesha on currency: Kejriwal

Delhi CM who got the idea during Diwali celebrations feels that the country will prosper with this move

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 26: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has a solution to the country's economic progress and prosperity – print images of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha on new currency notes. His demand, however, drew sharp reactions from the BJP, which called it an 'unsuccessful attempt' to hide the 'ugly' anti-Hindu face of AAP in view of upcoming elections in Gujarat and Delhi Municipal Corporation. Claiming that Indian economy was not in good shape, Kejriwal said at a press conference here that the country needed a lot of effort to get the economy back on track along with the 'blessings of our gods and goddesses'.

"Today, I am appealing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Centre that our currency notes have the image of Mahatma Gandhi on one side. It should remain as it is but on the other side, there should be an image of Ganesha and Lakshmi," Kejriwal said.

Kejriwal said that idea the two

deities on currency notes came to him while performing Diwali puja Monday. "We want India to become a developed and prosperous country. It will only happen when we have the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha," the Delhi CM said.

Lashing out at Kejriwal, the BJP said his demand was the height of U-turn as he was 'trying' to be a Hindu. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said that Kejriwal has taken this new stance to appease the people of Gujarat and Delhi. "His hypocrisy is on show. One should remember that the Aam Aadmi Party government had recently warned people of legal action for celebrating Diwali with fire-crackers in Delhi.

Meanwhile BJP's Northeast Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari said 'Kejriwal, who has so far protected his party leaders who insulted Hindu gods and goddesses, is now trying to save his face in view of the elections'. He was referring to the upcoming elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Gujarat Assembly.

SHORT TAKES

HC rejects former AG Mohanty's plea

CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court dismissed Wednesday the plea of former Advocate General (AG) Ashok Mohanty, an accused in Artha Tatwa ponzi scam. Mohanty had requested the high court to exclude him from the hit fund case. However, while rejecting Mohanty's plea the high court, ordered the CBI court to continue regular hearing of the case. Mohanty was arrested in 2014 for allegedly receiving property worth ₹1.01 crore at Bidanasi locality as a 'gift' from Artha Tatwa Group chief Pradeep Sethi. He was accused of abusing his official position and misappropriating funds.

Kharge eyes success in Gujarat, Himachal

NEW DELHI: Mallikarjun Kharge took charge Wednesday as the Congress' first non-Gandhi president in 24 years, citing Rahul Gandhi's slogan 'daro mat' to energise workers. He also declared that the party will demolish the government's 'system of lies, treachery and hatred'. He said his immediate task will be to lead the party to power in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, where it faces an aggressive BJP and an eager AAP. "We will have to strongly perform in these states and we will need everyone's strength and energy to succeed," Kharge said. P7

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My party is against dynastic politics. My son will contest elections either from UK or USA

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP	MAX 33.1°C 32.8°C
	MIN 21.5°C 21.2°C
Humidity	81% 87%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
	Forecast Light rain likely

Rotate officers in sensitive posts: CVC

The vigilance watchdog has pointed out that the only way to prevent corruption is to stop people staying in a particular position for a long time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Central Vigilance Commission has asked public sector banks, undertakings and central government departments to regularly identify sensitive posts and ensure the rotation of officers manning them within the prescribed time limit. This, sources said, will act as a major deterrent against corruption.



The move came after the CVC noticed that many of the organisations are not following the guidelines about the identification of sensitive posts in letter and spirit. Periodical rotation of officials holding sensitive posts would help eliminate the scope of developing vested interest by the officials and would also reduce the scope of indulging in corrupt activities, the CVC said in the order to secretaries of all central government departments and chief executives of public sector banks, insurance companies and enterprises.

"In view of the ever-changing scenario and increasing use of technology in the functioning of organisations, it is important that the list of sensitive posts is reviewed and updated at regular intervals," the CVC order further said.

"However, it has been observed that the guidelines issued by the commission about the identification of sensitive posts are not being followed in letter and spirit by many of the organisations and the exercise to review the existing lists of sensitive posts and to identify new areas/posts as sensitive, has not been undertaken for a long time," said the order seeking its strict compliance with immediate effect.

Reacting to the order, anti-corruption activist Ajay Dubey said all government departments must ensure strict adherence to the CVC guidelines in checking corruption. "There are instances of government departments not following the Central Vigilance Commission's guidelines on rotational transfer in toto," stated Dubey.

Dhamnagar bypoll: BJP moves ECI against Lohani

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: The opposition BJP came down heavily Wednesday on Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) SK Lohani even as the official claimed that action has been taken in the alleged 'cash-for-vote' allegation which emerged during campaigning for the Dhamnagar Assembly bypoll.

The Odisha unit of the BJP had earlier alleged that the ruling BJD was using SHGs members to distribute cash among the voters. A BJP delegation led by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met top ECI officials in New Delhi dur-



ing the day and lodged a formal complaint against the BJD. It accused the ruling party in Odisha of violating the model code of conduct in the run-up to the by-poll.

"We have come to knock the doors of the ECI after failing to get justice from Odisha's CEO. Though our party had drawn the attention of the CEO several times,

no action was taken. Therefore, we have come to ECI," Pradhan said in a statement. He alleged that the CEO was indirectly encouraging officials to distribute money on behalf of the ruling BJD.

"Officials of the Bhadrak district administration are hand-in-glove with the ruling party. They are helping the BJD in breaching the MCC," Pradhan informed.

Lohani however, denied the allegations. "We have identified the accused person in the video found in cash distribution case. After identification, we have lodged an FIR within 24 hours," Lohani said. So far two cases have been lodged for MCC violation, he added.

Continued on P4

Man kills bro, his wife

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hemgir, Oct 26: A man hacked his younger brother and sister-in-law to death over a property related dispute at Kiripasira village under this police limits in Sundargarh district, Wednesday afternoon.

The victims were identified as Alekh Majhi, 32, and wife Kuntala Majhi, 29, who were residing in the same village. On being informed, personnel from the Hemgir police station rushed to the spot. They seized the bodies and sent those for post-mortem. The twin murders

have sparked tension in the village. Police also arrested the accused Trinath Nayak.

Police said that Alekh and his wife Kuntala were not on good terms with Trinath over a longstanding property dispute. The incident occurred when Trinath again picked up a fight with the couple on the issue.

An enraged Trinath brought an axe from his house and attacked Kuntala. When Alekh tried to save his wife, Trinath mercilessly hacked him too. Both Alekh and Kuntala suffered grievous injuries and died on the spot.

Orissa HC seeks STA's reply on HSRP facilities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 26: The Orissa High Court directed Wednesday the State Transport Authority (STA) to file an affidavit by October 31 on the status of infrastructure in Odisha for hassle-free installation of high security registration plate (HSRP) in vehicles.

A division bench of HC comprising Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice Murahari Sri Raman gave the directive while hearing a PIL which challenged the STA's order on HSRP.

As the deadline to attach HSRP on vehicles, whose registration number ends with 1, 2, 3 and 4, was about to end September 30, there was a sudden rise in online bookings.

As a result, both dealers as well as vehicles owners faced trouble. In order to address the issue, the STA announced September 26 that those carrying receipts of online booking will not be penalised even though the HSRP has not been attached to the vehicle.

Challenging the STA's move, a PIL was filed at the Orissa HC. The petitioners alleged that the Odisha government had fixed the HSRP deadline without putting in place the requisite infrastructure for vehicle owners to apply sans any hassle. The PIL said non-availability of online booking slots, especially in rural Odisha, inconvenienced the vehicle owners a great deal.

Cancer threat found in Unilever shampoos

BENZENE TRACES DETECTED IN DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF DRY SHAMPOOS INCLUDING DOVE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 26: The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has made people aware of the daily products they use – the pros and cons of the items that have become an integral part of our daily lives. It has also created awareness among the manufacturers; they have realised that consumers cannot be duped easily.

Not only has the consumer grown in the understanding the nature of products, researchers are also exposing flaws among daily-use materials, their benefits and deficiencies. Sometimes even the manufacturers, in their bid to satisfy the needs of the customers

are carrying out extensive research work on their own products to better those. Many companies do recall their products, if they are found with deficiencies.

The latest to join the bandwagon is the world famous multi-national Unilever. As per a report published in various media, the company has ordered for a recall after it came to light that renowned brands of aerosol dry shampoo, including Dove were contaminated with benzene. However Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has said that consumers will not be affected in India as none of the products identified are sold in the country.

Incidentally benzene is a chemical which can cause cancer if it



comes in contact with the skin on a regular basis or even if it enters the body. Now we all know that while shampooing, few drops do slip into the intestine as we reflexively

words are printed in very visible and large fonts while 'For Damaged Hair' is not so visible. Consumers go for the product as what attracts them is the visible propaganda.

As per a report published recently in the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) website regarding the recall of Unilever shampoos, those that have been called back are the Rockaholic and Bed Head dry shampoo brands including Nexxus, Saave, Tresemmé and Tigi. Keeping in mind Unilever's popularity one can be sure that many of these products had already made their way into consumers' homes before their recall. So what happens then to those consumers?

TO BE CONTINUED

leisure

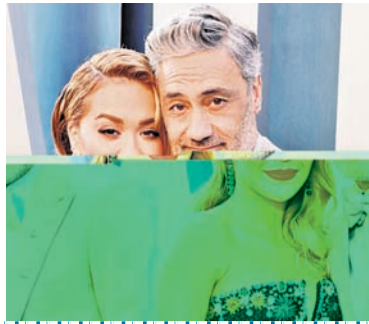


RIHANNA MAKES COME BACK WITH BLACK PANTHER SOUNDTRACK

Rihanna is making her comeback this Friday! The singer's six-year music draught is coming to an end with the release of a new track as part of the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* soundtrack.

RITA ORA, TAIKA WAITITI SET TO CO-HOST MTV EMAs

The organisers of the upcoming MTV Europe Music Awards have locked the hosts for the ceremony. British singer-songwriter Rita Ora and *Thor: Love and Thunder* director Taika Waititi are set to host the event, reports *Female First UK*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Romance will be topmost on your mind. At home, prosperity will bring peace, and vice versa. You need to go easy on expenditure and ask yourself if you really need all that stuff. That way, you may even save yourself from investing in some crooked schemes, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
A day to talk things out, perhaps some intimate issue that has been on your mind for a while, predicts Ganesh. Pending work may also see completion. You will have an urge to visit holy places or undertake a spiritual journey. Take decisions wisely to avoid unwarranted results, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will make diligent efforts to keep your loved ones happy and content and will expect the same from them today. However the more expectations you fulfill, the more they will rise. You need to give some time to yourself as well, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will be an eternal optimist today. Ganesh says that your accomplishments will motivate others to emulate you. You will spend the evening with family members and enjoy it, too, your value for family values and plans will go up to-day. You will follow a definite pattern in achieving them.

LEO
You may meet people whom you haven't met in a long time, or will attempt to. New relations and acquaintances may also be formed. You will try to keep yourself busy in one task after the other. You will be able to finish all your work as per deadline, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your mission of finding an engrossing relationship has been fulfilled. At work, you may try to outdo other people with both your actions and words. Ganesh suggests you may go ahead and charm people with your repository of enchanting anecdotes and win their goodwill.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will see your hard work come to fruition today. This is a good and profitable day for all those of you who are associated with the business field. For those of you who are working professionals this will be a day when your senior officials will praise you for taking up tough tasks and completing them satisfactorily.

SCORPIO
You wake up to a new ray of hope, flaunting your sunny side up, predicts Ganesh. You leave no stone unturned to fulfil your desires. With boundless optimism, you are all set to win the world. Push your limits to know your strengths.

SAGITTARIUS
Your role in bringing crucial and influential deals will be pivotal, says Ganesh. However, the end results may not turn up as per your expectations. But a pleasant evening with your beloved is likely to cheer you up and lighten your mood.

CAPRICORN
There is a creative side to your personality which will come to the fore now. With your unusual wit and intelligence you will guide others on their paths. Many will come to you for guidance and you will be able to spread a harmonious environment around. You don't look down upon people because of their problems which will earn you great respect in the society.

AQUARIUS
It may seem that all of your plans are going haywire. It is not too late; you can still have things under control. All you need to do is focus on your work rather than helping everyone around. Because, you end up having no time for your goals, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
Everyone knows your nature, but today you will feel uncomfortable by someone's progress. Ganesh knows this is unusual but you need to think about this. Anger never gives results so it is better to focus on your good qualities and hard work to achieve your goals.

Rakul Preet wants to grow to be limitless

Mumbai: From *Runway 34* to *Thank God*, Rakul Preet Singh featured in five different movies in 2022 and the actor says she has already started thinking about her future projects.

"There are so many roles that you can play. It is one profession where you can't set a benchmark for yourself, the limit is endless. I want to grow to be limitless. I am hungry for work, I am a workaholic," Rakul told.

Her choices as an actor have always been influenced by her

gut feeling, she added. "I want to do a film like *Runway 34*, a *Chattriwali* and a *Thank God*. Our profession is beautiful. We can do different kinds of films. I can be versatile. I want to keep getting those opportunities."

Her latest release *Thank God* reunites the actor with Sidharth Malhotra and Ajay Devgn for the third time. While she previously worked with Malhotra in *Aiyaary* (2018) and *Marjaavaan* (2019), she co-starred with Devgn in *De De Pyaar De* and *Runway 34*.

Rakul said the film, directed by Indra Kumar, is about introspection. "I am a spiritual person and I believe in karma a lot. I try to be a good person. After working on this film, I will be more conscious about it," she added. AGENCIES



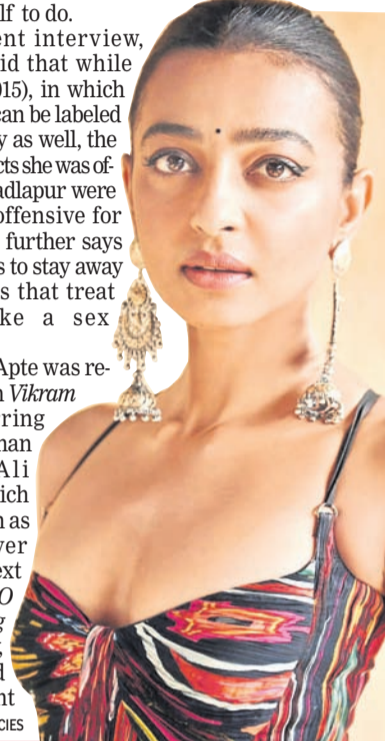
Radhika: Sex comedies are offensive to women

Mumbai: One of the most talented actors of the current lot, Radhika Apte has always opted to choose author backed, meaty roles. The *Andhadhun* actor who is extremely popular on OTT, recently said that she has been offered all genres of films, but has consciously stayed away from sex comedies as she finds them hugely derogatory to women.

Radhika says that post a stripping scene in Varun Dhawan starrer *Badlapur*, she has been receiving a lot of offers for sex comedies and while she makes it clear that she has nothing against the genre, it is something that she can never bring herself to do.

In a recent interview, Radhika said that while *Hunrrrr* (2015), in which she starred can be labeled a sex comedy as well, the kind of projects she was offered post *Badlapur* were extremely offensive for women. She further says that she tries to stay away from scripts that treat women like a sex object.

Radhika Apte was recently seen in *Vikram Vedha*, starring Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan, in which she was seen as Saif's lawyer wife. She next has *Monica, O My Darling* in her kitty, to be released on OTT giant Netflix. AGENCIES



When Big B crossed a ditch to see his crush

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan recounted an interesting anecdote from his school life on the sets of popular game show *Kaun Banega Crorepati 14*.

In conversation with contestant Sahil Shinde, a 3rd year Electrical Engineering student from Amravati, Maharashtra, Big B told him about his crush during school days.

Big B recalls that when he was staying in a hostel in his school, he used to travel to a

nearby area because the girl he liked was in the sister school located there.

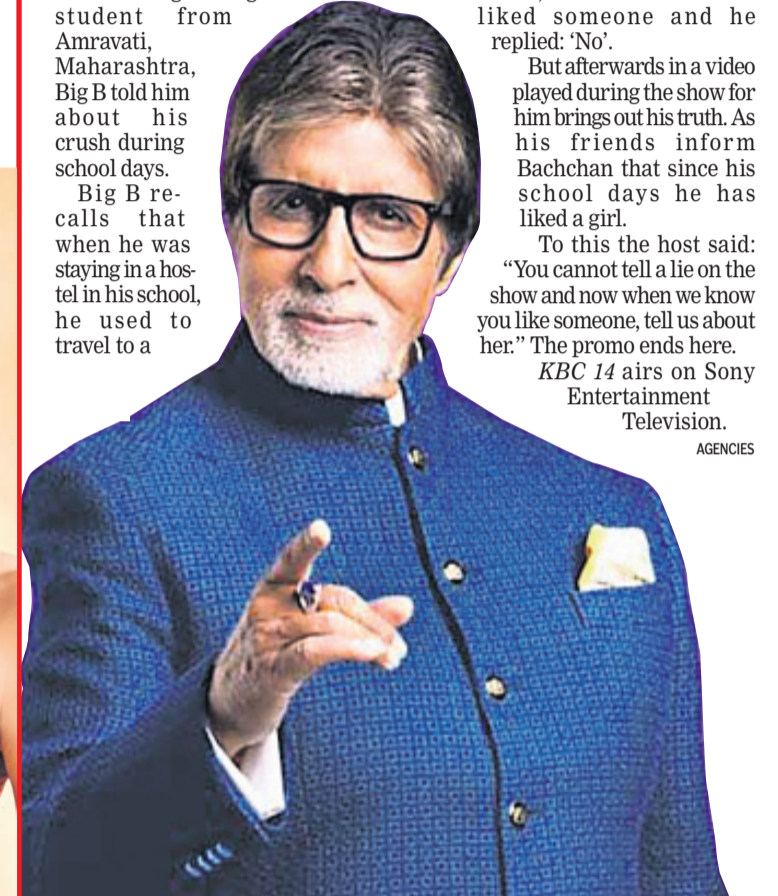
"Our sister school was located at a nearby area and I used to cross a ditch to reach the girl's school to look for the girl I liked during those days," said Big B.

Later, he asked Sahil if he liked someone and he replied: 'No'.

But afterwards in a video played during the show for him brings out his truth. As his friends inform Bachchan that since his school days he has liked a girl.

To this the host said: "You cannot tell a lie on the show and now when we know you like someone, tell us about her." The promo ends here.

KBC 14 airs on Sony Entertainment Television. AGENCIES

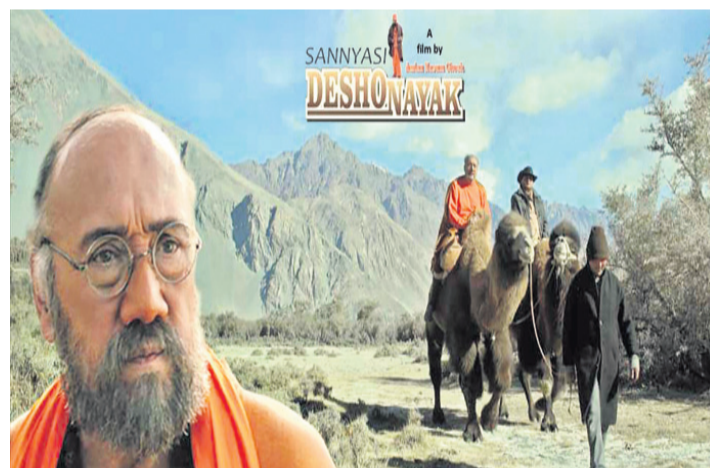


Movie on Netaji's last years lands in trouble

Kolkata: Ahead of the release of a film based on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's mysterious last years and what he may have done after the 1945 air crash, the iconic Freedom fighter's family has said that they are pondering over a PIL in order to prevent the misuse of his name for any financial gain.

Amlan Kusum Ghosh's film *Sannyasi Deshonayak* which releases October 28 is based on a hypothesis that Netaji might have survived the plane crash in August 1945 and later came back to India to become a monk.

Now, Chandra Kumar Bose, a grand nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra



A poster of the movie *Sannyasi Deshonayak*

Bose, has taken a dig at the Central Board of Film Certification's deci-

sion to give clearance to movies based on these allegedly 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 crash. Netaji has been shown 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 clinching evidence," Bose explained.

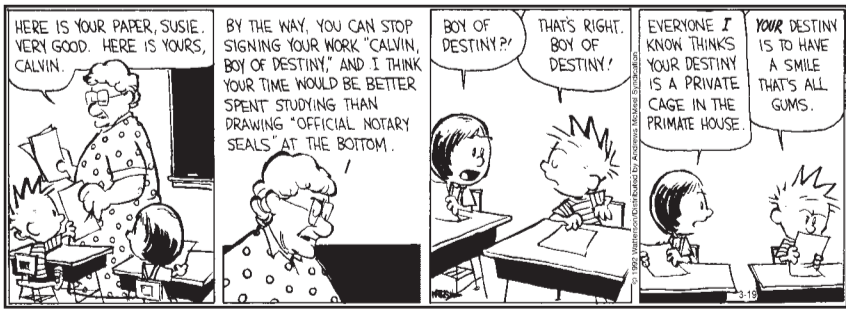
"Netaji is a legend and his image is being tarnished by such books and films, Bose claimed. We are planning to file a PIL in this regard and are consulting lawyers. We are considering filing it in Calcutta High Court or the Supreme Court as it is a national issue," he said. AGENCIES

FUN post

PEANUTS



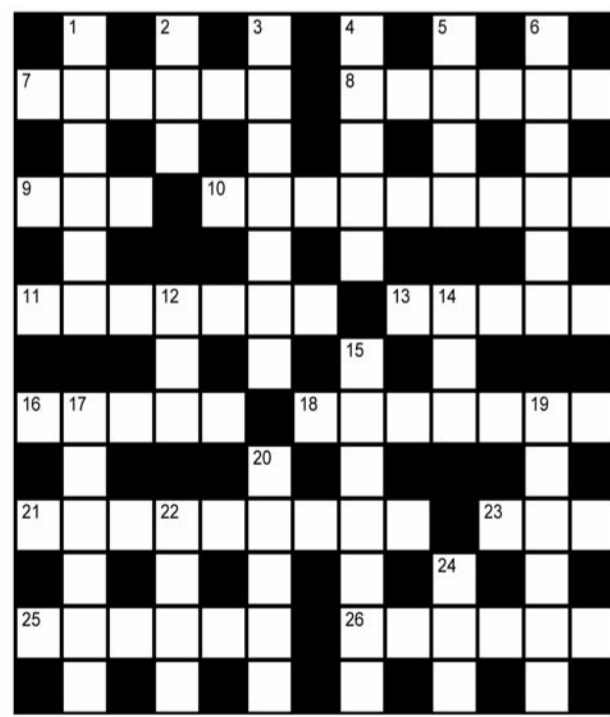
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



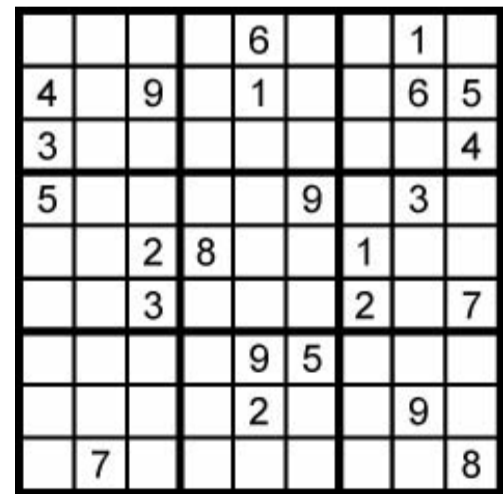
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Enjoy fully
 - 8 Amazon emulator
 - 9 Outward flow
 - 10 Creamy French cheese
 - 11 Siren of the seas
 - 13 Vanity
 - 16 Scimitar
 - 18 Soapbox
 - 21 Celebrities are found in it
 - 23 Volcanic fallout
 - 25 Male goose
 - 26 Bureau part
- Down**
- 1 Gad about
 - 2 Plague
 - 3 Produce type
 - 4 Bout of indulgence
 - 5 Lackluster
 - 6 Impassioned
 - 12 Deface
 - 14 Groove
 - 15 Leather
 - 17 Materialise
 - 19 Heavy overcoat
 - 20 Personal journal
 - 22 Lunar effect
 - 24 Winery sight

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



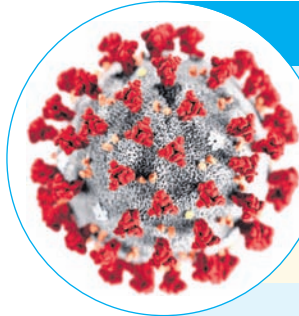
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



TRIBAL FEST KICKS OFF

Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena (L), BMC Mayor Sulochana Das and CMC Mayor Subhash Singh inaugurate Tribal Festival at Idco Exhibition Ground in Capital City, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,39,63,487	61,29,83,449	65,86,481
India	4,46,45,768	4,40,95,180	5,28,981
Odisha	13,35,959	13,26,410	9,203

CM launches portal for facilitating farm credit



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: SAFAL would help spur the agriculture and allied sectors in Odisha, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while launching the India's first credit facilitation portal here, Wednesday.

Joining the launching event organised at Lok Seva Bhawan here on virtual platform, Naveen said SAFAL (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans) is a one-stop solution for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to avail formal sector credit from public and private sector banks, regional rural banks, state cooperative banks and small finance banks.

With this facility, the Chief Minister said, farmers and agri-entrepreneurs will have access to more than 300 term loan products being offered by over 40 partner banks. SAFAL has been integrated with Krushak Odisha. Besides, it has access to 70 plus model project reports.

Farmers and agri-entrepreneurs will have access to more than 300 term loan products being offered by over 40 partner banks

SAFAL has been integrated with Krushak Odisha. Besides, it has access to 70 plus model project reports. The portal will also reduce information asymmetry by sending real-time notifications to the loan applicants at every stage of their application

"It'll ease the loan application process, benefiting both the farmers and banks significantly. The portal will also reduce information asymmetry by sending real-time notifications to the loan applicants at every stage of their application," said the CM.

Naveen further said that SAFAL will also provide the government with data on demand and disbursement of formal credit across the state. It will help design schemes accordingly.

He hoped, "SAFAL would be a facilitator of credit to spur the agri-

culture and allied sectors in our state and strengthen the financial backbone of our farmers in the long run."

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari appreciated the Chief Minister's vision for empowerment of farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain outlined the steps taken by his department for the economic development and welfare of farmers.

Earlier, Naveen had said, "Farmers are the backbone of our economy, and agriculture is the largest employer in the state in addition to being the key to socio-economic development of our people."

Odisha government, therefore, lays special emphasis on the development of farming sector through various interventions supported by a comprehensive and inclusive state agricultural policy with the government taking strides in increasing the income of farmers, he added.



BALIYATRA PREP: Stalls being set up on Mahanadi riverbed for Baliyatra in Cuttack, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Mayor for model slum in each ward

Bhubaneswar: Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das, while presiding over a meeting on housing and slum development here Wednesday, suggested for preparing at least one model slum in each ward to showcase the development milestone in the City. The slums identified would be indicator wise significant. Das said that 54 slums with 11,433 households are tagged for housing projects. To fulfill basic objective of holistic development, adequate shelter is to be given to each eligible stakeholder.

Archana produced in court over Parija case

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Archana Nag, the prime accused in the high profile blackmailing case in Odisha, was produced at the sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) court here Wednesday in connection with a case filed by film producer Akshay Parija.

Parija had claimed in his FIR at Nayapalli police station that Archana had shot intimate pictures with a woman after serving him intoxicating drinks at a hotel in the City and demanded Rs 3 crore from him.

She even threatened to kill him by cutting him to pieces if he did not comply, he claimed.

The 26-year-old woman from Kalahandi district was arrested October 6 and sent to jail on the charge of blackmailing rich and influential persons along with running a sex racket.

She was taken into custody on the basis of a complaint at Khandagiri police station by a woman, whom she had allegedly used in the sex racket. The same woman was purportedly involved in the case in which the film producer filed his complaint.

When approached by the media while being taken to the court premises on Wednesday, Archana told reporters, "Don't spread false information without any evidence."

Archana also said, "I will speak

at the appropriate time."

She is accused of extorting lakhs of rupees from politicians, businessmen and influential persons by blackmailing them with videos of intimate moments between them and her.

The opposition BJP has alleged that she has links with about 25 politicians including MLAs of different parties and at least four ministers.

Earlier in the day, she was brought to the court from Jharpada special jail here amid tight security.

She is in jail as the court has rejected her bail plea in the case filed at Khandagiri police station. She had appeared before the court through video-conferencing due to security reasons.

The police has found that Archana, who hails from a lower middle class family, and her husband Jagabandhu Chand, from a BPL background, acquired properties worth Rs 30 crore within a span of only four years.

The couple's properties include a palatial building in Bhubaneswar, luxurious cars, costly gadgets, foreign breed dogs and a horse.

Archana's counsel Debasish Mohapatra said that his client will move the higher court if the SDJM denies her bail in the complaint filed by the film producer. The court has reserved its judgment on her bail application.

Sarala Puraskar given away



Writer Gourahari Das receiving Sarala Puraskar, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Noted Odia writer and Kendra Sahitya Akademi awardee Gourahari Das was honoured with the prestigious Sarala Puraskar instituted by IMPACT, the charitable wing of Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys (Imfa) Ltd here, Wednesday.

Das bagged the prestigious 43rd Sarala Puraskar-2022 for his short story collection 'Bagha 'O' Anyanya Galpa'. He received a cash prize of Rs 1.5 Lakh along with a citation.

On the occasion, London-based eminent painter and writer Prafulla Mohanti and Odissi music Guru Ghanashyam Panda were honoured with 'Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman' for their valuable contributions to the fields of art and music. Both received a cash award of Rs 1.5 Lakh each and citations.

The awards were presented by Udayan Vajpeyi, eminent Hindi poet, who was the chief guest on the occasion. Vajpeyi said, "Literature connects us with reality and it awakens the conscience of readers." Trustee Paramita Panda was also present on the occasion.

Awareness key to face climate change: Das

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: There is an urgency to spread awareness about the causes and prevention of global warming and climate change so that people will be empowered to face the natural disasters more effectively, said former Director General of Forests at the Centre Siddhanta Das while attending the 41st Foundation Day and award ceremony of Orissa Environmental Society (OES) as the chief guest, Wednesday.

He delivered the 11th 'Prasanna Kumar Dash Memorial Lecture', named after the former Assembly speaker and OES founder president.

He highlighted various aspects of the forest and water resources conservation through two videos produced by him.

Citing the Prime Minister's announcement at the Paris Climate Conference, he emphasised on se-

41ST FOUNDATION DAY OF OES



questing over 2 billion tonne carbon by 2030 through conserving forests and soils, and undertaking massive plantation activities.

"It is highly desirable to express our commitment for the protec-

tion and conservation of natural forests and wetlands," he said.

On this occasion, the former principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF-Wildlife) and chief wildlife warden Bijay Ketan Patnaik

was conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his outstanding contribution in the field of forests, wildlife and environmental protection.

Arun Kumar Sahu, eminent educationist and science writer received 'Dr BC Panda Award for Environment & Science Communication'. Likewise, B Sitaram Patro, Binod Chandra Padhi, Nimai Charan Mishra, Harishchandra Behera and Biranchi Mishra were felicitated as senior life members of OES.

OES secretary Jayakrushna Panigrahi revealed how, despite many obstacles in its journey, the organisation has been spreading the message of environmental protection and awareness through expert opinions on various important issues. "There is an urgent need for a significant change in our mindset, lifestyle and activities," he added.

Heatwaves will affect almost every child on earth by 2050: Unicef report

YOUNG CHILDREN FACE GREATER RISKS THAN ADULTS WHEN FACED WITH EXTREME HEAT EVENTS AS THE FORMER ARE LESS ABLE TO REGULATE THEIR BODY TEMPERATURE, SAYS THE UNICEF REPORT



and more frequent heatwaves over the next 30 years, threatening their health and wellbeing. How devastating these changes will be depends on the actions we take now.

"At a minimum, governments must urgently limit global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius and double adaptation funding by 2025. This is the only way to save children's lives and futures and the future of the planet," she added.

The data published in the agency's report underscores that young children face greater risks than adults when faced with extreme heat events.

This is because they are less able to regulate their body temperature as compared to adults. The more heatwaves children are exposed to, the greater the chance of health problems including chronic respiratory conditions, asthma, and cardiovascular diseases.

"The world urgently needs to invest in building their resilience - and in adapting all the systems children rely on to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing climate," Unicef maintained.

Children should be protected from the escalating impacts of heatwaves, Unicef said, in a call for "urgent and dramatic emissions mitigation measures to contain global heating - and protect lives".

Responding to the report, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "The last seven years have been the hottest on record... The climate crisis is a child rights crisis."

Hot weather has become a health risk for many nations, but new data shows that almost every child on earth will be affected by heatwaves by 2050, the Unicef warned in a new report.

In the report released Tuesday, the UN agency said that already around 559 million children are exposed to high heatwave frequency and around 624 million children are exposed to one of three other high heat measures - high heatwave duration, high heatwave severity or extreme high temperatures.

2.4 degrees of warming in 2050," it said. According to Unicef, children in northern regions will face the most dramatic increases in high heatwave severity while by 2050, nearly half of all children in Africa and Asia will face sustained exposure to extreme high temperatures.

"The mercury is rising and so are the impacts on children," Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell said in the report, adding that year's wildfires and heatwaves that have swept through India, Europe, and North America were "yet another sobering example of the impact of climate change on children".

"Already, 1 in 3 children live in countries that face extreme high temperatures and almost 1 in 4 children are exposed to high heatwave frequency, and it is only going to get worse. More children will be impacted by longer, hotter

STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB), Plot No.: 778, First Floor, Maharshi College Road, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Ph.No.: 0674-2549663, 2549612, Fax No.: 0674-2549713, E-mail ID: sbi.05174@sbi.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO BANK UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, has taken over Possession of the following property/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that e-Auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on 28.11.2022 and on the terms & conditions specified hereunder.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 28.11.2022 from 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Property Details & Name of the owner of the property	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which property/ies are being Sold / Demand Notice Date	Reserve Price EMD BID Increment Amount
1.	Borrower : M/s. MATS Minerals & Logistics Pvt. Ltd., At: Plot No.: 1, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Campus of Puran Alloy & Steel Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar - 751010/ Guarantors: 1) Smt. Ava Mishra, 2) Shri Tusar Mishra, Both are At: Plot No.: 13, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007/ Corporate Guarantors: 1) M/s. Ajanta Goods & Service (P) Ltd., At: Plot No.: 13, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751007, 2) M/s. Puran Alloy & Steel Pvt. Ltd., At: Plot No.: 1, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar - 751010	All that part and parcel of property consisting of Open Land in Khata No.: 772/524, Plot No.: 3723/5085/5359, having Total Area: Ac.0.040 Dec., situated at Mouza: Nimpur, PO./PS.: Tangi, Tahasil: Tangi Choudwar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, in the name of Shri Tusar Kanta Mishra	₹11,66,86,791.41 including interest upto 22.03.2014 with Further interest & incidental expenses, costs, charges etc./ 22.03.2014	₹18,70,000/- ₹1,87,000/- ₹50,000/-
2.	Borrower : Shaik Asifullah, S/o.: Nayamatullah, At: Alisha Bazar, PO.: Chandini Chowk, Cuttack, PIN - 753002, Odisha	All that part and parcel of the property Dist.: Khurda, PS.: Bhubaneswar, Hal P.S.: Airfield, PS. No.: 30, Tahasil: Jatni, under Jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar, Jatni, Mouza: Panchagaon, Khata No.: 469/409, Sthitiban, Plot No.: 390, Area: Ac.0.555 Dec., Full Plot and Khata No.: 469/408, Sthitiban, Plot No.: 392, Area: Ac.0.115 Dec., Full Plot Total One Mouza, Two Khatas, Two Plots and Total Area: Ac.0.670 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Rent: Rs.20.00 Paisa, in the name of Shaik Asifullah The area transferred in favour of the purchaser being the undivided impartible interest Measuring Area: Ac.0.012.95 Dec., i.e. 564 Sq.ft. out of Ac.0.670 Dec. with the Building thereon measuring carpet Area of 1214 Sq.ft./1384 sq.ft., built up area/1750 Sq.ft., Super built up area assigned as Flat No.: 402, in 4th Floor, Block - A, Type: 3 BR, of the apartment named and styled as "Baishnovevi Enclave". Bounded by North: 30 feet Road, South: Revenue Plot No.: 384, 385 and 389, East: Revenue Plot No.: 391 and Road, West: Plot No.: 379 and 384	₹46,73,978/- including interest upto 21.04.2022 with Further interest & incidental expenses, costs, charges etc./ 25.04.2022	₹43,43,000/- ₹4,34,300/- ₹50,000/-

Date & Time of inspection of the property : 21.11.2022, Between 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER(S)/GUARANTOR(S) FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

For further details any query please contact: For Sl. No. 1 & 2 : Sri Suresh Chandra Panda (Authorised Officer), Mob.: 9810562803
City Case Officer: For Sl. No. 1: Sri J.K. Sahoo, Mob.: 7993623381 & for Sl. No.: 2: Sri Keshab Chandra Mallick, Mob.: 7978033050

For detailed Terms & Conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the State Bank of India, Secured Creditor Website: www.sbi.co.in, https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/auCTION-notices/sarfaesi-and-others, https://ibapi.in

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 26.10.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India**

CM to inaugurate three day Odisha Travel Bazaar Oct 28



PREP FOR TRAVEL BAZAAR: Minister of Tourism Ashwini Patra briefing the press regarding Travel Bazaar in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Sitting on his left are JK Mohanty, Chairman & Managing director, Swosti Group of Hotels, Resorts & Travels; Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav, Director, Department of Tourism; Surendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism and Ansuman Rath

We are going to organize a 3-day Odisha Travel Bazaar, where we will showcase the tourism potential of the state to domestic and foreign tour operators

ASHWINI KUMAR PATRA | MINISTER OF ODIA LANGUAGE, LITERATURE & CULTURE, EXCISE AND TOURISM

domestic as well as international market.

The event will focus on B2B meeting between Tourism Fraternity of Odisha (Sellers) with Domestic Tour Operators (DTOs) and Foreign Tour Operators (FTOs) followed by various FAM tours to the destinations like Konark, Puri, Chilika, Dhauli, Bhitarkanika and Lalitgiri.

B2B meeting with investors and airlines are also planned. Sellers will get chance to exhibit their product over the 3-day exhibition.

About 25 Foreign Tour Operators from countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Tanzania, Thailand and Vietnam confirmed their participation. Similarly, 83 buyers from cities like Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chandrapur, Chennai, Dehradun, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Mangalgi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nasik, New Delhi and NCR, Panjim, Pune, Raipur, Rohtak, Siliguri, Surendra Nagar, Trivendrum, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam will also participate in the event.

full potential to attract tourists from across the globe.

We are going to organize a 3-day Odisha Travel Bazaar, where we will showcase the tourism potential of the state to domestic and foreign tour operators, he said.

Surendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism emphasized on importance of infrastructure development for promotion of tourism. He said that the main objective of organizing Odisha Travel Bazaar is to provide a platform to local seller and tour operators.

Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav, Director, Department of Tourism said that we are organizing fourth edition of Odisha Travel Bazaar after a two year Covid hiatus. This is the flagship initiative of Odisha tourism and the objective of this event is to aggressively promote the tourist destinations of the state to



CREATING CHAOS: Congress corporators creating noisy scenes at CMC council meeting in Cuttack, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Abide by 5-T mantra in letter and spirit, engineers urged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Taking forward the agenda of transforming urban Odisha and creating climate resilient urban assets, the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department organized a one-day orientation programme of the engineers of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) here at Convention Centre of Xavier Institute of Management Wednesday.

Inaugurating the programme, G Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, H&UD Department emphasized on the need of further expedition of various urban infra projects like JAGA Mission, MUKTA, Water Supply and Sanitation which are under implementation in the urban areas of Odisha. He further stated that the diverse accomplishments made by team urban under the 5T



Governance of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik have attracted the attention of all across the globe.

Mathi further said that various eminent personalities and officials inside and outside the countries are frequently visiting Odisha to have an exposure on the low cost, eco-friendly and inclusive projects being implemented across urban areas, keeping people at the forefront.

Sangramjit Nayak, Director Municipal Administration (DMA)

advised the engineers to be vigilant on key issues and concerns as the community partners. He attached importance to work in a transparent manner and gave a clarion call to abide by the 5-T mantra of the government in letter and spirit. State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) director, Sarada Prasad Panda, apprised the key aspects under the Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA) and conveyed various timelines for completion of projects.

Drones to monitor illegal prawn ponds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 26: The Orissa High Court Wednesday accepted a proposal submitted by Amicus Curiae Mohit Agarwal for the deployment of drones to monitor illegal prawn culture ponds or gherries encroaching wetlands in at least four coastal districts of the state.

"A division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar has accepted my proposal and has directed the state government to provide necessary infrastructure and funds to deploy drones for monitoring the illegal gherries, which are coming up even within 24 hours of their demolition by the authorities," Agarwal said.

The districts in which the drones will be deployed are Balasore, Kendrapara, Puri and Ganjam and the state government has been asked to submit an affidavit in this regard by the next date of hearing December 5, Agarwal said. The Amicus Curiae had made the proposal for the deployment of drones.

Continued from P1 Dhamnagar bypoll...

"All remedial actions are being taken by the CEO office as quickly as possible to ensure free and fair elections," Lohani asserted.

Meanwhile Lohani informed that a total of 106 polling booths in Dhamnagar have been identified as sensitive booths. Adequate precautions including security arrangements are being done for peaceful polling in these booths, Lohani added while talking to reporters here. Webcasting will be done in 50 per cent of the booths while 26 micro-observers will be deployed in the sensitive booth, the CEO stated.

Four companies of central para military forces are being deployed in the district for the bypoll. There is plan for further deployment of 10 platoons of State Armed Police Force (SAPF). Also district police forces will be used for peaceful conduct of elections, Lohani stated.

The Election Commission of India has already appointed a general observer and an expenditure observer for the bypoll. To ensure free, fair and transparent election, all possible precautions are being taken, Lohani stated.

As per the latest electoral roll, there are 2,38,417 voters in the Dhamnagar Assembly constituency. Out of this, 1,23,038 are males, 1,15,346 are females while 33 voters are under the third gender, Lohani said. The requisite amount of EVMs and VVPAT machines have also been requisitioned, Lohani signed off.

Villagers encouraged to practise organic farming



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Krishi Vigyan Kendra - Khurda, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar organized an awareness programme on utilisation of organic waste and generation of wealth from the waste as a part of "Special Swachhata Campaign 2.0" at Danapada village, Balipatna Block of Khurda district Wednesday.

AK Dash, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK-Khurda highlighted the different methods of preparation of organic fertilizers and plant growth regulators utilizing waste from agriculture and fisheries. He also encouraged the village

people to practise organic farming for safe food production.

Surendra Singh, Subject Matter Specialist (SMS), Crop Production emphasized on clean cultivation in the crop field. Harapriya Nayak, SMS (Home Science) briefed about the preparation of vermicompost from household and farm waste.

PR Sahoo, SMS (Fishery Science) emphasized about the utilization of fishery waste to generate wealth. Besides, a cleanliness drive was organized at the community places of the village and various sanitization materials were also distributed to the farmers/farmwomen for future cleaning of the village surroundings.

Skill India to host 'Kaushal Mahotsav'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 26: Aligning to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call to focus on the skill development of youth, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), through its strategic implementation and knowledge partner the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), will be organizing a Kaushal Mahotsav November 6 in Dhenkanal bringing innumerable apprenticeship and job opportunities for the youth of Odisha.

Under the guidance of Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, this initiative is yet another step towards fulfilling the government's commitment to providing opportunities



of employment to the youth and empowering the #YuvaShakti with various avenues that can be explored through skill development under the Skill India Mission. There will be a series of events that will be periodically held in the state, bringing an array of opportunities to the local youth and communities of Odisha. The candidates can register themselves on <https://nsdcdigital.skdigital.org> and can apply /schedule for their interviews across opportunities listed on the portal from 50+ companies from 20+ sectors like F&B, Textile, Beauty and Wellness, Healthcare and IT, from within and outside Odisha. Companies like India Texpreneurs Federation, Urban Clap Technologies, Health vista India

Limited, Barbeque Nation, JBM Auto, RJ enterprises, Akal information systems, and Sodexo have posted jobs on the portal which candidates can apply for and get a chance to get interviewed on spot at the Kaushal Mahotsav.

The day-long event will also witness several Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and companies, exhibit their offerings through a Skill Exhibition creating awareness about skill development for the youth. Candidates will also get an opportunity to take a free psychometric test and participate in group counselling at the Kaushal Mahotsav. The event will also have well established industry experts, motivational speakers and career advisors, to assist candidates in making informed decisions while planning their career.

Increase in diabetes numbers hides a ray of hope

Reports of a diabetes tsunami are hiding a key part of the picture. There's a good reason the numbers are increasing.

The rate of diabetes is increasing globally. We're told it's a tsunami. An epidemic. But that's only half the story. The real picture has some rays of hope among the dark clouds.

Diabetes is a long-term condition where the body fails to regulate the amount of sugar in the blood. In type 1 diabetes, sometimes known as juvenile diabetes, an organ called the pancreas doesn't make the hormone, insulin, needed to process blood sugar. For the roughly 9 million people with type 1 diabetes, they need daily insulin injections to manage their disease.

Type 2 diabetes, in contrast, arises slowly over time; often people don't know they have it until they experience one of the many complications that result from the disease, such as a heart attack or

a foot ulcer. In type 2 diabetes, the body develops a degree of resistance to insulin and the pancreas doesn't make enough of it. Usually this comes about from an unhealthy diet and a lack of exercise.

Over 500 million people worldwide have type 2 diabetes, and treatment often involves medications to manage their blood sugar plus a recommendation for improved diet and exercise.

The prevalence of type 2 diabetes is increasing globally, up a staggering 49 percent since 1990. Roughly 5 in 100 people have it. It is statistics like these that cause headlines, alarm and calls for action.

Certainly, more people with diabetes is cause for alarm. Roughly 1.5 million people die from diabetes or its complications each year. But there is an important difference between prevalence and incidence.

Incidence is the rate at which



In more good news, the death rate among people with both kinds of diabetes is also declining. And it is the decrease in the death rate that gives rise to the increase in prevalence

new cases are developing. In a number of high-income countries, this number is stable, and in some cases, declining. In more good news, the death rate among people with both kinds of diabetes is also declining. And it is the decrease in the death rate that gives rise to the increase in prevalence.

Prevalence is the percentage of the population who have a condition.

For the roughly 9 million people with type 1 diabetes, they need daily insulin injections to manage their disease

Over 500 million people worldwide have type 2 diabetes, and treatment often involves medications to manage their blood sugar plus a recommendation for improved diet and exercise

If fewer people are dying, then the proportion of the total population living with diabetes goes up. This is contributing to the 'epidemic' of diabetes that we're seeing.

Over time, researchers expect the prevalence to continue rising as we see improved disease management and care contributing to a longer life-expectancy for diabetes patients.

New technologies are coming online to help seamlessly control blood sugar levels in type 1 diabetes. For a number of years, continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps have been available to people with diabetes. More recently, sophisticated systems have been developed that link the glucose monitor directly to the insulin pump, so that the delivery of insulin can be continually adjusted according to the glucose level.

New drugs are showing far better results than the previous classes of diabetes medications. GLP-1 receptor agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors not only manage blood sugar at least as well as previous drugs, but are more effective in protecting against some of the serious heart and kidney problems that often result from diabetes.

And finally strategies that improve the level of care for people with diabetes have been developed. Multi-disciplinary teams

with a range of different skills improve outcomes in diabetes. The scale of implementing this is enormous; it's a social, policy, and economic challenge to reach the growing number of people needing care, particularly in countries whose health systems are not up to the task. But as evidenced by the decline in global diabetes deaths, efforts appear to be paying off, at least in the higher-income countries.

But with data showing that people are living longer, and evidence for new treatments and models of care, the evidence points to healthcare moving in the right direction. The gains have been small, thus far, but with more time, research funding, and healthcare support, signs are that the "epidemic" of people with diabetes can be helped to live longer, more fulfilling lives. The challenge is in translating all this knowledge into action.

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9 yrs on, admin fails to find land for IRB



FILE PHOTO

Home department in Phulbani in 2013 and some new staffs were recruited.

A patch of 100-acre land is required for the permanent office of the IRB. Some years ago, the district administration had identified a patch of land for the IRB office in the district, but local people strongly opposed it. As a result, the administration had to abandon the project. In 2017, the temporary IRB office was shifted to Tanrada near Bhanjanagar.

Later officials of the district administration started hunting for land in the fringe areas under Sorada and Bhanjanagar blocks bordering Kandhamal, but it failed to yield any result.

Again, the administration has started hunting land in Kandhamal. The IRB has issued a letter to the Kandhamal administration to look for a land for the IRB office building.

In future, in case the IRB office is shifted from Tanrada to elsewhere, there is a proposal from the government to run the ODRAF office there. Notably, the state government had sanctioned ₹3.50 crore in 2019-20 for the ODRAF building. It was learnt that this project too has been hanging fire due to delay in locating a suitable patch of land for the IRB office.

Bhanjanagar, Oct 26: The administration has failed to find a suitable place in Kandhamal district to set up a building for the 8th office of the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB), even though nine years have passed.

Besides, a suitable place for the building of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) unit at Bhanjanagar in Ganjam is yet to be located. ₹3.5 crore provided for the project three years ago is lying unutilised, a report said.

According to the report, DIG Awinash Kumar recently visited Bhanjanagar and held talks with officials concerned about how the expeditious steps can be taken for setting up the ODRAF building.

It was in 2012 the state government decided to set up the 8th office of the IRB in Kandhamal district. The IRB office started functioning from a building of the



MOCK DRILL: Fire personnel demonstrated fire fighting skills on the premises of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Dabugaon in Nabarangpur district, Wednesday

DHAMNAGAR BYPOLL

BJD tears off BJP's cash-for-votes plaint

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 26: With the bypoll to the Dhamnagar Assembly constituency drawing closer, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have traded charges against each other, saying voters are being influenced with offer of money. The BJD Wednesday squarely dismissed the allegation of the BJP that the ruling party has engaged SHG women of Mission Shakti who are trying to buy votes by offering people money.

Notably, a couple of days ago, a video showing a woman with covered face distributing money to people went viral.

The BJP took up the issue with the State Election Commission, accusing the ruling party of violating the model code of conduct.

On the other hand, the BJD members also accused the BJP workers of influencing voters with financial inducement in Dhamnagar during the electioneering.



Addressing a presser in a hotel here, Rajya Sabha MP Manas Mangaraj, party's observer for Bhadrak Pranab Balabantray, spokespersons Goutambuddha Das and Amit Mallick said that the BJP has been trying to defame the women of Mission Shakti by accusing them of influencing voters with money. "It is a baseless allegation against the women who will give a befitting reply to the BJP in the Dhamnagar bypoll. The outcome of the bypoll will be a repeat of the Bijepur bypoll," they said.

They pointed out that the BJD government has carried out a lot of developmental works in Dhamnagar on the basis of which people of this Assembly segment will elect Abanti Das by a huge margin of votes.

They also asserted that the BJP's false propaganda will not work against the clean image of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

As for speculation of division of the BJD vote bank, they said that Rajendra Das will never be a factor to impact the voters.

6 saffron workers held for egg attack on Sahu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Oct 26: State Handloom and Textile minister Rita Sahu was attacked with eggs and shown black flags Wednesday by BJP workers when she was on her way to Paikamal in Bargarh district. Police have so far detained six BJP members while the others involved in the incident fled the spot. The minister was on her way to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of a few schools in Paikamal block under the school transformation programme when the attack was launched on her convoy.

As per reports, Sahu had gone as chief guest to lay the foundation stone of Jamuna Kandhuni High School and later at the Government High School near the tehsil office of Paikamal when she was shown black flags by the BJP workers at Tehsil Square who hurled eggs on her vehicle.

BJP leader-cum-former MLA Pradip Purohit said that the development is the reflection of deep rooted anger among the masses over neglect of the Padmapur subdivision. He said that the residents in the area continue to remain deprived of basic facilities when the state government is harping on wholesome development.



MILLETS FOR NUTRITION: Members of a self-help group sold snacks prepared from millets to Collector Kamal Lochan Mishra at a millets tiffin centre opened on the Umerkote-Kondagaon road in Nabarangpur district after its inauguration, Wednesday. This is the second such centre in the district established under Millets Mission and Mission Shakti programme of the state government

Poor livelihood scope spurs migration in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 26: Migration to other states for work has acquired serious proportions in Kendrapara district due to extreme climatic conditions hampering agriculture and lack of livelihood opportunities.

Moreover, with income from agriculture dipping due to vagaries of climate, lack of irrigation facilities and other reasons, people are increasingly resorting to migration to earn a livelihood.

The matter came to the fore after buses from Kerala and other states were seen camping in Aul, Pattamundai, Rajnagar, Rajkanika, Mahakalapara and other blocks to ferry the migrants back to their workplace in their respective states. The buses had arrived in these areas before the start of Diwali and were seen ferrying the migrants even before the festival could end. Scores of migrants who had come home to participate in the festivals were seen boarding buses to their workplaces. This is indicative of the acute unemployment problem plaguing Kendrapara which is predominantly an agricultural district.

Sudarshan Rout, a native of Satabhaya panchayat under Rajnagar block said that farmlands are now left uncultivated and fallow as people are withdrawing from agriculture due to lack of any support system.

The district neither has any mine nor industries to support them. Similarly, the district also lacks employment opportunities. Over 57,000 graduates and technically qualified youths have registered their names in the district employment office but they are yet to get any jobs. This has prompted the youths to migrate to other states and earn a livelihood for their families. These are not only the words of Sudarshan but that of many youths who were seen boarding the bus for Kerala.

Bharat Behera, also from Satabhaya, said that all the seven villages in the panchayat have been washed away into sea due to rapid erosion of the coast. Over 571 families of these villages were rehabilitated at Bagapatia. Every family in Satabhaya has lost their farmlands to the sea.

The food stocks provided by the government lasts only for a fortnight while the rest 15 days they have to earn to feed themselves



and their families. The price rise of essential commodities is also impacting them. Hence, they are migrating to other states to earn better to meet their expenses, he said.

Sarojkanta Swain of Gupti works in a plywood company at Perumbavoor in Ernakulam district of Kerala. He comes home before Ganesh Puja every year and goes back to his workplace after attending Lakshmi Puja and Kali puja festival. He said that vagaries of climate always plays truant for agriculture while there is lack of any government support to tide over the crisis. Moreover, lack of any industries is also

prompting the youths to migrate to Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Surat.

The company has sent buses as there are more workers from the district working in Kerala. He said that why would they travel for over 2,000 km to work if there was opportunity to work in the district.

Jagannath Das, a senior resident of Rajnagar area said over 60 buses have come here to ferry the migrants to Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Surat after puja. These migrants are working at various plywood, cotton mills and pisciculture units in these states. Most of the youths after appearing their Class-X examination are leaving for other states. Women and minor girls are also going outside the state. A private agency has estimated that over 51 per cent of the families living in Rajnagar, Mahakalapara, Aul, Pattamundai and Rajkanika blocks have migrated outside the state for work. Many times their share of harassment and torture in their workplace hogs the headlines. This problem can be resolved if small, medium industries could be established in the district and farmers can be taught to cultivate climate resistant crops, he added.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2022-T-146
NAME OF WORK: ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL LOOP LINES AT ARANG MAHANADI STATION IN TITLAGARH-LAKHOLI SECTION.
Approx. cost of work: ₹ 31,88,802.58.
EMD: ₹ 63,800/-
Completion Period of the Work: Within Six months from the date of issue of LOA.
Tender Opening Date and Time: At 1600 hrs. of 10.11.2022.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen (15) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ PR-633/N/22-23 Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2022-T-147
NAME OF WORK: ELECTRICAL WORKS FOR PROVISION OF CRANE SHED FOR MAINTENANCE OF 140T BD CRANE AT KANTABANJI.
Approx. cost of work: ₹ 13,89,533.20.
EMD: ₹ 27,800/-
Completion Period of the Work: Within Six months from the date of issue of LOA.
Tender Opening Date and Time: At 1630 hrs. of 18.11.2022.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen (15) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ PR-636/N/22-23 Sambalpur

Housing units for tribals botched up

LOCALS SMELL LARGE-SCALE IRREGULARITIES IN UTILISATION OF ₹3.25-CR DMF FUND



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sukinda, Oct 26: The State and Central governments are implementing a host of schemes for uplift of tribals, but utilisation of funds allocated for housing projects for Mankadia tribals in mineral-rich Sukinda area of Jajpur is allegedly mired in irregularities.

According to the report, the district administration planned to build 87 pucca houses for the tribals at Kusumunda under Sukinda block in 2019. Funds to the



tune of over ₹3.25 crore were allocated from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). The Rural Development department awarded the construction of the houses

to a contractor of Abdalpur area of Jajpur. Sources said, the work was started from February 22, 2019 and supposed to be completed by February 21, 2020.

However, most of these houses are still incomplete even two years after the deadline.

On the other hand, 95 Mankadia families have been living in shanties amid their perennial struggle with lack of livelihood and basic amenities. The housing dream is yet to be realised for the wretched people. Locals alleged that the building works have been botched up by the contractor to mint money. Some officials of the administration are allegedly involved in the irregularities.

Walls of many buildings have cracks while the CC roofs of these houses have not been laid. In some cases, some portions of the walls have caved in owing to the sub-standard work. The buildings were set up five kilometre away from their settlement. Contacted, Sukinda BDO Tapas Kumar Sethi said that he can only say about the issue after going through the related official files.

Bank of India
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorized Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following property for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Total Dues	Description of the Property	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction
1.	PARADEEP BRANCH, PH.:06722-223414 / Borrower: M/s. Asian Trading Corporation, Prop.: Mr. Jogendra Swain / Guarantor: Mrs. Sona Swain, W/o: Mr. Jogendra Swain, Both are at HIG-43, Housing Board Colony, Madhuban, Paradeep, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, PIN-754142 / Total Dues: ₹66,93,991.87 as on 31.01.2022 + interest, costs and expenses from 01.02.2022, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of property consisting of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 09, Plot No.: 03, Area: Ac.0.25Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Sandhakuda, SRO: Kujanga situate within the Registration District of Jagatsinghpur, in the name of Mr. Jogendra Swain , Bounded by North: Govt. Land, South: Road, East: A.K. Lenka, West: Jitendra Swain	₹ 81,02,000/- / ₹ 8,10,200/- / ₹ 50,000/-	16.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 11.30 A.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each

Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 15.11.2022 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day is before 15.11.2022 with prior appointment of the Authorized Officer

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) <https://www.ibapi.in> (2) <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> (3) www.bankofindia.co.in

Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 27.10.2022

Authorised Officer Bank of India



The fly that touches honey cannot use its wings; so too the soul that clings to spiritual sweetness ruins its freedom and hinders contemplation. **SRI AUROBINDO**



Summit of Future

Since early 2020, the number of people affected by hunger has risen by 150 million – a trend that has been exacerbated by the three Cs: conflict, climate change, and COVID-19. And when it comes to global threats, rising food insecurity is just the tip of the iceberg. As the recent failure of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference also showed, we urgently need new, innovative governance approaches and institutions if we are going to tackle our biggest challenges.

To improve the international community's tools for managing enormous, complex global problems, the United Nations is planning to hold a Summit of the Future in September 2024, which will be preceded by a ministerial meeting in September 2023. Among other things, this inter-governmental process will highlight the need for more capable responses to the rising risks of nuclear war, runaway climate change, resurgent poverty, and threats to human rights.

Though no significant global problems will be solved overnight, the Summit offers a rare opportunity to achieve some high-profile near-term wins, and to strengthen the conditions for even more ambitious global-governance improvements in years to come. The hope is that the Summit will deliver three new global policy frameworks: a Declaration on Future Generations, a Global Digital Compact, and a New Agenda for Peace.

In Rethinking Global Cooperation, a recent collaborative study from the Doha Forum and the Stimson Center, we offer several recommendations for realizing these instruments' full potential. First, with the aim of establishing future generations' well-being as a global public good, a Declaration on Future Generations should offer formal legal recognition of future generations' rights, by establishing an explicit "duty of care" for all member states. Countries that shirk that duty could then be held to account.

Such changes would represent a continuation of recent progress toward recognising the links between well-being, the environment, and rights. Earlier this year, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that access to a clean, healthy environment will now be considered a universal human right. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a large-scale mobilisation of investment that will largely benefit future generations, as well as determining what opportunities today's young people will have when they become adults.

Second, because rapid advances in technology pose new and growing risks to human rights – even as they create opportunities for development – we need a more holistic, networked, and multilateral approach to technological governance. A Global Digital Compact could meet that need, provided that it addresses the three dimensions of the technological lifecycle: innovation, infrastructure, and information.

In the first dimension, a new compact must ensure that technological development – from ideation and sourcing to creation and deployment – promotes public interests, safeguards environmental sustainability, and adheres to basic human-rights norms. With respect to infrastructure, it should foster universal access to essential technologies and connectivity; and, in keeping with the 2030 Agenda, such infrastructure should be environmentally sustainable and secure. And when it comes to information, a digital compact should establish mechanisms to prevent the development or ownership of technology from adversely affecting human rights, and to ensure that human-rights standards apply equally online.

Finally, a new peace agenda should recapture the spirit of the original 1992 Agenda for Peace. We need more dynamic approaches to sustaining peace and promoting justice and security. This could mean developing new foresight capabilities, enhancing the role of country-level UN Resident Coordinators, creating a new UN Peacebuilding Commission audit tool, and updating disarmament agreements to address new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

To achieve greater inclusiveness in international peacebuilding, we recommend that the Women, Peace, and Security (2000) and Youth, Peace, and Security (2015) agendas be complemented with targeted investments in education and strategies to build trust and partnerships in regions plagued by violence and exclusion.

With multiplying crises, the world desperately needs imaginative thinking, skillful diplomacy, coalition-building, and courageous leadership in support of these and related proposals. We must do everything within our power to ensure that the Summit of the Future is a success.

By rethinking global cooperation through novel and lasting partnerships, we can ensure that "the future we want" becomes a reality for today's young people and all those who come after them.

Lolwah Al-Khater is Executive Director of the Doha Forum. Brian Finlay is President and CEO of the Stimson Center. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much. **JIM ROHN**

It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently. **WARREN BUFFETT**

If we all worked on the assumption that what is accepted as true is really true, there would be little hope of advance. **ORVILLE WRIGHT**

WORDSWORTH

Cheapskate

It's never nice to be called a cheapskate, especially if it's true and you really are a miserly or stingy person. The second part has nothing whatever to do with any of the more common senses of skate. A writer in the San Francisco Chronicle in September 2007 was way wide of the mark when he wondered if a cheapskate was managing to avoid paying his share by adroitly sliding past the transaction, as though on skates or a skateboard. And there's nothing in the least fishy about the word. Well, up to a point. The origin, as often with slangy words, isn't easy to fathom. Skate began to appear in print in the US at the end of the nineteenth century, almost simultaneously meaning a worn-out horse, a mean or contemptible person, and a second-rate sportsman. Cheap was added early on to refer to a person's tight-fisted nature rather than any of his other perceived inadequacies. An early example appeared in the Newark Daily Advocate of Ohio in 1896 in a story about a streetcar motorman who was remonstrating with a driver of a coal wagon: "You're a gol dinged, insignificant, pusillanimous, ragged, cheap skate of a tenth assistant barnyard corporal." The best suggestion we have is that skate was originally a Scots contemptuous word, still known in a weakened sense in Australia and New Zealand, where it's usually written as skite. We retain it in blatherskite for a person who talks at great length without making much sense. It appeared first in a slightly different form in a Scots song, Maggie Lauder, written by Francis Semphill about 1643. This was a camp song among American soldiers during the War of Independence and remained popular in the decades that followed. We guess that this may have helped skate or skite to be preserved among emigrant Scots and others in the US during the nineteenth century.



PSM Rao

UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROTESTS AGAINST ANY UNSAVORY POLICY CHANGES BECOME VEHEMENT ONLY WHEN THE PEOPLE FEEL THEIR ACTUAL IMPACT, NOT WHEN THE CHANGES ARE MADE TO NIP THEM IN THE BUD



Lolwah Al-Khater & Brian Finlay

By rethinking global cooperation through novel and lasting partnerships, we can ensure that 'the future we want' becomes a reality

SPECTRUM SELF-HELP

Learn slow to solve fast



Shivaji Mohinta

IN CURRENT AGE OF TECHNOLOGY WITH LOW ATTENTION SPAN, SPEED WITH ACCURACY TAKES PRECEDENCE. FASTER IS OFTEN DEEMED SMARTER!

4+4=4=? The fastest correct answer (without a calculator) wins!

Chances are that you have answered 2. If so, your primal brain has decided it. If you said 5 then you had applied your logical or executive part of your brain. These two parts of the brain, according to Nobel Prize winner, Daniel Kahneman, System 1 (Fast Thinking) & System 2 (Slow Thinking) are responsible for our actions.

How both the systems work or when they can be put into best use? In the current age of technology with low attention span, speed with accuracy takes precedence. Faster is often deemed smarter!

A slightly deeper understanding of the functioning of the brain will help us in better problem solving. As per 2 Systems Theory, System 1 is quick, involuntary, intuitive, effortless and reactive. It is generally the default mode. On the other hand, System 2 is lazy, deliberate, conscious and logical.

System 1 is the primitive part of our brain and is same like any other primates. It helps us in Fight-Flight-Freeze (3F) reactions. It detects threats and protects us from impending danger. It helps us to avert crisis and react spontaneously to keep us safe. For instance, if I throw a plastic snake towards you, System 1 will detect a threat and signal your brain to make you run for safety. Then after some time your System 2 will find out that it is not a real snake.

System 2 is unique to humans. It is the thinking and learning part of our brain. But System 1 has to force System 2 to start. It has to be switched on as it is generally on sleep-mode. Therefore, a deliberate effort has to be made to wake-up System 2. System 2 brings in focus. While learning and practicing, System 2 enables us to grasp and store the learnt information. Then System 1 helps in easy retrieval as it gets ingrained in our muscle memory. In the mathematical calculation

at the beginning if we had learnt the rules (i.e., addition comes after division) then System 1 will provide the answer in super quick time or else System 1 will decide the answer on its own which might be devoid of logic. If there is an easy way to arrive at a solution our brain will take that route every time. It is the Law of Least Mental Effort. The default brain System 1 overpowers System 2 most of the time.

So, both the Systems feed each other and have to be put to best use as per situations. Therefore, being aware of the functioning of our brain or how it processes information, we can definitely improve on the quality of the outcome. System 2 (Slow Thinking) helps us to learn a skill or a technique, acquire knowledge and build focus for deep learning. With this learning, System 1 can use it for automatic responses and you can rely on the reflex actions at the heat of the moment. In fact, slow thinking prepares us for fast thinking!

A simple advice is to divide the tasks into FT/ST (Fast & Slow Thinking). Routine or simple tasks are carried out by System 1 whereas in tasks which demand cognitive skills, interpretation or analysis, System 2 plays a dominant role.

I sign-off with another mathematical puzzle for you to answer within 10 seconds:

A bag + water bottle costs ₹110. Bag is ₹100 more than the bottle. How much does the water bottle cost?

Let me tell you that 50% of University Graduates came up with the wrong answer at the first instance. Reason: - Due to the intuitive nature of our thinking process. It is less about math and more about the science of brain functioning. If System 2 had learnt the rules then the answer is fast and correct or else... Finally, it is about learning slowly for right and fast answers.

The writer is a corporate professional, business advisor and startup mentor.

FOCUS SOCIAL SECURITY

PENSION & PARITY



Notwithstanding its insignificant share in total employment, the government in a welfare state is expected to function as an ideal employer and to set an example to the private sector by providing decent salaries and post-retirement benefits to its employees

are in agitation.

So, a continuation of the new scheme is not sustainable after a few states have budged to the employees' pressure, no matter the experts' warning of the financial unsustainability of state finances.

Under the new scheme, the employees contribute to the pension fund every month, throughout their career; a sum equal to 10% of their Salary and Dearness Allowance and the government contributes another 14% (hiked from original 10%). At the time of retirement, the corpus total of contributions plus investment returns is used to purchase a fixed annuity, with an option to withdraw a portion, as a lump sum. So, under the new scheme employees need to contribute and the market determines the return and pension sum, whereas the old scheme did not require any of the employee's contribution but assured a pension sum, equal to 50% of the last drawn salary, a fair amount of pension; ILO Social Security Convention 102 held in 1952 suggested pension to be equal to 50% of insurable salary.

True, the pension scheme in question pertains to only the government employees (less than 4% of the workforce) – at the best to about 35 lakh central government and a little more than one crore state government employees (34.65 lakh central employees and 1.06 crore state governments' employees as per the latest available data); it actually affects fewer than this number because the new pension

scheme is applicable only to those recruited after January 2004.

Notwithstanding its insignificant share in total employment, the government in a welfare state is expected to function as an ideal employer and to set an example to the private sector by providing decent salaries and post-retirement benefits to its employees thereby eventually ensuring 'equal pay for equal work' norm in the society.

Overall, old age security is not getting adequate attention while the number of senior citizens, aged 60+ is rapidly increasing. Their share in the total population has increased from 5.5% in 1951 to 8.6% in 2011. India, with a 138 million 60 plus population, in 2021 (104 million as per the 2011 census), accounts for 12.5% of that category in the world; the UNPF forecasts the number to rise to 173 million by 2026 and an NSO's report anticipates it to swell to 194 million in 2031. The old-age dependency ratio in the country climbed from 10.9% in 1961 to 14.2% in 2011 and is further projected to increase to 20.1% in 2031.

The situation calls for adequate financial support for the elderly. But the pension system in the country, even to the organised sector workers, is defective and unscientific. The pension benefits available to different segments of society depict the anomaly.

For instance, an MLA gets a full pension for a lifetime for serving five years; the Madhya Pradesh MLA gets the pension even for

one day's service. Similarly, a seven-time MLA from Haryana Assembly is getting ₹2.38 lakh monthly pension. A Telangana one-time elected MLA gets ₹50,000 monthly pension and ₹75,000 if elected more than three times. AP MLA gets a monthly pension of ₹30,000 and Tamil Nadu ₹40,000; different states have fixed different sums for their legislators.

Compare this with the millions of employees covered under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) pension. Most of the executives who had drawn a lakh of rupees and more are getting pension amounts around ₹1,500; recently retired may at best be getting a thousand rupees more. This is because their pension is calculated based not on their total salary but on the insurable salary on which contributions were collected. The scheme which came into being in 1995 till recently had ₹6,500 insurable salary limit (now raised to ₹15,000). As per the pension formula, one gets a maximum pension of ₹3,250 after 35 years of service.

The minimum EPF pension was raised to ₹1,000 after the government found that 83% of EPF pensioners were getting a monthly pension of less than that amount and 27% getting even lesser, less than ₹500. So, during the post-retirement life the workers who had contributed for not only the pension fund but to the national wealth through decades of hard work fall below the poverty line levels of income; even the destitute pension given as part of the governments' welfare programmes is at times higher than the EPF pension. For instance, Telangana government gives an old age pension of ₹2,000, AP at present gives still more, ₹2500 and has proposed to raise it to ₹2,750 from January 2023.

All this suggests that there is an urgent need to raise the pensions to all those workers who are not getting equal to half their last drawn salaries but not to reduce the pensions of those few who are already getting it. Governments are expected to improve the existing levels of benefits, if they cannot, they should not at least reduce them; they should not bring in inferior schemes which amount to a reduction. Viewed from any angle, it is unjust not to revert to the OPS.

The writer is a development economist and commentator on economic and social affairs.

Mishaps in wildlife zones

Sir, A sub-adult tiger was mowed to death by a train in Maharashtra's Rajura forest limits last week that came a couple of months after another tiger was killed almost on the same stretch of the South Central Railway. The Railways is busy laying new tracks along the route that connects Maharashtra to Telangana. Inasmuch as the developmental activities have their own place, it is equally important to ward off undesirable negative impact of infrastructural measures in tiger landscapes. When free movement of tigers is hampered, putting in place mitigation measures like identifying vulnerable stretches that are prone to train-animal collision is vital. Curvatures, or simply turns on tracks, have to be spotted; necessary instructions need to be passed on to the autopilots to be cautious while traversing such areas. Underpasses as well as overpasses have to be expedited in crucial wildlife habitats. These structures have to be scientifically built keeping in mind the size and movement of animals. Augmentation of manpower could help and so could enhanced warning boards to alert locomotives in sensitive stretches. Mitigation measures in seventeen tiger-sensitive areas that cut tiger reserves have to be hastened up.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

The 'Kantara' phenomenon

Sir, Ever since its release September 30, the Kannada film 'Kantara' has garnered positive reviews, becoming the highest-rated Indian film on the online movie database IMDB with a rating of 9.3 out of 10. The story of 'Kantara' (which means mystical forest), one of the most talked-about movies of this year, opens in 1847 when a king is granted peace of mind by the divine spirit Pinjurli, who protects the forest and its inhabitants, in exchange for large swathes of land. Produced in a budget of ₹16 crore, the movie is running successfully all over India and is close to amassing ₹160 crore. But what makes this film special is a compelling storyline that deals with topics like tribal rights, caste oppression, environmental protection and forest land encroachment with stunning visuals and music. The success of 'Kantara' is an eye opener for the Hindi film industry, where films are faring poorly in the box office. People do like to spend their money to watch movies like 'Kantara' in theatres. It's high time the Hindi film industry thinks over this.

Asit Mohanty JAJPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

As Rahul Gandhi begins his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana, we welcome him on this soil, and also appeal him to raise this issue that will have far-reaching impact and awareness as the biggest scam committed by KCR to favour his family and one contractor

I am delighted at your (Rishi Sunak) taking over as Prime Minister of Great Britain. It is certainly a matter of pride for all of us in India

Farmers in Maharashtra were facing a crisis after suffering crop losses due to the wet drought caused by heavy rains in parts of the state

SHORT TAKES

LeT terrorist killed in J&K

Srinagar: A Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist was killed Wednesday as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesperson said. The operation was launched in the Tangdhar sector on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. The slain terrorist was identified as Mohammed Shakur (32) from Syedpura in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), he said.

3 from Telugu states killed in US accident

Hyderabad: Three students from Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were killed in a road accident in the US, as per their families. The casualties occurred in a collision between a truck and a mini van in Connecticut state Tuesday. According to information reaching the families of the deceased, eight persons were traveling in the mini van. While three persons died on the spot, four others sustained critical injuries while another person received minor injury. Two of the deceased, including a woman, hail from Telangana while the third victim was from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Leopard caught after child's death

Mumbai: A male leopard was captured in Aarey Milk Colony here Wednesday but it was not clear if it had killed a toddler two days ago as another leopard is roaming in the area, a forest official said. A three-year-old leopard walked into a cage trap set in Unit 16 of Aarey Colony in the small hours of Wednesday and later taken to the rescue centre at the adjoining Sanjay Gandhi National Park, he said. A one-and-half-year-old girl was attacked and killed by a leopard in Unit 15 of Aarey Colony Monday morning.

1 killed, 23 hurt as tanker catches fire

Khargone: A woman was killed and at least 23 other people were injured when a fuel tanker caught fire after overturning near a village in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district on Wednesday morning, officials said. Superintendent of Police Dharmveer Singh while quoting locals said people from Anjanagaon village had gathered to look at the tanker after it overturned near the village. The vehicle then suddenly caught fire causing the casualties, he said. One of the injured persons said a blast occurred in the tanker after it overturned.

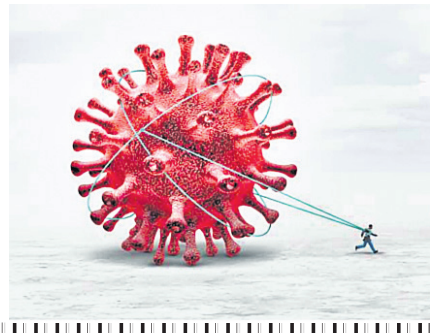


The BJP pressurised the officers and conspired to shut 'Delhi Ki Yogshala' programme from November 1

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

COV SCARE BACK IN K'TAKA

The Karnataka government has issued an advisory urging people to adhere to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour in view of newer sub-variants of Coronavirus being reported in neighbouring Maharashtra



Kharge forms 47-member Steering Committee, retains most from CWC

Kharge, the first non-Gandhi to head the party in 24 years, had defeated Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor in a direct contest for the president's post in the grand old party after the Gandhis opted out of the race

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: New Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Wednesday set up a 47-member Steering Committee that includes former prime minister Manmohan Singh and the party's ex-presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The interim panel headed by him would take the place of the Congress Working Committee, the apex decision-making body, till a new CWC is formed after Kharge's election is ratified at the party plenary. All members and permanent invitees of the last CWC have been retained in the committee except Vivek Bansal.

Bansal, a former MLA who was a permanent invitee in the previous CWC, is now the in-charge for Haryana affairs of the party.

None of the special invitees to the previous CWC under Sonia Gandhi have found a place in the new Steering Committee announced by Kharge hours after he took over as the new party Congress president. Shashi Tharoor, who contested against Kharge, is not among the panel members. He was



earlier heading the Professional Congress wing of the party but resigned ahead of the party's presidential election.

The CWC special invitees not included in the new panel are Ajay Kumar Lallu, Chinta Mohan, Deepender Singh Hooda, Sachin Rao, besides Seva Dal chief organiser Lalji Desai, IYC chief Srinivas B V, NSUI chief Neeraj Kundan, Mahila Congress chief Netta D'Souza and president of Intuc G Sanjeeva Reddy.

Anand Sharma, a CWC member and a prominent leader of the G23 dissident group that was pushing for organisational overhaul, has been retained in the Steering Committee.

Earlier in the day, soon after Kharge took over as the new chief, all CWC members and office bearers of the party tendered their resignations to the new party chief to enable him to choose his own team. There is a tradition of all office bearers of the Congress resigning soon after the election of the new president. "All the CWC members, AICC general secretaries and in-charges have tendered their resignation to Congress president," said AICC general secretary

Organisation KC Venugopal.

According to a communication from the AICC general secretary (Organisation), the steering committee members include senior party leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, A K Antony, Ambika Soni, Anand Sharma, K C Venugopal, Randeep Surjewala and Digvijaya Singh.

"As per Article XV (b) of the Constitution of the Indian National Congress, the Congress president has constituted the Steering Committee which would function in place of the Congress Working Committee," Venugopal said in the order.

The CWC is the highest decision-making body of the Congress and the Steering Committee will now take all decisions till the ratification of Kharge's election at the party's plenary session attended by all PCC delegates.

According to the party Constitution, 11 members of the CWC will be nominated and 12 will be elected. Besides, the leader of the party in Parliament and the Congress president will also be the members of the working committee. The session is likely to be held in March next year.

India to expand NaVIC: ISRO chief

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 26: India plans to expand its regional satellite navigation system NaVIC in a bid to increase its use in the civilian sector and also by ships and aircraft travelling far from the country's borders. The Navigation with Indian Constellation (NaVIC) uses seven satellites to provide real-time positioning and timing services in India and an area extending upto 1,500 km from the country's borders.

However, several satellites of the constellation have outlived their lives and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) now plans to replace at least five of these with the improved L-Band, which would enable it to offer better global positioning services to the public.

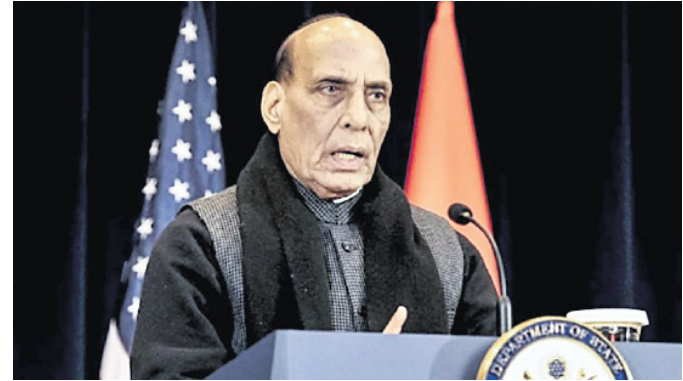
"We have five more satellites in production, they have to be launched periodically to replace the defunct satellites. The new satellites will have L-1, L-5 and S Band," ISRO Chairman Somanath told PTI in an interview here.

Somanath was speaking on the sidelines of the India Space Congress organised by the SatCom Industry Association.



He said the NaVIC system was not in a "full-fledged operational regime" as some of its seven satellites have failed. Somanath said the space agency has also approached the government for permission to launch an additional 12 satellites in the Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) to expand the reach of NaVIC.

Rajnath warns against nuclear weapons in call with Russian counterpart



THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN UKRAINE HAS ASKED INDIAN NATIONALS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AT THE EARLIEST IN VIEW OF FRESH WAVE HOSTILITIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Wednesday told his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu that the Ukraine conflict should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy and the nuclear option should not be resorted to by any side.

In telephonic talks, Shoigu briefed Singh on the evolving situation in Ukraine, including his concerns about possible "provocations through use of 'dirty bomb'", the defence ministry said. The conversation took place at the initiative of the Russian de-

fence minister amid escalation of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine.

"Singh reiterated India's position on the need to pursue the path of dialogue and diplomacy for an early resolution of the conflict," the ministry said. "He pointed out that the nuclear option should not be resorted to by any side as the prospect of the usage of nuclear or radiological weapons goes against the basic tenets of humanity," it said.

It said the two ministers also discussed bilateral defence cooperation as well as the deteriorating situation in Ukraine.

There has been intensification of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine with Moscow carrying out retaliatory missile strikes targeting various Ukrainian cities in response to a huge blast in Crimea nearly two weeks back. Moscow blamed Kyiv for the blast.

The Indian embassy in Ukraine has asked Indian nationals to leave the country at the earliest in view of fresh wave hostilities.

Centre resolves over 3K pension related cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has resolved 3,150 pending pension-related grievances during the ongoing special Swachhata campaign, an official statement issued on Wednesday said.



The DoPPW is the nodal department for formulation of policies relating to pension and other retirement benefits of central government pensioners/ family pensioners.

During the campaign, which began on October 2 and would

end on October 31, the department has targeted to resolve 4,200 pending pension grievances to ensure speedy redressal and to enhance "ease of living" for 68 lakh central government pensioners, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

As October 21 this year, which is within 20 days of the start of the campaign, 3,150 pension grievances have already been resolved, it said.

The department is convening inter-ministerial meetings with ministries and departments concerned to resolve all grievances within the due time period.

The DoPPW has issued 30 circulars under easing of rules and processes, 3,094 e-files have been closed and a total of 26 cleanliness campaigns have been conducted, according to the statement.



MATTER OF DEVOTION: Devotees collect 'prasadam' at Madan Mohan temple during 'Annakut' festival in Kolkata

KP families leave village after series of attacks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 26: As terrorists carried out a number of targeted killings recently, 10 Kashmiri Pandit families have left their village in Shopian district in south Kashmir out of fear and reached Jammu.

The residents of Choudharygund said the recent

terrorist attacks have triggered a fear psychosis among the Pandits who lived in Kashmir through the most difficult period of terrorism in 1990s and did not leave their homes.

Kashmiri Pandit Purnan Krishan Bhat was gunned down by terrorists outside his ancestral house in Choudharygund village of

Shopian district October 15. On October 18, Monish Kumar and Ram Sagar were killed in a grenade attack by terrorists while they were asleep in their rented accommodation in Shopian.

"Ten families comprising 35 to 40 Kashmiri Pandits have migrated out of our village due to the fear psychosis," a resident of



Choudharygund village who faced a death threat recently told PTI. He

said the village was now empty. "The situation is not conducive for us to live in the Kashmir valley. We live in fear due to the killings. There is no security for us," another villager said.

The villagers alleged a police post was set up away from their village even though they repeatedly sought protection.

NCP, Sena-UBT to march with Cong's Bharat Jodo Yatra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 26: The Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray will join the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra led by party MP Rahul Gandhi when it enters Maharashtra next month, party leaders said here Wednesday.

While NCP President Sharad Pawar will join the BJJ, from the Sena (UBT), ex-minister Aditya Thackeray and other senior leaders are expected to mark their presence though the dates and venue are not yet announced.

A senior Sena-UBT leader, preferring anonymity, told IANS that party chief Uddhav Thackeray is unlikely to take part in the BJJ owing to the current political situation here, but will deputee a high-level team of leaders to express solidarity with Gandhi and the Congress.

The BJJ with Gandhi leading the march on foot with many senior leaders, is slated to enter Maharashtra November 7 and the party has organised two mega-rallies in Nanded and Buldhana districts.



Heat-related deaths increased by 55% in India: Lancet

In 2020, over 3,30,000 people died in India due to exposure to particulate matter from fossil fuel combustion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 26: Warning that health is at the mercy of fossil fuels, from 2000-2004 to 2017-2021 heat-related deaths increased by 55 per cent in India, the 2022 Lancet Countdown report said Wednesday.

In the run-up to the UN Climate Conference in Egypt (COP27), the new findings presented in the seventh annual global report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change reveals that governments and companies continue to follow strategies that increas-



THE CURRENT STRATEGIES OF FOSSIL FUEL GIANTS THREATEN A LIVEABLE FUTURE AND WOULD LEAD TO EMISSIONS EXCEEDING INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE TARGETS TO MINIMISE GLOBAL WARMING

ingly threaten the health and survival of all people alive today, and of future generations.

The report says in India, 45 per cent of urban centres are classified as moderately green or above.

Urban redesign that puts health first can provide increased greenspace that reduces urban heat, improve air quality, and benefit physical and mental health.

However, the Indian media cov-

erage of health and climate change increased by 27 per cent between 2020 and 2021.

The report says climate change is amplifying the health impacts of multiple crises in India. The dura-

tion of the growth season for maize has decreased by two per cent, compared to a 1981-2010 baseline, while rice and winter wheat have each decreased by one per cent.

From 2012-2021, infants under one year old experienced an average of 72 million more person-days of heatwaves per year, compared to 1985-2005. For the same period, adults over 65 experienced 301 million more person-days. This means that, on average, from 2012-2021, each infant experienced an additional 0.9 heatwave days per year, while adults over 65 experienced an additional 3.7 per person, compared to 1986-2021.

In 2021, Indians lost 167.2 billion potential labour hours due to heat exposure with income losses equivalent to about 5.4 per cent of the national GDP.

From 1951-1960 to 2012-2021, the

number of months suitable for dengue transmission by Aedes aegypti rose by 1.69 per cent, reaching 5.6 months each year.

Governments and companies continue to prioritise fossil fuels to the detriment of people's health. In 2019, India had a net negative carbon price, indicating that the government was effectively subsidising fossil fuels. India allocated a net \$34 billion to this in 2019 alone, equivalent to 37.5 per cent of the country's national health spending that year.

Biomass accounted for 61 per cent of household energy in 2019, while fossil fuels accounted for another 20 per cent. With this high reliance on dirty fuels, average household concentrations of particulate matter exceeded the WHO recommendation by 27-fold nationally and 35-fold in rural homes.

TN to hand over Coimbatore explosion case probe to NIA

Coimbatore was brought under a tight security cover, following the explosion in front of Kottai Eswaran Temple in the heart of the city in the communally sensitive Ukkadam area, on Diwali eve



tigation. Quoting Stalin's directives to officials in the meet here, the government said it was decided to recommend to the Centre to entrust the case to the NIA.

The move is considering the possibilities of links transcending Tamil Nadu borders and the likelihood of international connections emerging during the investigation of the explosion case, an official release here said.

As part of measures to further strengthen security, the government said it would set up new police stations at the three localities of Karumbu Kadai, Sundarapuram and Koundampalayam in Coimbatore. During Stalin's review of the overall law and order and security scenario in the state, it was decided to install additional high-tech surveillance cameras in key cities of Tamil Nadu including Coimbatore.

The Chief Minister directed officials to post additional personnel in the intelligence wing and protect and encourage informers. Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu,

Director General of Police C Sylendra Babu and top state and intelligence officials took part in the high-level meeting. Coimbatore was brought under a tight security cover, following the explosion in front of Kottai Eswaran Temple in the heart of the city in the communally sensitive Ukkadam area, on Diwali eve.

In the meanwhile, over 100 BJP workers and sections of local people held a prayer meeting and lit lamps in front of the Lord Shiva temple to thank the presiding deity for protecting the city and its people from a "big disaster".

Led by BJP Mahila Morcha president and Coimbatore South MLA Vanathi Srinivasan, a group of women sat on the ground and lit lamps. Kottai Eswaran temple is formally known as Sangeswarar temple. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been invoked in the Coimbatore explosion case and five men - associates of Mubin - have been arrested so far and the state police is currently probing the matter.

UP hospital in platelets row to be demolished

A dengue patient died after being transfused with what the family claimed was sweet lime juice and not blood platelets



AGENCIES

Prayagraj, Oct 26: The authorities here have ordered the demolition of a private hospital where a dengue patient died after being transfused with what the family claimed was sweet lime juice and not blood platelets.

Prayagraj District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Khatri told PTI that report of the sample collected from the hospital revealed that platelets and not sweet lime juice was transfused to the patient.

He, however, charged Global Hospital with laxity in the transfusion process, saying the reports showed the platelets were stored in an improper way which might have led to clotting.

After a video claiming that sweet lime juice was transfused to the patient instead of platelets went viral on social media, the district administration swung into action and the hospital was sealed October 20 on the direction of Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak.

The patient, Pradeep Pandey, was shifted to another hospital, where he died after his condition deteriorated.

Meanwhile, the demolition notice from the Prayagraj

Development Authority (PDA) dated October 19 to Malti Devi, owner of Global Hospital at Jhalwa in Dhoomanganj, stated the building was unauthorised and ordered that it be vacated by the morning of October 28.

According to it, show-cause notices were issued to the hospital owners earlier giving them chance to put forth their views about the building being unauthorised. Since no one came to the hearing, the demolition order was issued, the

October 19 notice stated.

The Prayagraj district magistrate on Wednesday said that the probe report of the sample collected from Global Hospital has arrived.

"Nothing like sweet lime juice was transfused to the patients. It was blood platelets but stored in the wrong way which might have caused clotting. The hospital has been found lax in transfusing the platelets to the patient and action will be taken against it," he said.

Earlier, the owner of the private hospital claimed that the platelets were brought from a different medical facility and the patient had a reaction after three units were transfused.

In a tweet, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak had said, "Taking cognisance of the viral video at the hospital where a dengue patient was transfused with sweet lemon juice instead of platelets, on my directive the hospital was sealed and the platelet packets have been sent for testing."

ATM dispenses fake currency notes in UP

AGENCIES

Amethi, Oct 26: Bank customers in Amethi were in for a major shock after an ATM started dispensing counterfeit currency, in Rs 200 denomination, on withdrawal.

The incident came to the fore when people went to the ATM to withdraw cash for Diwali shopping. A video of the incident shows a man displaying a note dispensed by the ATM.

At first glance, the note looks identical to the original Rs 200 note, but a closer look reveals

the differences.

There are phrases like "Children Bank of India," and "Full of Fun" printed on the notes.

Soon after reports of people receiving fake notes spread, people started agitating at the ATM and a huge crowd gathered there.

The local police were called in and the police spokesman said that the matter would be investigated. He said that the concerned bank was being informed and investigations would begin Thursday when the banks reopen after a long break.



AIADMK fight escalates as O Panneerselvam picks new office bearers



PANNEERSELVAM, WHO STILL CLAIMS TO BE THE PARTY COORDINATOR, HAS APPOINTED MORE THAN 500 OFFICE BEARERS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

WITH PANNEERSELVAM ANNOUNCING THE NEW APPOINTMENTS, THE AIADMK OFFICIAL FACTION LED BY PALANISWAMI HAS COME UP IN ARMS AGAINST THE DECISION

THE AIADMK, IN ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD JULY 11, HAD EXPELLED OPS AND HIS ASSOCIATES FROM THE PRIMARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 26: The internal fight within Tamil Nadu's opposition AIADMK has escalated, with deposed party leader and former Chief Minister, O. Panneerselvam appointing office bearers in various districts of the state.

Panneerselvam, who still claims to be the party coordinator, has appointed more than 500 office bearers in various districts of the state.

The AIADMK, in its general body meeting held July 11, had expelled Panneerselvam and his associates from the primary membership of the party. His bitter opponent and former party Co-ordinator, K. Palaniswami was appointed as the party's interim General Secretary then.

After his expulsion from the party, Panneerselvam moved the Madras High Court with the single judge bench suspending the appointment of the new office-bearers and staying the expulsion of him and his associates.

However, the division bench vacated the stay and directed to maintain the status quo of the July 11 party general council meet-

ing which had expelled Panneerselvam.

The Panneerselvam faction moved Supreme Court which stayed the proceedings and ruled that no elections be carried out in the AIADMK till it hears the matter of the tussle between the two warring factions November 21.

With Panneerselvam announcing the new appointments, the AIADMK official faction led by Palaniswami has come up in arms against the decision.

A senior AIADMK leader told IANS: "The Supreme Court is to hear the tussle between the two leaders on November 21... what was the hurry for announcing the posting of new office bearers?"

Another senior AIADMK leader aligned to the official faction told IANS: "I am not coming out in the open as the case is being heard in the Supreme Court November 21, and OPS appointing new office bearers is not good given that the case regarding elections to the interim General Secretary is being heard by the Supreme Court and Palaniswami has told the court that there would not be any elections till it gives a verdict."

Fishermen wary of venturing into sea after firing by Navy

October 21, the Indian Navy ship on patrol in the Palk Bay near the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line fired shots at a fishing boat which had 10 people on board

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 26: Fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Vedaranyam are wary of returning to the sea following a recent shooting incident in which the Indian Navy fired at a fisherman from the area.

October 21, the Indian Navy ship on patrol in the Palk Bay near the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) fired shots at a fishing boat which had 10 people on board.

K. Veeravel, the 30-year-old fisherman, sustained bullet injuries on his thigh and stomach.

The Coastal Marine Police at Vedaranyam have registered a case against Indian Navy based on a complaint filed by the boat's owner, Selvakumar.

The Indian Navy, however, said that they found a suspicious-looking boat, and even after repeated requests the boat did not stop, and hence it fired the warning shots as per Standard Operating Procedures.

The Navy immediately informed the Air Force base at Ramanathapuram and airlifted the injured fisherman to Ramanathapuram Government Hospital and later to Madurai



Government Medical College.

The fishermen said that they feared that the Sri Lankan Navy was at the Palk Bay and they had cut off their nets and were retracting when they heard some inaudible messages. After this incident many fishermen are apprehensive of going into the sea.

Sivakrishnan, a fisherman from Vedaranyam, told IANS: "We are afraid of going into the deep sea. Anything can happen in the sea and we have been constantly in fear of the Sri Lankan navy attacking us if we cross the International Maritime Boundary Line, but now our own Navy is attacking us and this is quite unfounded. We have decided not to go

to the sea for the time being."

The decision by the fishermen has created an unprecedented crisis in the Vedaranyam area as most of the houses are dependent on fish and without the catch, the hustle and bustle at the market are over.

Manikantan MK, the fishermen leader of Vedaranyam, told IANS: "The incident of Indian Navy firing at our own fishermen is not acceptable and we demand strong action against those responsible. The fishermen will have to stop fearing and must venture out into the sea."

Meanwhile, MDMK leader Vaiko has come out strongly against the firing incident.

'Will govt bring unrecognised madrassas under grant list?'

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Oct 26: Referring to a Uttar Pradesh government survey that reportedly found over 7,500 private madrassas to be 'unrecognised', BSP president Mayawati Wednesday asked if the state will now include these in its grant list and bring them under its purview.

The Uttar Pradesh government had last month ordered a survey of all private madrassas in the state, stating that on its basis necessary facilities will be provided in these institutes.

"The state government by forming a special team has completed the work of the much hyped survey of private madrassas dependent on people's donations, and according to it, over 7,500 'unrecognised' madrassas are engaged in imparting education to poor children," the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief said.

"These non-government madrassas do not want to be a burden on the government, then why interfere?" Mayawati asked in a tweet in Hindi. The survey has been almost completed in all 75 districts of the state. The teams constituted for the survey of madrassas will give their report to district magistrates by October 31 through the additional district magistrate.

"While a survey is conducted



These non-government madrassas do not want to be a burden on the government, then why interfere?

MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

specifically for budget provision for salaries of teachers and staff of government madrassas run by the madrassa board, will the Uttar Pradesh government include these private madrassas in its grant list and make them government madrassas?" Mayawati said. The BSP government had brought 100 such madrassas under the board, she claimed.

Targeting the Congress, Mayawati said, "Earlier, in the name of modernisation of madrassas, instead of ensuring higher education of their choice to students, they were trained in driving and mechanic, carpenter work. Now see what happens to them in the BJP government?"

The condition of government schools in Uttar Pradesh and all other states as well as the education system, which is going from bad to worse, is not hidden from anyone, she claimed. Yet the governments are careless and indifferent as mostly children from poor and weaker sections study there, the BSP chief said.

Kite flyers take to rooftops on 'Jamghat'

According to a popular belief, Jamghat started off as a hobby when Lucknow was ruled by the Nawabs almost two centuries ago. Now it has become a tradition that has a large number of followers of different age groups and from all religions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 26: The grounds have shrunk as population has grown but rooftops are still there. For kite-flyers, 'Jamghat' festival, this year, has been mostly confined to rooftops.

The festival that is traditionally held a day after Diwali, has had an extra day this year due to the solar eclipse.

Kite flyers are taking full advantage of the extended festival holidays and are busy indulging in their passion.

"We have stopped going to the large grounds because of the restrictions imposed by the district administration and harassment by the cops. The cops insist we are using Chinese 'manjha' (kite string) and threaten to book us if we do not pay them. It is safer to remain on our rooftops," says Asif Ali, a software engineer and a passionate kite flyer.

This year, kites have not only made the horizon more colourful but have also moved beyond politics.

While kites with photos of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath remain popular, it is now star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and cricketer Virat Kohli whose faces find a place in kites.

"We are very careful in designing kites because you never know what sparks off a contro-

versy. We made very few kites with Virat Kohli's face but all of them sold-out," says Lal Nawab, a kite maker.

Nawab insists that kite making is an art and not a business.

"Unless the frame is perfectly balanced, the kite will not fly properly. People come to me because they know that they get

the best kites here," he says.

Interestingly, professional kite-flyers still prefer the local handmade ones to their imported contemporary. Hundreds of kites resembling butterflies, dragons, fish and birds flutter in the Lucknow sky, particularly in the old city where Hindus, Muslims and others come together to celebrate the festival of 'Jamghat'.

"Jamghat is a festival that helps maintain social relationships. We fly kites with our neighbours, irrespective of caste and religion and exchange food and sweets," says Zaheer Asad.

According to a popular belief, Jamghat started off as a hobby when Lucknow was ruled by the Nawabs almost two centuries ago. Now it has become a tradition that has a large number of followers of different age groups and from all religions.

of the day quote

When Sonia Gandhi took over as Congress president in 1998, the party did not have a government at the Centre and it had many challenges in the states too. After she took over as party president, the Congress won in all states, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka



ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

The new voters will define India @2047, and with the active young years on their side, they have the privilege and opportunity to contribute to the making of century India as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

More than one crore senior citizens above the age of 75 have benefited from the government's scheme of free travel in state transport buses targeted at them



EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

PM Modi pitches for indigenous products

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday emphasised on promoting indigenous products and self-reliance for prosperity, and said by adopting them, one can keep the art, culture and civilization of India alive. Addressing a gathering to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Jain saint Vijay Vallabh Surishwar via video conference, he said the message of 'swadeshi' and self-reliance is extremely relevant in the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal', a reference to the period till 2047, for India to become a developed country.

3 killed in chemical factory blast in Maha

Palghar: At least three persons were killed and 12 others injured in a major blast followed by a fire at a chemical factory in Tarapur industrial area of Maharashtra's Palghar Wednesday, police said. The incident took place around 4.15 p.m. at the Bhageria Industries Ltd's chemical plant in the Tarapur-Boisar industrial belt, said an official of Palghar police control room.

NFR to run special trains for Chhath

Guwahati: The Northeast Frontier Railway has decided to run two pairs of special trains on Dibrugarh-Gorakhpur and New Jalpaiguri-Gorakhpur routes to clear the extra rush of passengers for 'Chhath' Puja, an official said. Both trains will consist of 20 coaches, the NFR spokesperson said. One of the special trains will leave Dibrugarh at 7.25 pm October 27 and reach Gorakhpur October 29 morning. In return, the train will commence its journey from Gorakhpur at 7:50 hours November 1 and come to Assam's Dibrugarh at 20:50 hours the next day.

Jawan shot dead

Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh): A 24-year-old Army jawan, who had come home to celebrate Diwali, was allegedly shot dead by his lover's husband and seven others near Aligarh. The victim, Bikan Kumar, and his uncle were on their way to Aligarh in their car when they were attacked with sticks and sharp objects by eight men who then shot dead the jawan. The incident took place at Rasoolpur village under the Tappal police limits. Bikan Kumar's father, Janata Singh, said, "My son and wife of one of the accused were in a relationship. He was killed by her husband, Vijaypal, his brother Bablu and six other members of their family."



The wind of change is blowing across the country and the people of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana will set benchmark for others by becoming partners of this change

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

TALKS TODAY ON FATE OF BYJU'S EMPLOYEES

With Edtech unicorn BYJU's deciding to shut operations at the Technopark campus here and the employees approaching the state Labour department, a conciliation talk has been called on Thursday between the representatives of the two sides. A meeting was called Tuesday, but the representatives of BYJU's failed to turn up and the company has now informed the labour department that their representatives will turn up Thursday



INTERNET USE BY TERRORISTS TO BE FOCUS OF UN MEET

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 26: Ways to check the use of social media, new fund-raising methods and unmanned aerial systems by terror groups across the globe will be the focus of a two-day special meeting of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC) this week in India.

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, his counterpart from Gabon, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, and Foreign Minister of Ghana Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy are among those attending the meeting October 28 and 29, officials said Wednesday. The meet will begin October 28 with a solemn ceremony at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai, where the participants will pay homage to the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. The second day's deliberations will be in Delhi. The Taj Mahal hotel was one of the targets of the horrific 26/11 terror attacks nearly 14 years ago.

Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Sanjay Verma told a media briefing that the larger purpose of the unprecedented UNCTC meeting in Mumbai will resonate with the "rest of the world because what happened in 2008 was an attack on what would be the identity of India in the financial and commercial space".

Ruchira Kamboj, India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and the current chair of the UNCTC, said the meeting will focus on dealing with the challenge of the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. Jaishankar, along with the member states of the UN Security

Council (15 current and five incoming) and senior UN officials, will lay a wreath at the 26/11 memorial site in the memory of the victims. A number of family members of the victims of the 26/11 attack are scheduled to speak at the ceremony

"We will be honoured to hear the voices of the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as well as the 2016 Brussels bombings. The meeting will be followed by an informal session on combating terror financing in the local and regional context," Kamboj, in her capacity as the chair of the UNCTC, said at the briefing.

On October 29, the participants will hold wide-ranging deliberations on checking terror groups using emerging technologies.

Asked about China repeatedly blocking efforts at the UN to designate Pakistan-based terrorists, Verma, without naming any country, said the proposals ran into objections based on technicalities and subjectivities that are guided by "geostrategic alliances", far removed from the original cause for which the listing process was suggested.

"The overarching theme of the meeting would be 'countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes', the MEA said

The United Nation Security Council's (UNSC) two-day meeting in India on counter-terrorism will focus on dealing with use of internet, new payment mechanism and drones by terrorists



The 'Miya Museum', set up in a house allotted under PMAY, in Assam's Goalpara district was sealed and its owner was taken into custody Tuesday, a district official said. Three persons, including the president and general secretary of the Assam Miya Parishad, have been detained for their alleged association with terror outfits, police said Wednesday

Wife attempts suicide, hubby records incident

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 26: In a shocking incident, a video has emerged in which a woman is seen attempting to hang herself from the ceiling fan and the husband, instead of saving her, is busy filming the act.

The woman fails in her first attempt but succeeds in hanging herself in the second attempt.



The woman's father Raj Kishore Gupta told reporters that his son-in-law Sanjeev Gupta called him in the afternoon and said that his wife Shobhita had committed suicide.

"I rushed to her house in Gulmohar Nagar and found her body on the bed. Sanjeev was busy pumping her chest but she was lifeless. When I questioned Sanjeev, he showed me the video and I was shocked that he made no effort to save her but was busy recording the incident. He also did not rush her to the hospital," he said in a statement.

The Hanuman Nagar police have been informed of the incident by the deceased's family and the body has been sent for post mortem. Sanjeev Gupta is being questioned by the police. The couple had been married four years ago.

Peace, tranquillity in border essential: EAM



S Jaishankar with outgoing Ambassador Sun Weidong (PHOTO CREDIT: TWITTER)

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Peace and tranquillity in the border areas are essential for normal ties between India and China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed to outgoing Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong Wednesday.

Jaishankar made the remarks when the envoy called on him. India and China are locked in a lingering border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over 29 months. The bilateral relationship came under severe strain following the deadly clash in Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh in June, 2020.

"Received Ambassador Sun Weidong of China for a farewell call. Emphasized that the development of India-China relations is guided by the 3 Mutuals. Peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential," the external affairs minister tweeted.

"The normalisation of India-China relations is in the interest of both countries, of Asia and the world at large," he said in a statement.

India has been asserting that the Sino-India ties must be based on three mutuals: mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interest. In his farewell remarks at an event Tuesday, Sun said it is natural for China and India to have some differences but the focus should be to seek common ground for development while resolving the pending issues through dialogue. Last month, the Indian and Chinese militaries carried out disengagement from the Patrolling Point 15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area last month.

Kerala Gov 'withdraws pleasure' against FM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 26: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan already up in arms against the state government over the issue of vice-chancellors of 11 universities, Wednesday wrote to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that he has 'withdrawn the pleasure' against state Finance Minister KN Balagopal.

"Withdrawing pleasure" indicates an indirect way to ask the Chief Minister to sack the minister. But, Vijayan soon wrote back to Khan stating that Balagopal's speech was nothing but a political response and it was not meant to lower the dignity of the governor. Khan has been upset with Balagopal over a



speech that he made early this month when he, without naming Khan, said that "those who come from Uttar Pradesh where vice-chancellors move around with armed security guards, do not know the quality of the universities in Kerala".

But, Vijayan has now written back to Khan stating that the speech was nothing but a political response and it was not meant to lower the dignity of the governor. Khan is presently travelling to

North India. State CPI secretary Kanam Rajendran reacted to Governor by saying that "it was unfortunate that the governor does not know what his rights, duties and responsibilities are".

Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan said the governor and the Chief Minister were engaged in a fake encounter to fool the people.

"This is nothing but a drama and the two are hand in glove to divert from issues where the CPI(M) leaders are caught in misconduct cases, the law and order situation in the state is appallingly poor, prices are skyrocketing and the two are playing foolery to tell the people that they are against each other, but they are hand in glove," said Satheesan.

Fresh NCC enrolment halted in WB: Official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 26: The National Cadet Corps has decided to cease enrolment of fresh candidates in West Bengal for 2022-23 fiscal as the state has allegedly paid less than what is required as Budgetary support, an official said here.

Over 41,000 cadets who have been already enrolled in the NCC, a youth development movement managed by the armed forces which is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis, will not be able to take part in annual camps, the official

said. CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakraborty told reporters the state government has "money for fairs, games and other activities" but does not have funds for NCC camps.

The ruling party refuted the allegations, saying that the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal is trying to run all the projects despite the Centre not releasing the state's dues amounting to about Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

"State governments fund 25 per cent for the camps, while the Centre provides 75 per cent," another NCC official said.



DOUBLE WHAMMY 222mn kids facing climate disaster, poverty: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: About 51 per cent of children in India are living under the dual impacts of poverty and the climate emergency, according to a new study.

There are almost 350 million children across Asia, including 222 million in India, who are gripped by both grinding poverty and climate disaster, the 'Generation Hope: 2.4 billion reasons to end the global climate and inequality crisis' report stated.

Developed by child rights NGO Save the Children and climate modelling from researchers at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, it also stated that Cambodia topped the list of Asian countries most likely to face this "double threat", with 72 per cent

of children in the country affected, followed by Myanmar (64 per cent) and Afghanistan (57 per cent).

However, India was ranked the highest globally in terms of overall number of children facing this "double threat" of poverty and climate disaster, it stated.

While 351.9 million children in India are estimated to be affected by at least one extreme climate event a year, some of them are at particular risk because they are living in poverty and so have fewer resources to protect themselves and recover, the report stated.

The climate emergency and issues of inequality are deeply connected, and cannot be dealt with in isolation from each other. In India, this connection could not be any more obvious, Save the Children's Chief Executive Officer



living in poverty and affected by climate risk, Save the Children estimated the proportion of climate-affected children and children affected by poverty in 1,925 sub-national regions across 159 countries, covering 98 per cent of the total child population.

In particular, the world's richest countries, whose historic emissions have driven the climate and inequality crises, must lead the way in unlocking trillions in financing for countries that are struggling to protect their children from its impacts, including through climate finance, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage

SUDARSHAN SUCHI | SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

children from its impacts, including through climate finance, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage, he added. To estimate the number of children

living in poverty and affected by climate risk, Save the Children estimated the proportion of climate-affected children and children affected by poverty in 1,925 sub-national regions across 159 countries, covering 98 per cent of the total child population.

international



We are still nowhere near the scale and pace of emission reductions required to put us on track toward a 1.5 degrees Celsius world
SIMON STIELL | EXECUTIVE SECY, UNFCCC

TALIBAN BAN HOOKAHS

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan recently issued an Islamic decree to ban hookahs, which had become a common sight in the war-torn country in recent years. The militant Islamist group considers hookahs, also known as shisha, as an intoxicant, which is banned under Islam



of the day quote

I think India is an important manufacturer of vaccines for the world. Because of its incredible manufacturing capacity, India has been a major exporter of vaccines
ASHISH JHA | WHITE HOUSE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE COORDINATOR

We are most likely to get the highest tonnage since 1962, when wheat was first introduced to Zimbabwe. A lot of countries are facing shortages, but the opposite is happening in Zimbabwe
VANGELIS HARITATOS | DY AGRICULTURE MIN, ZIMBABWE

Russia would be making an incredibly serious mistake if it uses a tactical nuclear weapon. I'm not guaranteeing you that it's a false-flag operation yet; I don't know. But it would be a serious, serious mistake
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

SHORT TAKES

Strong quake injures dozens

Manila: A strong earthquake rocked a large swath of the northern Philippines, injuring at least 36 people and forcing the closure of an international airport and the evacuation of patients in a hospital, officials said Wednesday. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Tuesday night's magnitude 6.4 quake, which was set off by movement of a local fault, was centred 9 kilometres northwest of Lagayan town in Abra province at a depth of 11 kilometres. The US Tsunami Warning System said no warning or advisory was issued.

30 rescued from Malaysian cave

Kuala Lumpur: About 30 members of a film crew who were trapped in a limestone cave in northern Malaysia during heavy rain Wednesday have been rescued, police said. Two police officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release information, said all of the trapped people were evacuated from Tempurung Cave in Kampar district in Perak state. They couldn't give further details.

Pak brings home slain scribe's body

Islamabad: A plane carrying the body of an outspoken Pakistani journalist who was shot and killed by Nairobi police while living in hiding in Kenya touched down at an airport in Islamabad just after midnight Wednesday, officials said. Arshad Sharif was killed Sunday night when the car he was in sped up and drove through a checkpoint outside the Kenyan capital and police opened fire.

2,700 yr-old rock carvings unearthed

Baghdad: Archaeologists in northern Iraq last week unearthed 2,700-year-old rock carvings featuring war scenes and trees from the Assyrian Empire, an archaeologist said Wednesday. The carvings on marble slabs were discovered by a team of experts in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, who have been working to restore the site of the ancient Mashki Gate, which was bulldozed by Islamic State group militants in 2016. Fadhil Mohammed, head of the restoration works, said the team was surprised by discovering "eight murals with inscriptions, decorative drawings and writings".

KIM'S MISSILE MANIA

US, allies warn N Korea against 7th nuclear test

N Korea has been carrying out weapons tests at an unprecedented pace this year, firing more than two dozen ballistic missiles, including one that flew over Japan



REUTERS

Tokyo, Oct 26: The United States, Japan and South Korea warned Wednesday that an "unparalleled" scale of response would be warranted if North Korea conducts a seventh nuclear bomb test.

Washington and its allies believe North Korea could be about to resume nuclear bomb testing for the first time since 2017.

"We agreed that an unparalleled scale of response would be necessary if North Korea pushes ahead with a seventh nuclear test," South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong told a news conference in Tokyo.

Cho was speaking alongside his Japanese and US counterparts, Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.

The United States and its allies have offered few details on what new measures they might take, and observers say they have few good op-

tions for preventing a new test.

For the first time since North Korea began testing nuclear weapons in 2006, China and Russia this year vetoed a US-led push for additional United Nations Security Council sanctions, and stepped-up allied military drills have only been met by more North Korean tests and exercises.

"We urge (North Korea) to refrain from further provocations," Sherman said, calling them "reckless and deeply destabilizing" for the region. "Anything that happens here, such as a North Korean nuclear test... has implications for the security of the entire world," she said, sending a thinly veiled message to Pyongyang's supporters, China and Russia, in the UN Security Council.

"We hope indeed that everyone on the Security Council would un-

derstand that any use of a nuclear weapon will change the world in incredible ways."

When asked about the comments out of Tokyo, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called on all the countries to acknowledge "the root causes of the long-standing impasse" and take steps to enhance mutual trust and address the concerns of all parties in a balanced manner.

North Korea has been carrying out weapons tests at an unprecedented pace this year, firing more than two dozen ballistic missiles, including one that flew over Japan.

Angered by South Korea's military activities, Pyongyang last week fired hundreds of artillery shells off its coasts in what it called a grave warning to its neighbour to the south.

In a first, women lawmakers in NZ outnumber men

NEW ZEALAND HAS A HISTORY OF STRONG FEMALE REPRESENTATION. IN 1893, IT BECAME THE FIRST NATION TO ALLOW WOMEN TO VOTE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, Oct 26: For the first time in New Zealand's history, a majority of lawmakers are women.

Soraya Peke-Mason from the liberal Labour Party was sworn in to Parliament Tuesday, replacing former Speaker Trevor Mallard, who left to become ambassador to Ireland. With the resignation of another male lawmaker, it has tipped the balance in Parliament to 60 women and 59 men.

"Whilst it's a special day for me, I think it's historic for New Zealand," Peke-Mason told reporters.

The milestone places New Zealand among a half-dozen nations in the world that this year can claim at least 50% female representation in their parliaments, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Other nations include Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates. Globally, about 26% of lawmakers



are women, according to the union. New Zealand has a history of strong female representation. In 1893, it became the first nation to allow women to vote. Current Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is the nation's third female leader, and women currently also hold a num-

Iran protesters rally to mark 40 days since Amini's death

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Oct 26: Hundreds of protesters poured into the streets of a northwestern Iranian city on Wednesday to mark the watershed 40 days since the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, whose tragedy sparked Iran's biggest antigovernment movement in over a decade.

Deaths are commemorated in Shiite Islam—as in many other traditions—again 40 days later, typically with an outpouring of grief. In Amini's Kurdish hometown of Saqez, the birthplace of the nationwide unrest now roiling Iran, crowds snaked through the local



cemetery and thronged her grave. "Death to the dictator!" protesters cried. State-run media announced that schools and universities in Iran's northwestern region

Gunmen kill 15

Dubai: Gunmen attacked a major Shiite holy site in Iran Wednesday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens. State TV blamed the attack on "takfiris," a term that refers to Sunni Muslim extremists who have targeted the country's Shiite majority in the past. The attack appeared to be unrelated to the demonstrations. The official website of the judiciary said two gunmen were arrested and a third is on the run after the attack on the Shah Cheragh mosque, the second holiest site in Iran.

would close, purportedly to curb "the spread of influenza."

Thai trans activist buys Miss Universe org for \$20 million

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Oct 26: A Thai business tycoon and transgender activist has purchased the Miss Universe Organisation for \$20 million, her company announced Wednesday.

Chakrapong "Anne" Chakrajutathib, who controls JKN Global Group Public Co Ltd, is a celebrity in Thailand who has starred in reality shows and is outspoken about being a transgender woman. She helped establish a nonprofit group, Life Inspired For Transsexual Foundation, to promote trans rights.

JKN said it acquired the rights to the Miss Universe pageant from IMG Worldwide LLC, a sports, talent and events marketing company which has held the Miss Universe Organisation since 2015. Former US President Donald Trump was part owner of the pageant rights from 1996 until IMG's purchase.

JKN said it has established a subsidiary in the United States, JKN Metaverse Inc, to own the Miss Universe Organisation. The Miss Universe pageant is broadcast in 165 countries, according to IMG.

In a statement, Chakrapong described the purchase as "a strong, strategic addition to our portfolio." JKN, which is involved in content distribution, beverages, food supplements, beauty and consumer products, said the Miss Universe name will be used to promote its consumer products.

Putin monitors practice launch by nuke forces

During the Russian drills Wednesday, a Yars land-based intercontinental ballistic missile was test-fired from the northern Plesetsk launch site



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Oct 26: Russian President Vladimir Putin Wednesday monitored drills of the country's strategic nuclear forces involving multiple practice launches of ballistic and cruise missiles, in a show of force amid the heightened tensions with the West over the conflict in Ukraine.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin that the exercise was intended to simulate a "massive nuclear strike" by Russia in retaliation for a nuclear attack on the country.

The maneuvers followed Putin's warning about his readiness to fend off attacks on Russia's territory in a clear reference to the country's nuclear arsenals. During the Russian drills Wednesday, a Yars land-based intercontinental ballistic missile was test-fired from the northern Plesetsk launch site. A Russian nuclear submarine in the Barents Sea launched a Sineva ICBM at the Kura firing range on the far-eastern Kamchatka Peninsula. As part of the exercise, Tu-95 strategic bombers also launched cruise missiles at practice targets.

The Kremlin said in a statement that all tasks set for the exercise were fulfilled and all the missiles that were test-fired reached their designated targets. The Russian drills came as NATO was holding its own annual nuclear exercises in northwestern Europe that will run until October 30.

The drills dubbed Steadfast Noon involve around 60 aircraft, including US long-range B-52 bombers and fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear weapons, but do not involve any live bombs. Russian maneuvers involving land, sea and air components of the nuclear triad have taken place on an annual basis to train the country's nuclear forces and demonstrate their readiness. A previous such exercise was held just days before Putin sent troops into Ukraine.

The Biden administration said Tuesday that Russia gave notice it intended to stage routine drills of its nuclear capabilities. The Pentagon and US State Department said Russia had complied with the terms of the last US-Russia arms control agreement in notifying Washington of the upcoming tests. The Russian nuclear exercise comes amid Moscow's warnings of a purported Ukrainian plot to detonate a radioactive device commonly known as a "dirty bomb" in a false flag attack to blame Russia.

Putin himself repeated the dirty bomb claim Wednesday. "We know about the plans to use the so-called dirty bomb for provocations," he said.

Sunak delays plan on public finances

IMPORTANT TO REACH RIGHT DECISIONS: SUNAK TELLS CABINET

REUTERS

London, Oct 26: Britain's new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Wednesday delayed the announcement of a keenly awaited plan for repairing the country's public finances until Nov 17, two-and-a-half weeks later than originally planned.

The postponement, Sunak's first policy decision since taking over from Liz Truss Tuesday, pushed up British borrowing costs in financial markets but by far less than seen in the panic bond selling caused by Truss's September tax-cutting plan.

Finance minister Jeremy Hunt announced the delay in a televised statement, saying it would take



more time to ensure the new plan took into account the latest economic forecasts.

"The prime minister and I have decided that it is prudent to make that statement on the 17th of November," Hunt said.

The plan is expected to set out how the government will plug a budget shortfall of as much as 40 billion pounds (\$46 billion). Unlike Truss's plan last month, it will be fully audited by Britain's fiscal watchdog.

A statement from Sunak's office said he told his newly assembled cabinet that it was "important to reach the right decisions and there is time for those decisions to be confirmed with cabinet."

Britain's credibility in financial markets was shaken last month when Truss announced her unfunded tax cuts, triggering a bond market rout so severe the Bank of England had to intervene and Truss was forced into a U-turn and eventually resigned.

Germany unveils cannabis liberalisation plan, with caveats

The cannabis plan is one of a series of reforms outlined in last year's coalition deal between the three socially liberal parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Oct 26: Germany's health minister unveiled a plan Wednesday to decriminalise the possession of up to 30 grams of cannabis and to allow the sale of the substance to adults for recreational purposes in a controlled market.

Berlin will check with the European Union's executive commission whether the plan approved by the German government is in line with EU laws and would proceed with legislation only if it gets the green light, Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said.

Lauterbach said the new rules could serve "as a model for Europe. Realistically, they won't take effect before 2024," he said.

The plan calls for cannabis to be grown under license and sold to adults at licensed outlets to combat the black market, Lauterbach said. Individuals would be allowed to grow up to three plants, and to buy or possess 20 to 30grams of marijuana.

If the legislation comes as planned, "this would be, on the one hand, the most liberal cannabis liberalisation in Europe, and on the other hand, it would also be



the most tightly regulated market," Lauterbach said.

He said "better youth and health protection" are the key aims of the government's proposal.

"It could be a model for Europe," which has a patchwork of often restrictive laws, he said.

The minister, who himself was

long sceptical about cannabis legalisation, argued that the current system isn't working, with consumption rising and the illegal market flourishing. He said 4 million people in Germany, a nation of 83 million, used cannabis last year and a quarter of 18- to 24-year-olds have used it.

This would be, on the one hand, the most liberal cannabis liberalisation in Europe, and on the other hand, it would also be the most tightly regulated market

KARL LAUTERBACH | HEALTH MINISTER, GERMANY

Lauterbach said Germany didn't want to emulate the model long practised by the Netherlands, Germany's northwestern neighbour. It combines decriminalisation with little market regulation. Germany will examine whether cannabis can be consumed where it is sold, but it doesn't currently plan to allow that, Lauterbach said. The same goes for the sale of the substance in edible form.

Shops that sell cannabis wouldn't be allowed also to sell alcohol or tobacco products, and couldn't be located near schools.

The government does not plan to set a price, but does intend to set quality requirements, the health minister said.

He left open whether a "cannabis tax" above and beyond the standard sales tax, which could be used to fund information on the risks of the drug, would be levied but said the product shouldn't be made so expensive that it can't compete with the black market.

The cannabis plan is one of a series of reforms outlined in last year's coalition deal between the three socially liberal parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government. They agreed at the time that the "social effects" of the new legislation would be examined after four years.

business

of the day quote

With a robust platform like Zoho Commerce, retailers can quickly create online stores and establish their presence on ONDC

Our partnership with TerraFirma Motors Corporation to enter the Southeast Asian region is an integral part of this expansion strategy

Although we have seen increased competition in our new products, we remain confident of our launch pipeline that will ensure sustainable growth

SHORT TAKES

Dabur Q2 profit slips; revenue up New Delhi: Homegrown FMCG major Dabur India Wednesday reported a 2.85 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹490.86 crore for the second quarter ended September 30 due to high inflation impacting consumption. The company had posted a net profit of ₹505.31 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, Dabur India said in a regulatory filing. However, its revenue from operations rose 6 per cent to ₹2,986.49 crore during the quarter under review against ₹2,817.58 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

Tata Steel inks pact with Ford Netherlands: Tata Steel has inked an agreement with American carmaker Ford to supply "zeremis green steel" from its Netherlands-based IJmuiden plant after the unit shifts to hydrogen-based steel making. In Europe, Tata Steel is working to switch to low-carbon technologies to manufacture steel in the UK and the Netherlands. The company's both businesses Tata Steel UK and Tata Steel Nederland have been developing detailed plans for transition to low CO2 technologies in line with the company's goal to produce CO2-neutral steel by 2050 in Europe.

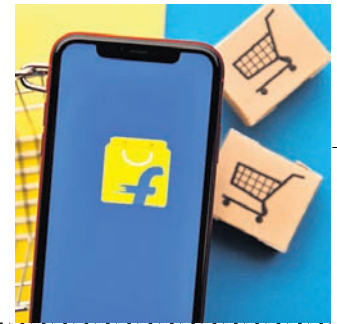
Microsoft net profit fall 14% San Francisco: Microsoft has reported 14 per cent decrease in its net profit for its first quarter of 2023 (July-September period) while revenues went up 11 per cent amid global decline in PC sales. Microsoft made \$50.1 billion in revenue and \$17.6 billion in net income in its first quarter of 2023. "In a world facing increasing headwinds, digital technology is the ultimate tailwind," said Satya Nadella, chairman and CEO of Microsoft. Microsoft Cloud revenue was \$25.7 billion, up 24 per cent year-over-year.

Govt gets ₹361crore dividend from PSUs New Delhi: The government has received ₹129 crore, ₹76 crore and ₹33 crore from SJVN, Antarkish Corporation of India and Manganese Ore (India) Ltd, respectively, as dividend tranches. The Centre has also received ₹33 crore, ₹34 crore and ₹56 crore from Electronics Corporation of India Ltd, Mineral Exploration Corporation and NBCC respectively as dividend tranches. Budget estimate for dividends from PSUs is ₹40,000 crore. So far, the Centre has garnered ₹15,766 crore through them.



Despite exogenous threats, India's well-targeted policy mix, accompanied by major structural reforms and sound external balance sheet, have aided its growth to remain resilient

WALMART'S PUSH TO FLIPKART Retail giant Walmart is reportedly raising up to \$3 billion for its e-commerce giant Flipkart to further expand its operations in the country. With new funds, Flipkart's valuation is set to soar to more than \$40 billion, giving a fillip to the Indian funding scene which is going through a harsh winter



CENTRAL BANKS' ACTION

Global growth heading into recession

After being late to call the inflation problem, global central banks have spent most of this year frontloading rate hikes to catch up. Most economists and central banks are of the view there will be little work left to do next year



I think that's pretty much a no-brainer when you look at the trend in all the key economies. Looking at the low jobless rate is problematic because it is a lagging indicator and the longer it stays stronger the more central banks will feel that they can continue to hike rates

respondents say it will be short and shallow in key economies - that may also keep inflation elevated for longer than most currently expect. A majority of the top global central banks are over two-thirds of the way to the expected terminal interest rate, but with inflation still

much higher than their mandates, the risk is those rate expectations are too low. Of the 22 central banks polled this time, only six were expected to hit their inflation targets by the end of next year. That was a downgrade from July surveys, where two-thirds of 18 were expected to hit their re-

TOUGH TIMES

- US Fed is expected to go for a fourth consecutive 75 basis points interest rate hike November 2, and economists say it shouldn't pause until inflation falls to around half its current level
China, the world's second largest economy, was expected to grow 3.2% in 2022, far below the official target of around 5.5% and also well below pre-pandemic growth rates
India's economy was also forecast to grow well below its potential over the next two years with medians showing 6.9% growth in the 2022-23 fiscal year and 6.1% next year
The euro zone economy was expected to grow 3.0% this year but flatline in 2023 before expanding 1.5% in 2024

bond markets are in disarray while the US dollar is at a multi-decade peak in foreign exchange markets based on US rate expectations. A strong 70 per cent majority of economists, 179 of 257, said chances of a sharp rise in unemployment over the coming year were low to very low, underscoring how widespread the view is among forecasters that it won't be a devastating recession. Global growth is forecast to slow to 2.3 per cent in 2023 from an expected 2.9 per cent this year, followed by a rebound to 3.0 per cent in 2024, according to Reuters polls of economists covering 47 key economies taken September 26 - October 25. Those were all downgrades from polls taken in July. Over 70 per cent of economists, 173 of 242, said the cost of living crisis in the economies they cover would worsen over the next six months. The remaining 64 expected it to improve. While the inflation cycle is global in nature, made worse by a sudden surge in energy prices after Russia invaded Ukraine February 24, much will depend on how far the US Federal Reserve was likely to push rates higher.

CBDT extends returns filing deadline for firms till Nov 7

New Delhi, Oct 26: The Finance Ministry Wednesday extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for the assessment year 2022-23 by businesses till November 7. The last date for filing ITR by companies who are required to get their accounts audited was October 31. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex decision-making body in matters of income and corporate tax, in a notification said since it had last month extended the deadline for filing audit reports, hence the ITR filing due date too is extended. "CBDT... Extends the due date of furnishing of Return of Income under sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act for the Assessment Year 2022-23, which is October 31, 2022... To November 7, 2022," the CBDT notification said.



The last date for filing ITR by companies who are required to get their accounts audited was October 31

TRADE DEFICIT SOARS

India, China trade crosses \$100bn during Jan-Sept

This is the second consecutive year that India-China bilateral trade has surpassed the \$100 billion mark



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

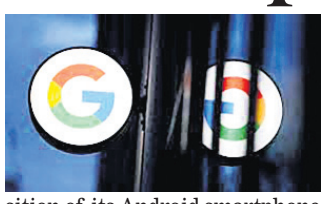
Beijing, Oct 26: India and China bilateral trade continued to boom, crossing \$100 billion for the second year in the first nine months of 2022 while India's trade deficit climbed to over \$75 billion, according to trade data released by Chinese customs. The total bilateral trade, amidst the military standoff in eastern Ladakh, went up to \$103.63 billion, registering a 14.6 per cent increase compared to last year during the same period. China's exports to India climbed to \$89.66 billion, registering an increase of 31 per cent, data released by China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) said.

However, India's exports in the past nine months stood at \$13.97 billion, registering a decline of 36.4 per cent. As a result, the total trade deficit went up to over \$75.69 billion. In 2021, the India-China bilateral trade hit a record high of over \$125 billion crossing the \$100 billion mark in a year when the relations touched a new low due to the standoff by the militaries in eastern Ladakh. Last year, China's exports to India went up by 46.2 per cent to \$97.52 billion while India's exports to China grew by 34.2 per cent to \$28.14 billion. The trade deficit for India stood at \$69.38 billion in 2021.

AFTER HEFTY FINES

Reviewing CCI's decision to evaluate next steps: Google

Google is also facing a separate probe into its business conduct in the news content and smart TV market in India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Slapped with a second hefty fine for anti-competitive practices, Google India Wednesday said it remains committed to users and developers and is reviewing the antitrust body's order to evaluate next steps. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) Tuesday slapped a ₹936 crore fine on Google for "abusing" its dominant position on its Android mobile app store and ordered it not to prevent app developers from using third-party billing or payment processing services in India. That penalty came just days after a ₹1,337.76 crore fine was imposed on it for abusing the dominant po-

sition of its Android smartphone operating system. Commenting Tuesday's CCI order, a Google India spokesperson said Indian app developers have benefited from the technology, security, consumer protection, choice and flexibility that Android and Google Play provide. "And, by keeping costs low, our model has powered India's digital transformation and expanded access for hundreds of millions of Indians," the spokesperson said. "We remain committed to our users and developers and are reviewing the decision to evaluate next steps." Google had called last week's penalty "a major setback for Indian consumers and businesses", and stated that it will review the order

and decide on its next steps. Appeals against CCI orders can be filed in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The search engine giant has faced criticism globally for mandating software developers using its app store to only use its proprietary in-app payment system that charge a commission of up to 30 per cent on purchases made within an app. In Tuesday's order, CCI asked Google to "cease and desist" from anti-competitive practices and not restrict app developers from using third-party billing or payment-processing services. CCI asked Google to follow a non-discriminatory policy against other apps that allow payments via Unified Payments Interface (UPI). "Indian developers have benefited from the technology, security, consumer protections, and unrivaled choice and flexibility that Android and Google Play provide," a Google India spokesperson said.

Govt nudges LIC to tweak product strategy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: The government is nudging LIC to tweak its product strategy to maximise profitability in a bid to help the country's largest insurer realise its full growth potential and yield better returns for investors, an official said. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has been trading below the issue price of ₹949 a share ever since it got listed on stock exchanges May 17. It listed at ₹872 apiece on NSE. On Tuesday, the scrip settled at ₹595.50, down 0.72 per cent over the previous close. Foreign brokerages, however, re-

FOR BETTER INVESTOR RETURN



main bullish on LIC setting a higher target price over the next year as they feel that the insurer has good medium-term market potential, negligible high risk assets and robust core operating Return on Embedded Value (ROEV).

Citi in a research report dated October 14 set a target price of ₹1,000 for LIC scrip, saying LIC is "positioned better than mature global players". The finance ministry in its performance review has been sensitising the LIC management about the steps that could be taken to better investor wealth and focus on non-participating products or term plans to improve profitability. "With the listing of LIC, the process of modernisation of the over 65-year-old institution has started. We are working with the

management so that they modernise their product offering and lower dividend payout to policyholders," the official told PTI. In non-participating insurance products, insurers do not need to share their profit in form of dividend with policyholders, whereas in case of participating or par products, the insurer shares dividend with policyholders. "The younger generation is more inclined to term plan. LIC will have to rework their strategy and decide what should be done so that their asset under management is utilised to its full potential," the official added.

Union Bank gets new head for Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Satyaban Behera, DGM has joined as the new Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Region. Prior to this, Behera was working as the Regional Head in Berhampur Regional Office. Having more than 27 years of vast experience he has worked in different functional capacities in different places in West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Behera was promoted to the post of AGM in 2017 and DGM in 2020 for his sincerity, dedication and efficiency. It is noted that, Bhubaneswar Region has 62 branches under Puri and Khordha district with a business mix of 18,000 crore. During his tenure as Regional Head of Bhubaneswar Region, he is likely to give more emphasis on retail and MSME.



Zee-Sony merger: Groups agree to sell three Hindi channels

The two groups have agreed to divest Big Magic, which is a Hindi general entertainment channel, as well as Zee Action and Zee Classic, which are Hindi film channels

ANTI-COMPETITION WOES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 26: Media groups Sony and Zee have voluntarily agreed to sell three Hindi channels - Big Magic, Zee Action and Zee Classic - to address possible anti-competition concerns arising out of their proposed mega-merger deal. They submitted their proposal to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which cleared the deal subject to certain modifications October 4. More than three weeks after giving its nod for the transaction, the

regulator Wednesday made public its detailed 58-page order. The two groups have agreed to divest Big Magic, which is a Hindi general entertainment channel, as well as Zee Action and Zee Classic, which are Hindi film channels, according to the order. They voluntarily agreed to the modification to the proposed deal after CCI's prima-facie opinion that the deal was likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition. Deals beyond a certain threshold compulsorily require the approval of CCI, which seeks

to ensure fair competition in the marketplace. On October 4, CCI said it has cleared the proposed Zee-Sony merger deal, which was announced in September last year. To ensure fair competition in the relevant markets, the regulator has also mandated various requirements to be fulfilled by the purchaser concerned before buying

the three channels. One of the conditions is that the purchaser should not be "Star India Private Limited or Viacom18 Media Private Limited (including their respective affiliates)". The purchaser should be independent of and with no connection whatsoever with the resultant entity and its affiliates. Also, it

should not be either a past or present employee or director (or spouse or child of such employee or director), as per the order. Among other conditions, the purchaser should have the financial resources, expertise and incentive to maintain and develop the divestment business as a viable and active competitor to the parties and/or the resultant entity in the relevant market. The purchaser "neither be likely to create any prima facie competition concerns, nor give rise to a risk that the implementation of the Order will be delayed, and must, in particular, reasonably be expected to obtain all necessary approvals from the relevant regulatory authorities for the acquisition and operation of the divestment business," the order said. The divestment business refers

to the sale of the three channels. CCI also noted that in case the parties fail to comply with the voluntary modifications submitted, the proposed combination would be deemed to have caused an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. On October 4, CCI said it has approved the "amalgamation of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) and Bangla Entertainment Private Limited (BEPL) with Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CME), with certain modifications". CME was earlier known as Sony Pictures Networks India Pvt Ltd (SPNI). ZEEL, in September 2021, said it has entered into a non-binding term sheet with SPNI to bring together their linear networks, digital assets, production operations and programme libraries.



OZ TOO 'COLD' TOWARDS INDIA

AGENCIES

Sydney, Oct 26: Cold sandwiches and falafel after an exhausting practice session were just not appetising enough for some in the Indian cricket team and several players refused the offering, opting for meals in their hotel rooms instead.

The Indian players prefer hot food, which is considered a must after an intense training session, and Tuesday it was not part of the menu, which included fruits apart from falafel (spiced mashed chickpeas or other pulses formed into balls).

It is understood that the after-practice menu is almost the same for all the teams.

The team management had rested all the fast bowlers while all-rounder Hardik Pandya, batter Suryakumar Yadav and spinner Axar Patel also did not take part in the optional training session.

The players, who sweated it out ahead of the clash, were probably expecting a proper meal ahead of the T20 World Cup match against the Netherlands Thursday.

"It's not like any boycott. Some players did pick up fruits and falafel but everyone wanted to have lunch

ICC T20I RANKINGS KOHLI STORMS INTO TOP 10; BHUVI, PANDYA TOO RISE

Dubai: Star India batter Virat Kohli stormed his way back into the top 10 T20I batting chart, climbing up five spots to ninth position in the latest rankings issued Wednesday. Kohli has been rewarded for his heroics against Pakistan in India's T20 World Cup opener against arch-rivals Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground last Sunday. Kohli smashed an unbeaten 82 to guide India to a memorable last-ball victory, the knock catapulting the former India captain into the top 10 of T20I batters list. The 33-year-old hit six fours and four sixes during his glorious innings. India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar jumped two spots to the 10th spot in the bowlers' rankings, while Hardik Pandya rose three places to third in the all-rounders chart following his impressive start to the T20 World Cup. Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan (849 rating points) continues to occupy the top spot, with New Zealand opener Devon Conway (831) rising three places to replace Suryakumar Yadav from the second position. With 828 rating points in his kitty, Suryakumar dropped to the third spot but was ahead of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (799) and South Africa's Aiden Markram (762). Among bowlers, Bhuvneshwar has been rewarded for his tidy figures of 1/22 from four overs against Pakistan. Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan overtook Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood to re-claim the No.1 T20I bowler's position. Meanwhile, Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan remained the top ranked all-rounder, with Afghanistan counterpart Mohammad Nabi in second spot and just 14 rating points behind. Pandya scaled to third on the list after picking up three valuable wickets against Pakistan and then combined well with Kohli to score 40 during India's thrilling chase.

wich (not even grilled) with avocado, tomato and cucumber after two hours of intense training. That is plain and simple inadequate nourishment," the source added.

The ICC said it is looking into the issue and promised to sort the matter soon. "Yes, the Indian team has told us about their issues with the food after practice. We are trying to figure out and the issue will be sorted," an ICC source told PTI.

According to reports, the post-practice food included custom sandwiches, fruits, and falafel (very common in this part of the world). Notably, unlike in bilateral series, where the host association is in charge of hospitality, the International Cricket Council (ICC) is providing food and lodging during the T20 World Cup 2022.

It will be interesting to see if the BCCI steps in and arranges hot Indian meals for the players at the next training session, if the issue is not resolved.

INDIA VS NETHERLANDS
Time 12:30 PM
Telecast STAR SPORTS CHANNELS AND HOTSTAR

Colombia shoot down Flamingos

SHAMBHU DATTA MISHRA, OP

Goa, Oct 26: There were attacks and there were defences. There were scoring opportunities and so were the misses and saves. But in the end, it all came down to the face-off between the custodians, where the Colombian — Luisa Agudelo — nailed it.

Luisa first had some aid from the post when she denied Nigeria's fifth shot in the penalty shootout — a potential match-winner, struck by Omamuzo Edeaf — before a clear save against Comfort Folorunso leading her side into the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup final with a 6-5 victory via sudden death at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here.

The game might got finished goalless at the end of stipulated time, but those 100 minutes (including added-on times in both halves) were action-packed. The start was slow as players from both the sides looked nervous as they made passing errors and lacked ball control at crucial junctures.

However, it was the Flamingos, as the Nigerians are known as, who got into their stride first. They were relentless with most of their attacks from the right side. But, Colombian defence was strong enough to deny the Nigerians any opportunity to

trouble their custodian Luisa. Colombia gradually got into their stride as they missed a superb chance to take the lead in the 16th minute. Gabriela Rodriguez managed to steal the possession in the opposition-half before sending in a low cross from right flank into the box and the Nigerian goalie Faith Omlana and a defender fumbled close to the post. Orianna Quintero was on the spot and managed to take the shot but Faith put her body on the line to deny the Colombians the lead.

In the 25th minute, Colombian skipper Linda Caicedo, who was the main threat for the Flamingos throughout the match, played it for Orianna in the right flank, before the latter sent in a cross to find Yesica Munoz, who went for a finesse shot only to miss the target.

Mary Espitaleta almost broke the deadlock three minutes later when her direct free-kick from just outside of the Nigerian box hit the crossbar before ricocheted only for Yesica to head straight into the hands of Nigerian goalie. Despite creating some clear scoring opportunities, neither of the sides failed to break the deadlock with the players headed into the tunnel goalless at the halftime.

After the change of ends, Colombians looked to attack more, which somehow hurried the

Flamingos to make passing. Linda was the centre of most of the Colombian attacks as they continued to create chance after chance only to be disappointed with the final result — missing out on a goal.

Despite having less ball possession compared to their opponents, Colombians were on top throughout the game, leave the first 10-15 minutes. Their defence, which was looking fragile in the beginning, slowly found confidence and started to deliver. The Colombians have eight shots on target compared to Nigeria's two throughout the match.

Both the sides tried their best to find the winning strike but failed to do so as the match went into the penalty shootout, where Colombians began the proceeding. For Colombia, Gabriela, Stefania Perlaza, Mary, Linda, Juana Ortega and Natalia Hernandez hit the target, while Yesica's effort was saved by substitute goalie Chikamsio Jiwuaku.

For Nigeria, Edet Offiong, Eddionng Etim, Miracle Usani, Taiwo Afolabi were on target before Omamuzo's strike hit the post to Luisa's left. Shakirat Oyinlola kept Nigeria in the game before Luisa saved Comfort effort and denying the Flamingos a chance to secure a berth at the summit clash in the process.



Spanish Armada sinks Germany

POST NEWS NETWORK

Goa, Oct 26: Lucia Corrales came on as a substitute in the 71st minute and turned out to be the difference between Spain and Germany in the second semifinal of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup here, Wednesday. Spain will lock horns with Colombia for the crown October 30 in Navi Mumbai.

It was thrilling contest from the word go. Most of the time, both the side were playing end-to-end football before Germany's Mara Alber gave the Spaniards a wake-up call with a stunning strike from distance which missed the post by a narrow margin.

After that, Spain slowly got into the groove and created some scoring opportunities. In the 12th minute, a Vicky Lopez cross found Cristina Libran inside the German box. However, Libran's well-guided header hit the bar.

It looked like Germany broke the deadlock in the 19th minute after winning a corner. Alber scored after a build-up play from the corner. However, referee stopped their celebrations as VAR was called up for help. After a lengthy check — close



to five-six minutes — the goal was denied as Alara Sehntler was found offside during the build-up play.

Alber was the main threat for Spain as she was trying different methods to break the deadlock — sometimes going for a shot from distance and sometimes dribbling past Spanish players to create chances for her teammates. In the 29th, her right-footed shot from distance hit the crossbar. Despite having several scoring opportunities, including some gilt-edged ones, neither of the sides found a goal as the score remained goalless at halftime.

After the change of ends, the

Ireland upstage England again

THIS WAS ALSO IRELAND'S MAIDEN WIN IN THE SECOND STAGE OF THE T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Oct 26: Ireland continued their giant-killing act in the T20 World Cup and pulled off yet another upset win, defeating England by five runs via the Duckworth-Lewis method to throw open group 1 of the T20 World Cup here Wednesday.

Having stormed into Super 12 by eliminating two-time champions West Indies, Ireland rode on a sparkling 47-ball 62 by skipper Andy Balbirnie and looked for a 180-plus total before England dragged them back to bowl them out for 157 in 19.2 overs. Leg-spinner Liam Livingstone triggered the collapse before pacer Mark Wood seized the initiative as the duo returned with three wickets each to deny Ireland 15-20 runs extra.

Chasing the tricky target, the 2010 champions were 105/5 in 14.3 overs, five runs short of the DLS target of 110 as the play could not be started within the cutoff time due to rain and Ireland completed



their second win over England in a World Cup. Ireland were let down by their fielding but overall they towered over their English rivals both in batting and bowling.

Eleven years ago at the ODI World Cup in India, Kevin O'Brien had inspired a stunning win over England at the Chinnaswamy.

Overall, this was Ireland's third win over England with two coming in the ODI format.

The Ireland win has now opened the doors for Australia as five of the six teams in the group now have two points each.

BRIEF SCORES
Ireland: 157 all out in 19.2 overs (Andy Balbirnie 62, Lorcan Tucker 34; Mark Wood 3/34. Liam Livingstone 3/17, Sam Curran 2/31) **England:** 105 for 5 in 14.3 overs (Dawid Malan 35, Moeen Ali 24; Josh Little 2/16, George Dockrell 1/5).

Messi stars, PSG among 4 teams advancing in Champions League

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 26: His first goal was a nonchalant, outside-of-the-foot finish. His second was pretty much his trademark — fast feet outside the area and then a precise curler into the corner.

Lionel Messi kept up his stellar pre-World Cup form to help rampant Paris Saint-Germain become one of four teams to advance to the last 16 of the Champions League Tuesday, along with Chelsea, Benfica and Borussia Dortmund.

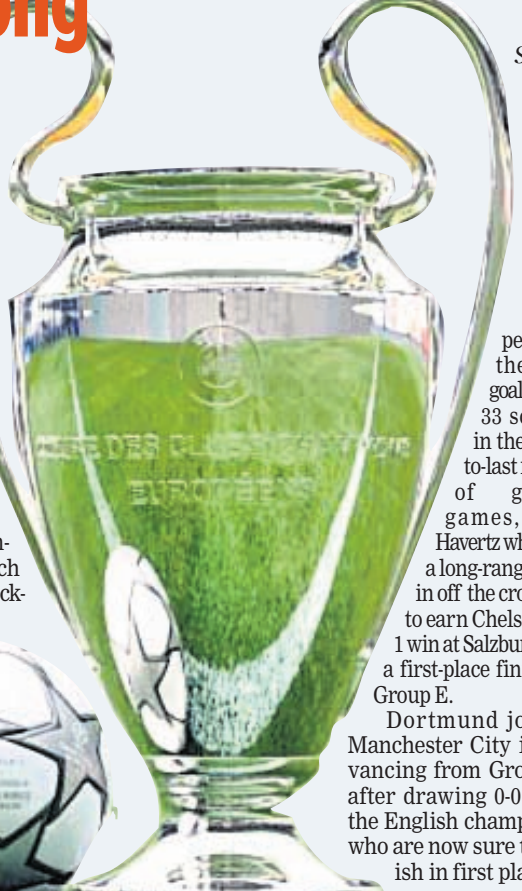
That's more than half of the round of 16 lineup confirmed now — five clubs had already gone through — and PSG will be one of the teams its rivals are looking to avoid, especially with Messi in this mood. Kylian Mbappe, too.

At opposite ends of their careers, the two superstar forwards are tasked with guiding the French champions to a first Champions League title and they both scored twice in a 7-2 thrashing of Maccabi Haifa.

Neymar, the other member of the team's

high-profile attacking trident, also scored in a victory that guaranteed PSG a top-two finish alongside Benfica in Group H. Both teams are on 11 points heading into the final round.

Benfica was a 4-3 winner over Juventus, which has failed to reach the knockout stage for the first time since the 2013-14 season.



With perhaps the best goal of the 33 scored in the next-to-last round of group games, Kai Havertz whipped a long-range shot in off the crossbar to earn Chelsea a 2-1 win at Salzburg and a first-place finish in Group E.

Dortmund joined Manchester City in advancing from Group G after drawing 0-0 with the English champions, who are now sure to finish in first place.

It's the 18th time in 19 group-stage campaigns that Chelsea, a two-time Champions League winner, has advanced. PSG has done so for 11 straight seasons now but has yet to win European soccer's biggest prize

Already-qualified Real Madrid, the defending champion, lost 3-2 at Leipzig and must wait to seal top spot on Group F. Leipzig is on the brink of advancing after moving three points clear of Shakhtar Donetsk, which drew 1-1 at Celtic.

MILAN'S CHANCE
While Chelsea is through with a game to spare, AC Milan still has work to do in the group.

The seven-time European champion beat Dinamo Zagreb 4-0 away to jump into second, a point above Salzburg. The teams meet next week and Milan needs to avoid defeat to return to the Champions League's knockout stage for the first time in nine years.

Matteo Gabbia, Rafael Leão — with a fine solo goal — and a penalty by Olivier Giroud put Milan 3-0 ahead before Dinamo midfielder Robert Ljubicic scored an own-goal.

MADRID LOSES
Real Madrid fielded a weakened team — star striker Karim Benzema and Luka Modric were among those missing — and fell to its first loss of the season in all competitions.

Josko Gvardiol and Christopher Nkunku scored for Leipzig before Vinicius Junior reduced the deficit with an instinctive header.

Substitute Timo Werner restored the two-goal cushion for Leipzig, which conceded again when Rodrygo converted a penalty in stoppage time.

India play out thrilling draw against Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johor Bahru, Oct 26: The Indian junior men's hockey team scored a last-minute goal to play out a thrilling 5-5 draw against Australia and occupy the second spot in round-robin league standings of the Sultan of Johor Cup, here Wednesday.

Amandeep (60th minute) saved India with a final minute strike after Bobby Singh Dhani (2nd), Sharda Nand Tiwari (8th, 35th) and Arjitt Singh Hundal (18th) found the Australian net. Liam Hart (3rd), Jack Holland (8th), Joshua Brooks (20th, 41st) and Jake Lambeth (49th) were the goal scorers for Australia.

Australia are leading the standings with 10 points from four games, while India are placed second with two wins, one draw and one loss.

Against Australia, the Indians made a superb start with captain Uttam Singh getting to the baseline and laying the ball off for his deputy Dhani to score from their very first move. But less than a minute later, Australia equalised through Hart.

The lead, though, was wiped off in six minutes as Brooks' penalty corner made it 4-4. India will play Great Britain in their fifth game Friday.