



LOVE FOR CITY OF JOY

Anushka Sharma says she loves everything about Kolkata and it's a pleasure to return there to shoot *Chakada Xpress*

LEISURE P2



BIG INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST

Rajnath Singh launches 75 infrastructure projects in strategically key areas of Ladakh, J&K, Arunachal and Sikkim

NATIONAL P9



PUTIN PRAISES MODI

Russian President Vladimir Putin praises PM Narendra Modi for pursuing 'independent foreign policy'

INTERNATIONAL P10

Pranab Prakash new OCA chief

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 28: BJD MLA Pranab Prakash Das was elected unopposed Friday as the president of the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) during the AGM of the body at the OCA Conference Hall at the Barabati Stadium complex here. This was expected as on the last day of filing nomination, no one else had done so.



In fact all the six candidates contesting for the various post of office-bearers in the OCA were elected unopposed. In the process, Sanjay Behera was elected as the secretary of OCA for a second term. Bikash Pradhan also retained his position as OCA treasurer.

Soon after the results were declared, the senior BJD leader announced that he would work for the development of cricket at the grassroots level and also work for upgrading the Barabati Stadium.

Das said he will focus on developing cricket infrastructure in all the 30 districts of the state and added that he will work as per instructions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. "We will certainly try and unearth new talents in all the districts of the state," Das said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Hate speech? I thought they were running a news debate!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	59959.85 ↑ 203.01
NIFTY	17786.80 ↑ 49.85
DOLLAR	82.18 ↓ ₹0.48
EURO	81.81 ↓ ₹0.24
GOLD	₹50,261 ↓ ₹476
SILVER	₹57,569 ↓ ₹709

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	31.8°C
TEMP MIN	19.0°C	20.0°C
Humidity	73%	70%
Rainfall	Nil	Light rain likely

A 13,560-km flight could place this bird in record books

AGENCIES

Canberra, Oct 28: A young bar-tailed godwit appears to have set a non-stop distance record for migratory birds by flying at least 13,560 kilometers (8,435 miles) from Alaska to the Australian state of Tasmania, a bird expert said Friday.

The bird was tagged as a hatchling in Alaska during the Northern Hemisphere summer with a tracking GPS chip and tiny solar panel that enabled an international research team to follow its first annual migration across the Pacific

Ocean, Birdlife Tasmania convenor Eric Woehler said. Because the bird was so young, its gender wasn't known.

Aged about five months, it left southwest Alaska at the Yuko-Kuskokwim Delta October 13 and touched down 11 days later at Ansons Bay on the island of Tasmania, a bird expert said Friday. The bird was tagged as a hatchling in Alaska during the Northern Hemisphere summer with a tracking GPS chip and tiny solar panel that enabled an international research team to follow its first annual migration across the Pacific



western course toward Japan then turned southeast over Alaska's Aleutian Islands, a map published

by New Zealand's Pukoro Miranda Shorebird Center shows. The bird was again tracking

southwest when it flew over or near Kiribati and New Caledonia, then past the Australian mainland before turning directly west for Tasmania, Australia's most southerly state. The satellite trail showed it covered 13,560 kilometers (8,435 miles) without stopping.

"Whether this is an accident, whether this bird got lost or whether this is part of a normal pattern of migration for the species, we still don't know," said Woehler, who is part of the research project.

Guinness World Records lists the longest recorded migration by

a bird without stopping for food or rest as 12,200 km (7,580 miles) by a satellite-tagged male bar-tailed godwit flying from Alaska to New Zealand. That flight was recorded in 2020 as part of the same decade-old research project, which also involves China's Fudan University, New Zealand's Massey University and the Global Flyway Network.

The same bird broke its own record with a 13,000-kilometer (8,100-mile) flight on its next migration last year, researchers say. But Guinness has yet to acknowledge that feat. **Continued on P4**

EC can't regulate freebies: Congress

The Opposition party in its response to the EC proposal said that 'the issue does not fall under the poll body's jurisdiction' and asked 'how can the EC decide on the definition of freebies'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Congress Friday said the Election Commission does not have the jurisdiction to regulate issues such as freebies, and urged the panel to focus on ensuring free and fair polls through proper implementation of election laws.

The poll panel October 4 had proposed amending the model code to ask political parties to provide authentic information to voters on the financial viability of their poll promises, a move that came amid the freebies versus welfare measures debate that had triggered a political slugfest.

Such issues are part of the dialectics of a vibrant democratic system and depend on wisdom, discernment and analysis of the electorate which should never be taken to be less than acute, the Opposition party said.

"It is really something which is to be decided, be it pre-election or post-election, be it by way of electoral punishment or electoral ac-



ceptance and reward that the electorate decides the wisdom of such poll promises or campaign assurances and equally decides their breach and non-compliance," Congress general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh wrote to the Election Commission (EC). "Neither the Election Commission, nor the government, nor indeed even the courts, have jurisdiction to justify and regulate such issues. It would therefore be best for the commission to desist from doing so," he said.

The EC had also said that empty poll promises have far-reaching

ramifications, adding it cannot overlook the undesirable impact inadequate disclosures on election promises have on financial sustainability. In a letter to all recognised national and state parties, the commission had asked them to submit their views on the proposals by October 19.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete told a press conference that the matter first came up when Prime Minister Narendra Modi July 16 raised the issue of 'revis' (freebies), after which the EC took up the issue and wrote to parties seeking their response.

She said the debate on the issue of 'revis' in a democracy is distorted as it is the duty of any government to take care of the poor and oppressed classes, and evolve schemes for their uplift.

The Congress in its response to the EC proposal has said that "the issue does not fall under the poll body's jurisdiction" and asked "how can the Election Commission decide on the definition of freebies." **Continued on P4**

Aerial survey soon in Maoist-hit areas



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Oct 28: For the last few weeks, some parts of Kandhamal district have been witnessing sporadic incidents of violence by Maoists. Taking serious note of this, the police, the BSF and the CRPF have drawn up a blueprint to counter Left-Wing Extremism in the district. Significantly, aerial survey by helicopters will be included in the counter strategy of security agencies in Maoist-affected areas.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting here Friday in the presence of senior official of state police, CRPF and BSF.

Maoists recently killed a youth suspecting him to be a police informer and set ablaze a JCB machine, two tractors and two mixer machines of a construction agency recently in Sudra panchayat.

Director of state police intelligence Sanjib Kumar Panda, IG Operation Amitabh Thakur, DIG

Annirudh Singh, BSF IG Dhaneswar Kumar Sharma, DIG Dharendra Kumar came in a helicopter here Friday. They held a review meeting on the ongoing anti-Maoist operations in the district with SP Vinit Agrawal, southern range DIG Satyabrata Bhoi, Baliguda SDPO G Raghavendra and CRPF Commandant Anand Jha.

"As per decision taken in the meeting, aerial survey by helicopters will be carried out in Maoist-affected areas like Gochhapada, Pahiraju, Kalampadar, Raja, Mangupadar, Sangidia, Lubengad and some other areas in the district. Stern measures will be taken in days to come against the Maoists," said Thakur.

It may be noted that a woman Maoist was killed during a combing operation in a forest October 11. A huge cache of explosives was recovered. In a revenge act, Maoists had killed a youth, and burnt construction equipment in Sudra panchayat under Baliguda block.

Musk closes Twitter deal, fires CEO Parag

AGENCIES

New York, Oct 28: "The bird is freed," billionaire Elon Musk tweeted Friday after completing the whopping USD 44 billion takeover of Twitter and firing the social media giant's four top executives, including CEO Parag Agrawal and legal executive Vijaya Gadde.

The New York Times said that Musk, the world's richest man, closed the deal to buy Twitter Thursday. "The bird is freed," Musk, 51, tweeted, referring to Twitter's popular logo, and indicating that he has closed the deal.

Citing people with knowledge of the situation, the report said that Musk "has started cleaning house at Twitter with the firings of at least four top executives".

The Twitter executives who were fired include Agrawal, Gadde, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal and General Counsel Sean Edgett.

"At least one of the executives who was fired was escorted out of Twitter's office," the report said.

The deal's closing removes a cloud of uncertainty that has hung over Twitter's business, employees and shareholders for much of the year, CNN commented. **P11**

PM for 'One Nation, One Police Uniform'

AGENCIES

Surajkund, Oct 28: The idea of 'One Nation, One Police Uniform' mooted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday is yet another scheme of his government for a common policy for citizen-centric services.

This was suggested by the prime minister at a meeting here of state home ministers - Chintan Shivir - in which he also emphasised that crimes have become borderless and this needs a collective response.

The government had earlier launched 'One Nation, One Mobility' card, 'One Nation, One Ration Card', 'One Nation, One Sign Language' and 'One Nation, One Grid'. "This is a suggestion and it may take five years or 50 years to implement, but let us at least start thinking in that direction," Modi said, adding that "One Nation, One Police Uniform will give a common identity to law enforcement." **Continued on P4**

leisure



EMMA TALKS ABOUT INTIMATE SCENES IN MY POLICEMAN

English actress Emma Corrin, who is awaiting the release of her movie *My Policeman*, recently opened up about the importance of intimate scenes in the film. The film, which also stars Harry Styles (Tom) and David Dawson, sees Emma playing the role of Tom's wife, Marion.

KANYE WANTED TO NAME HIS 2018 ALBUM AFTER HITLER

Rapper Kanye West's obsession with Adolf is so big that he wanted to name his eighth album Hitler. Sources claimed to a news channel that the rapper suggested naming the record, which was released in 2018, after the infamous world leader before eventually going with Ye.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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 accuracy • reliability • trust
 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
 You are open to the idea of spirituality today. So, you may want to take responsibility for your past mistakes, including sour relations with neighbours. This will help to lay the foundation for your future success, assures Ganesh.

TAURUS
 There is an indication that you will be perturbed due to some unpleasant developments that may take place today, predicts Ganesh. You will need to labour hard to complete your pending assignments at the workplace. Nostalgia will engulf you and your beloved as you spend time with each other tonight.

GEMINI
 You will need to curb your tendency to pay attention to the professional demands and needs of other people over your own. Your work-load today will demand creative solutions and will require some amount of brain-storming with your colleagues.

CANCER
 You will be attracted to the opposite sex and a love affair may ensue. You will turn more open and generous. You will have a realisation and handle issues with understanding. Ganesh is with you.

LEO
 You will need to curb down on your aggressive nature today. You will face a lot of situations today where you may lose your temper owing to minor issues and will later feel depressed. Calm and peace is required to progress in life, along with courage.

VIRGO
 Ganesh warns that there may be a lot of problems brewing for you today. You will need to put in a lot of extra efforts in order to complete a lot of work that is pending because you have been procrastinating for a long time. You will feel inclined to share your most intimate secrets with your partner.

LIBRA
 Ganesh says you will try to maintain a place of pride and your status quo in society. You will be able to impress people with your speech and your wit. You will gain popularity amongst people because of your personality and your external appearance. Ganesh assures you that you will have a successful day today.

SCORPIO
 An eventful day lies ahead of you, says Ganesh. The first half of the day would be packed with routine activities, fighting cut-throat competition on field. However, you become a fashionista in the second half as you plan to attend a social function and take the centre stage.

SAGITTARIUS
 If you see people fainting when you pass by, blame it on that thousand watts, sparkling smile of yours. At work, your colleagues will benefit from your expertise and skills. In the evening, your heart may be thumping faster as your plan a special date with your sweetheart!

CAPRICORN
 Love is in the air for you, today. You will take your sweetheart out for a romantic dinner, shopping or anything of that sort and pamper him/her to the hilt. But, don't spend like a sailor as you have limited sources of income, advises Ganesh. Busy in social gatherings and parties, you will make a mark on everyone's mind with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS
 Be appreciative of the achievements of others as it will inspire them to continue and put their best foot forward. Your amicable approach at work will create friendly environment and motivate your colleagues to perform better. You will be in the good books of everyone, says Ganesh.

PISCES
 It is a great day to be social and catch up with friends and make travel plans with near and dear ones. You find peace, comfort and pleasure in any travel that you undertake today.



Anushka's love for 'City of Joy'

Kolkata: Actress Anushka Sharma is currently shooting for *Chakda Xpress* in Kolkata and several parts of West Bengal that is significant in Jhulan Goswami's journey to reach the summit of global glory. She reveals how the City of Joy has always had a significant place in her heart.

very special place in my heart. The warmth of the city and the people, the delicious food, the beautiful architecture - I love everything about Kolkata and it is a pleasure to be back in the City of Joy for *Chakda Xpress*," she says.

"The last time I shot a film here was for *Pari* and I have several fond memories from shooting that project here. I had also shot the announcement video of *Chakda Xpress* at the Eden Gardens and Jhulan had dropped by for the same. It was amazing to have her on the set and interact with her," adds the Sultan actress.

The hugely-mounted Netflix Film, which is tracing the glorious journey of one of the fastest female pacers in the history of world cricket, Jhulan, will showcase how the pacer moves up the ladder despite countless hindrances to fulfil her only dream: to play cricket.

"Kolkata has always had a

Shraddha raises curiosity bar for Bhediya

Mumbai: The wolves are howling in unison as after *Param Sundari*, Kriti Sanon is back to shaking a leg on the first song from her upcoming movie *Bhediya*, titled *Thumkeshwari*.

The funky dance number sees Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon swaying to Ganesh Acharya's choreography. But, the major takeaway from the song is Shraddha Kapoor, who also features grooving to the upbeat number.

Sharing his thoughts on the track, Varun Dhawan said in a statement: "*Thumkeshwari* is a number that's tailor made to burn the dance floor. I thoroughly enjoyed performing to its funky tune. The song's lyrics are a catchy delight, and I am sure fans are going to have a gala time dancing to the track."

Bhediya belongs to the horror-comedy universe of producer Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films and Shraddha featuring in the song takes the viewers back to the Stree days and piques the interest of the audience behind this appearance of her in the film as well.

The film, which also stars Deepak Dobriyal and Abhishek Banerjee, will have a pan-India theatrical release in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil in 2D and 3D November 25. IANS



Kiara out of Gowariker movie; here's why!

Mumbai: Kiara Advani is currently on a roll with some very interesting projects up her sleeves. The actress was also a part of Ashutosh Gowariker's upcoming film, *Karram Kurram*, until she recently backed out.

Kiara has opted out of *Karram Kurram* reportedly because she felt the film lacked commercial appeal. The actress thinks that it will not be a perfect fit for her. So far, the announcement of Kiara backing out has not been made official, but they will definitely announce a new lead once locked, a report stated.

The film will

follow the success story of a popular papad brand that would be helmed by Glenn Baretto and Ankush Mohla. Kiara Advani was reportedly roped in to play a prominent part in the film.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kiara will next be seen in *Govinda Naam Mera* with Vicky Kaushal and Bhumi Pednekar. The actress has also started shooting for *SatyaPrem Ki Katha* where she will be reuniting with her *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* co-star Kartik Aaryan.



16TH GURU DEBAPRASAD AWARD FESTIVAL- DAY 1

Odissi dance, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt's Mohan Veena recital captivate viewers

Bhubaneswar: The 16th Guru Debaprasad Award Festival organised by Tridhara started with great enthusiasm and excitement among the art connoisseurs thronging Rabindra Mandap here Friday. The festival will continue till October 30.

The objective of organising the event is to honour the legendary Gurus and artistes in the field of dance and music and to promote Odissi dance.

The first presentation in the inaugural evening was Odissi dance recital Mahalaxmi Ashtakam, taken from Padma Purana featuring Lord Indra's praise of goddess Laxmi, by the members of Tridhara. The music was composed by Guru Gopal Chandra Panda while Guru Sachidananda Das did the rhythm

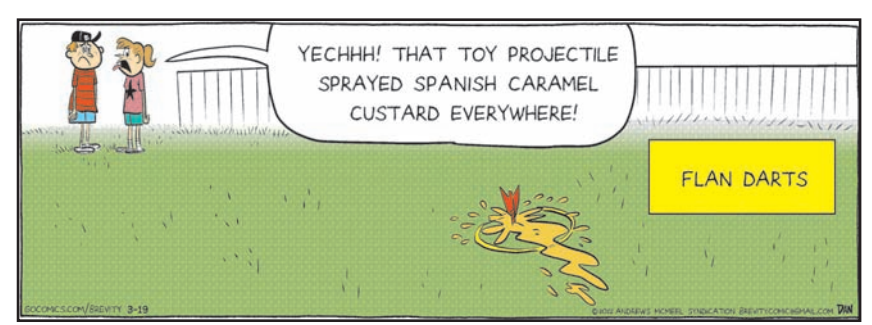


A recital by Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt at Rabindra Mandap, Friday. OP PHOTO

composition. The dance was choreographed by Guru Gajendra Kumar Panda. The next presentation was Vande Mataram dedicated to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The music was composed by Sukanta Kundu to the rhythm composition of Guru Surendra Moharana. Guru Panda also choreographed the dance. The second programme of the

evening was the Mohan Veena recital by eminent Hindustani classical music maestro Padmabhusan Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and his grandson Atharv Bhatt. Their presentation was Alap Jhod Jhal, Bilambit Gat Tritaal and Dhruv Gat Tritaal based on rag shyaamkalyan. They were accompanied by Prosenjit Poddar in tabla. PNN

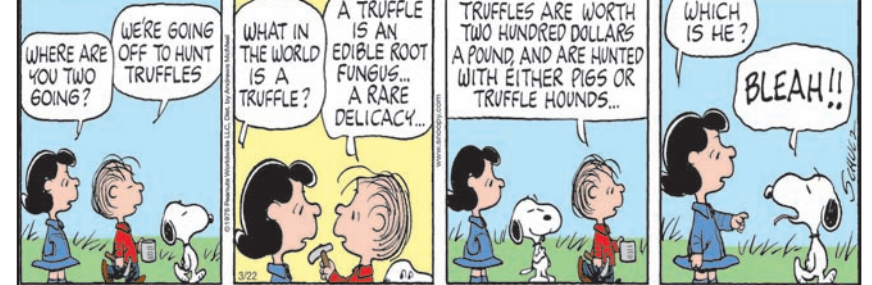
PEANUTS



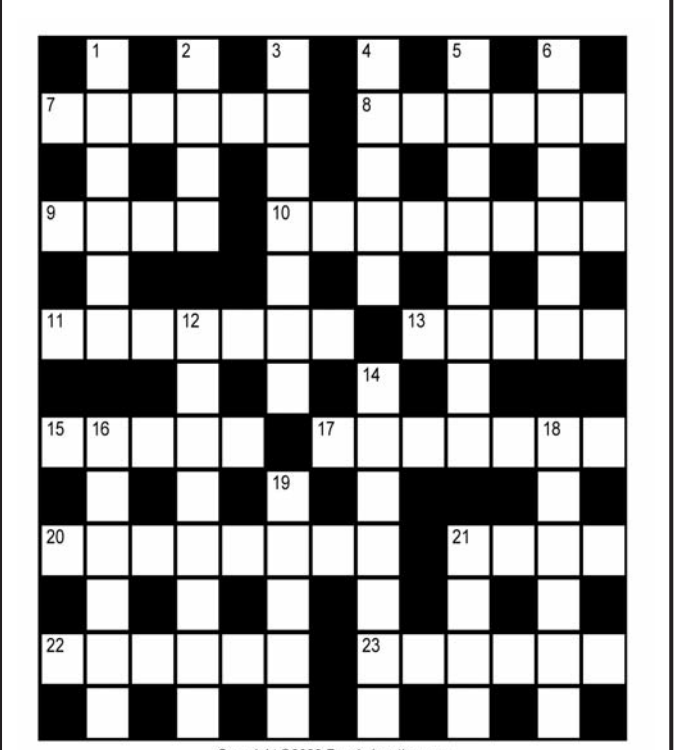
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



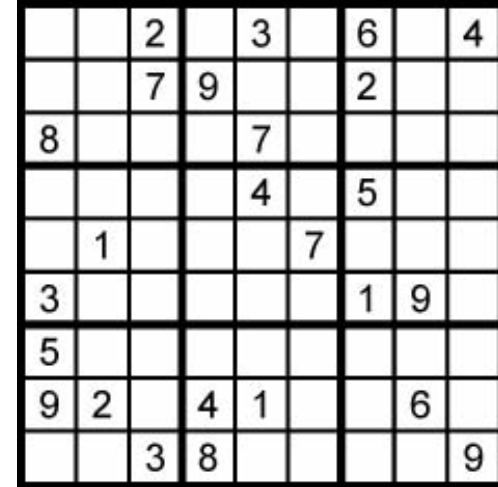
FUN post CROSSWORD



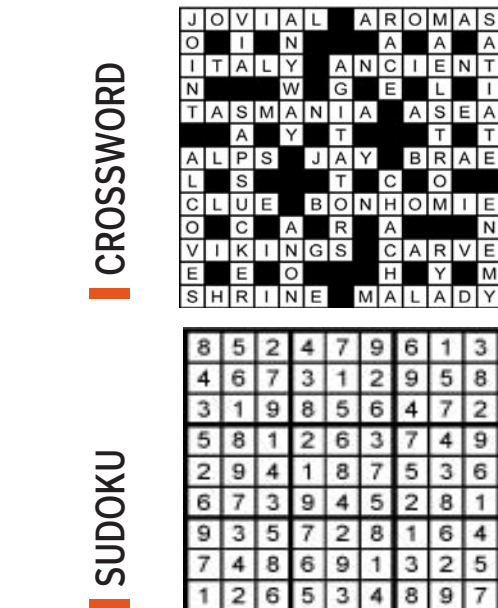
- Across**
- 7 Bouquets
 - 8 Like many shorelines
 - 9 Barbershop call
 - 10 A real go-getter (4,4)
 - 11 Moisturise
 - 13 Condition
 - 15 Vamoose
 - 17 Entryway
 - 20 Consumed
 - 21 Chicken order
 - 22 Rock dove
 - 23 Heartbreak
- Down**
- 1 Windy
 - 2 Fail to mention
 - 3 Set apart
 - 4 Audacity
 - 5 Deep trouble (3,5)
 - 6 Hush-hush
 - 12 Deduced
 - 14 Coat metal with an oxide coat
 - 16 Clergyman
 - 18 Electric eye, e.g.
 - 19 August
 - 21 Dermal development

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



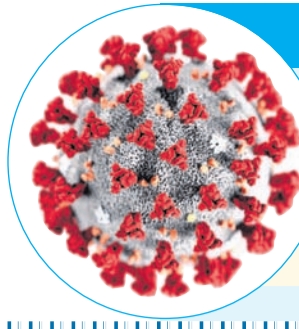
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



BOOK EXPO

The 25th Kalinga Pustak Mela was inaugurated at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,47,52,502	61,37,76,154	65,89,884
India	4,46,49,088	4,41,00,691	5,28,999
Odisha	13,36,044	13,26,524	9,203

Vig glare on RWSS techie with ₹1.75 crore crypto investments

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: A senior official of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department Friday fell in the Vigilance trap just couple of days prior to his retirement October 31.

The Vigilance sleuths Friday carried simultaneous searches at different places related to the accused officer, Nihar Ranjan Das over allegations of holding assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Interestingly, the state anti-corruption wing also came across several documents revealing huge investments by the accused official in cryptocurrencies during the raid at his residence.

Das works as the Additional Chief Engineer at the Planning, Monitoring, Design and Investigation, section of RWSS, Bhubaneswar circle. Various teams of the Vigilance led by five DSPs, 12 inspectors, one sub-inspector, 11 ASIs and other staffers conducted the raid at six places Friday morning.

The places where the Vigilance officials conducted searches include residential house of Das at Flat No-201, Sriram Mansion at Kharavel Nagar, three-storey building at Modipada in Sambalpur, paternal house at Rohiniyan in Bargarh district, office chamber of Das located at O/o Superintending Engineer, RWS&S, PMDI Circle here and two of his relatives' house at Kharavel Nagar and at Lalit Bhaban of Gandhi Nagar area in Sanapalla of Khurda district.



DAS TRIED TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE OF SUSPECTED CRYPTOCURRENCY INVESTMENTS BY THROWING AWAY A BUNDLE OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SUSPECTED BIT COIN INVESTMENTS ALONG WITH A MOBILE PHONE, FROM THE WINDOW OF THE HOUSE IMMEDIATELY ON SEEING THE VIGILANCE TEAM

THE SAME WERE RECOVERED BY THE ALERT VIGILANCE SEARCH TEAM. THIRTY-EIGHT DOCUMENTS RELATED TO CRYPTO INVESTMENTS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED AND ARE BEING EXAMINED BY THE FINANCIAL WING OF ODISHA VIGILANCE AND CRYPTO EXPERTS

“Das tried to destroy the evidence of suspected cryptocurrency investments by throwing away a bundle of documents related to suspected bit coin investments along with a mobile phone, from the window of the house immediately on seeing the Vigilance team. The same were recovered by the alert Vigilance search team. Thirty-eight documents related to crypto investments have been recovered and are being examined by the Financial Wing of Odisha Vigilance and crypto experts,” said the Vigilance officials. The officials reportedly found him

possessing eight plots in Sambalpur town with registered value of ₹1.27 Crore. Vigilance sources claimed that actual value of the plots would be much higher.

Till the last news came in, the Vigilance found that Das had invested ₹1.75 crore on cryptos. The amount would probably escalate as experts are yet to assess all the crypto investment documents so far. The cops found gold jewellery weighing approx 332 gram worth over ₹10 lakh, ₹1,07,785 in cash, two 4-wheelers worth ₹39 lakh and two 2-wheelers worth ₹3 lakh.



MATTER OF FAITH: Telugu women performed a puja near an anthill in Puri on the occasion of Naga Chaturthi, Friday

OP PHOTO

Ailing NZP jumbo 'Prema' succumbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Oct 28: The 66-year-old elephant 'Prema', whose health condition deteriorated Thursday, died Friday due to protracted illness at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP), said sources. With this the jumbo population at the zoo has reduced to a meagre three.

NZP deputy director Sanjit Kumar said that the exact reason of the death of the animal will be ascertained only after the autopsy. According to NZP sources, it

was in early July this year when the zoo authorities spotted two lumps developing in Prema's front left leg. Later, the lumps were excised in two phases, said an official, adding that since the procedure, the animal developed weakness.

“Her food intake reduced drastically after the surgery, prompting the veterinarians to inject her supplements. Though unwell, she was at the elephant safari with other pachyderms,” added the official.

Things turned worse as she fell on the ground around 9am and



could not stand. “Desperate attempts by zoo keepers, mahouts and others to make her stand yielded no results,” said the official,

adding that they even unsuccessfully used a crane for the mammoth task.

Around 11am, visitors' entry to the elephant safari was shut. As a result, animal lovers were left heartbroken for they could not take a glimpse of other two elephants, Basanti and Heera, at the safari.

Nandankanan has lost several animals to diseases within a very short span despite having access to best in its class healthcare, experts in know of the development said.

SSB Battalion employee found hanging in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: In a shocking incident, the body of a grade-IV employee of the SSB Battalion here was found hanging in the Rental Colony government quarters under Nayapalli police limits, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Krushna Chandra Satpathy, 44, a resident of Abhayamukhi village in Balipatna area on the outskirts of the Capital City.

The deceased jawan, who was working as a cook at the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Battalion, was staying at the government quarters along with his wife.

Some sources claimed that Satpathy had a heated argument with his wife over some family issues after his return from duty

Thursday evening. Following a heated exchange, a disturbed Satpathy went to sleep in a separate room.

The deceased's wife spotted him hanging from the ceiling fan of the room with a towel when she woke up early Friday morning. He was brought down by the locals

and rushed to hospital where the doctors declared him dead-in-arrival. On being informed, police reached the spot and started investigations after registering a case unnatural death (95/22) in this regard.

The body was handed over to the family of Satpathy after the post-mortem. Meanwhile, Satpathy's widow told mediapersons that he was under severe mental pressure due to financial reasons and work related issues.

The deceased was identified as Krushna Chandra Satpathy, a resident of Abhayamukhi village in Balipatna area on the outskirts of the City

Naveen bats for strong ties with ASEAN region

CHIEF MINISTER INVITES AMBASSADORS OF ASEAN TO MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE 2022 ALONG WITH THEIR TRADE DELEGATIONS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: A senior delegation of ASEAN Heads of Missions in India led by Pattarat Hongtong, Ambassador to Royal Thai Embassy, India concluded its three-day visit to Odisha Friday with a fruitful meeting with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The delegation came to Odisha October 26.

The meeting was held at the Convention Centre of Lok Seva Bhawan here, Friday. The Chief Minister invited the ambassadors to attend the Make in Odisha Conclave (MiO) 2022 along with their trade delegations. On the occasion, Patnaik pressed for strengthening trade and cultural

ties between Odisha and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In the run-up to MiO Conclave-2022 from November 30 to December 4 in Bhubaneswar, the Chief Minister while interacting with the ASEAN Heads of Missions, said, “Odisha has the boon of geography and has been blessed with natural resources and major ports on the Bay of Bengal.”

“We are the gateway to the ASEAN region. As we move to a modern world, connected more and more through technology, I hope that we can renew the strong ties between our two regions. I hope that in the coming years

we can further strengthen our trade ties and not just that, I also hope that we can increase our cultural ties and come up with more cultural exchange programs.”

He further said that the MiO Conclave is a great platform to further strengthen the business ties between the two regions and the Odisha government will facilitate Government-to-Business and Business-to-Business meeting with local companies and the trade delegations of ASEAN Nations.

He also requested them to set up country desks in the International Pavilion at the MiO Conclave.

Hongtong expressed her sincere gratitude to the Chief Minister and the state government for the hospitality.

Speaking about the historical trade and cultural ties between Odisha and ASEAN region spanning over 2,500 years, she said that there is a huge potential for trade and cultural relations with Odisha. She spoke highly about the beautiful settings of various sites in Odisha. She said that they have firm belief in Odisha's economic potential and that they would highlight this in their respective countries. She said that there is huge scope for exchanges in food processing, services, hospitality and medical tourism.

AT DHAULI FETE, CM APPEALS FOR PEACE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Inaugurating the golden jubilee celebration of the establishment of Dhauili Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda) near here, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday called upon all to work together to create a safer world for future generations. Joined by hundreds of monks from Japan, the US, Ukraine and Kazakhstan to celebrate the occasion, Patnaik said that peace has no alternative.

It has its significance in all ages. Peace is the only option to achieve the goals of a better and beautiful world, he added.

“Let us work together to spread the message of peace and create a safer world for our future generation,” he said.

Delving into the glorious history of Odisha, he said that the pages of the state's history start with Dhauili and the Kalinga war. Although the war ended with mas-

sive bloodshed, Dhauili continues to sing the moral victory of the entire humanity. It is this place where Ashoka realised the futility of war and bloodshed, and embraced Buddhism, said Patnaik.

In fact, he said, Dhauili changed the course of world history by spreading the message of global peace and harmony.

He further said that the 50th year commemoration of the establishment of Dhauili Shanti Stupa is a matter of great pride, glory and joy for all. This is the land that transformed Emperor Ashoka to Dharmashoka.

The Shanti Stupa stands here as a monument symbolising and spreading the message of peace, harmony and progress, he stated.

He said that Dhauili Peace Pagoda is a great creation of modern architecture. It bears the testimony of Indo-Japanese friendship that stands for global peace and mutual cooperation.



Pandemic-induced stress hits menstrual cycle: Study

Women with high stress related to the pandemic were twice as likely to experience changes in their menstrual cycle as compared to those with low pandemic-related stress, according to new research.

The study by the University of Pittsburgh, published in the journal Obstetrics & Gynecology, said that overall, more than half of the participants reported changes in menstrual cycle length, period duration, menstrual flow or increased spotting, irregularities that could have economic and health consequences for women.

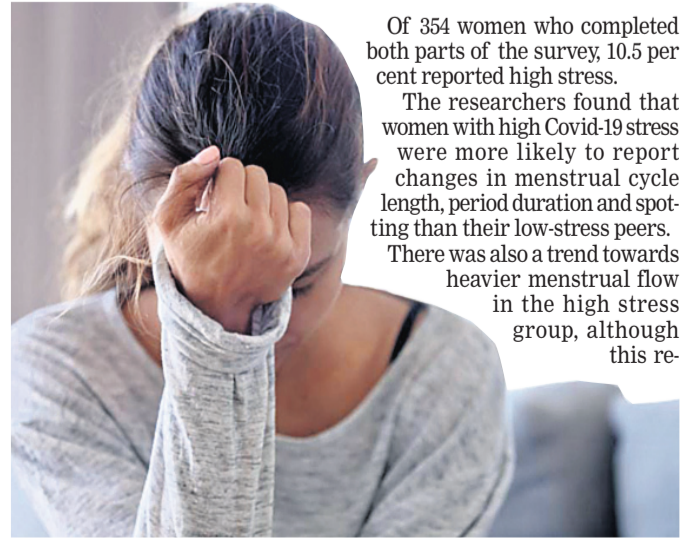
“Early in the pandemic, it would come up anecdotally in conversations with girlfriends and other women that things have been kind

of wacky with my period since the pandemic,” said lead author Martina Anto-Ocrah, assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Pitt School of Medicine.

“Stress can manifest in women's bodies as changes in menstrual function, and we know that the pandemic has been an incredibly stressful time for many people,” she added.

The team developed a two-part survey that included a validated Covid-19 stress scale and self-reported menstrual cycle changes between March 2020 and May 2021.

They restricted the sample to people aged 18 to 45 who identified as women and were not taking hormonal birth control.



Of 354 women who completed both parts of the survey, 10.5 per cent reported high stress.

The researchers found that women with high Covid-19 stress were more likely to report changes in menstrual cycle length, period duration and spotting than their low-stress peers.

There was also a trend towards heavier menstrual flow in the high stress group, although this re-

The team developed a two-part survey that included a validated Covid-19 stress scale and self-reported menstrual cycle changes between March 2020 and May 2021

Of 354 women who completed both parts of the survey, 10.5% reported high stress

About 12% of participants reported changes in all four menstrual cycle features, a finding that the researchers called alarming

sult was not statistically significant. “During the pandemic, women's roles were redefined, and, as a society, we took steps back in terms of gender equity,” said Anto-Ocrah.

“Women often shouldered the brunt of childcare and household tasks, and they found changes to daily activities and the risk of Covid-19 infection more stressful than men.”

About 12 per cent of partici-

pants reported changes in all four menstrual cycle features, a finding that the researchers called alarming.

Longer, more frequent or heavier periods can also hit women in the wallet because of additional costs for feminine hygiene products.

She hoped that the study inspires more research on Covid-19 stress and women's health on a global scale.

Naveen likely to attend EZC meet in Kolkata

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is likely to attend the Eastern Zonal Council (EZC) meeting slated to be held in Kolkata November 5, official sources said Friday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will preside over the EZC meeting to be held at the West Bengal Secretariat.

Sources at the CMO here said that Patnaik is scheduled to leave for Kolkata November 4.

He has skipped Ministry of Home Affairs' Chintan Shivir conclave on internal security at Surajkund in Haryana, which began Thursday. Minister of State for Home, TK Behera is attending the meeting.

Continued from P1

EC can't regulate freebies: Congress

"It should first implement the existing poll laws properly and there are more burning issues that need to be taken care," she said.

Ramesh in the party's response to the EC has noted that the commission has in the past demonstrated great wisdom and restraint in exercise of this power, choosing to circumscribe and limit campaign actions which tilt the field in favour of one party over the other.

"However, such power has always been exercised and guided by the statutory context. In other words, electoral offences outlined in Chapter IXA of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951, help the commission determine what is per se legal and illegal," he said.

In fact, the specific bans on communal rhetoric, hate speech, undue influence, among others, all flow from these statutes, Ramesh noted.

A 13,560-km flight could place this bird in record books

Woehler said researchers did not know whether the latest bird, known by its satellite tag Z34684, flew alone or as part of a flock.

"There are so few birds that have been tagged, we don't know how representative or otherwise this event is," Woehler said.

"It may be that half the birds that do the migration from Alaska come to Tasmania directly rather than through New Zealand or it might be 1 per cent, or it might be that this is the first it's ever happened," he added.

Adult birds depart Alaska earlier than juveniles, so the tagged bird was unlikely to have followed more experienced travellers south, Woehler said.

Woehler hopes to see the bird once wet weather clears in the remote corner of Tasmania, where it will fatten up having lost half its body weight on its journey.

PM for 'One Nation, One Police Uniform'

The prime minister asked the gathering to consider the proposal as this will not only ensure quality products due to scale but will also give a common identity to law enforcement with citizens recognising police personnel anywhere in the country.

"States can have their number or insignia. 'One Nation, One Police Uniform', I am just putting forward this as a thought for your consideration," he said on the second and last day of the conference.



JOB SECURITY ON MIND: Asking for regularisation of their jobs, school art and sports teachers of the state organised a protest rally near the PMG Square, in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Accused going scot-free due to lack of proper police probe

THE STATE POLICE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE LINE OF FIRE FOR THEIR EXTREMELY POOR CONVICTION RATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Proper investigation by the police is the most vital part in the criminal justice system. Proper and efficient probe by the investigating officer helps in identification and punishment of the real criminal and ensures that the innocent does not rot in jail.

However, the state police have always been in the line of fire for their extremely poor conviction rate. It seems that they have not realised the need for a thorough and correct investigation.

Recently, acquittal in two criminal cases is prime example of what lax investigation by the Commissionerate Police can lead to. Among the two, is a sensational murder case.

The accused, Ananta Kumar Rout was acquitted by the Additional Sessions Judge here as the investigating officer failed to present adequate evidence. Rout was accused of assaulting his friend Sanyasi Swain at the latter's house at Tarini Basti in Gandamunda area under Khandagiri police limits April 18, 2018. Sanyasi later succumbed to his injuries at AIIMS, April 23, 2018.



While giving the judgement, the court exposed various lacunas in the probe and charge sheet submitted by police. The evidences produced by investigating officer (IO) were also found to have been concocted.

The IO told court that he recorded the statement of Swain after taking permission of the doctor. He claimed Swain in his statement accused Rout of fatally assaulting him. On the contrary, the lady doctor treating Swain denied any police official seeking her permission to record the dying declaration.

In serious case of negligence, the IO also failed to produce the Call Detail Records of the telephonic conversation between the accused and deceased's wife. During the call Rout had informed the latter of being with Swain on the date of assault. Even, during the forensic ex-

aminations, no blood stain was found on a kitchen knife (Paniki) produced by the IO as the weapon used in murder.

Similarly, October 27, 2022, the additional session's judge set one Purastam Nayak free as the IO failed to prove his role in abetting the suicide of his wife. The deceased Kalia Das was found hanging from the ceiling of her room at their rental accommodation at Tapoban slum in Khandagiri March 11, 2020.

Nayak who worked as a driver was later arrested on charges of abetment to suicide. However, the IO failed to prove the fact that the deceased was tortured or assaulted by the accused regularly. The prosecution also did not submit any evidence to prove its claim about the deceased being pregnant. Hence Nayak managed to walk free due to the laxity in investigation.

MPs seek facilities for public at ECoR meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Members of Parliaments of constituencies coming under the jurisdiction of the Khurda Road Railway Division here voiced the demands of people and also offered valuable suggestions during a meeting with top officials of East Coast Railways here Friday. They also reviewed the development work being carried out by ECoR.

The MPs who attended the meeting were Bhartruhari Mahatab, Chandrasekhar Sahoo, Mahesh Sahoo, Pinaki Mishra, Manjulata Mandal, Pramila Bisoi, Sarmistha Sethi, Muzibulla Khan, Rajashree Mallick and Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarappu. From ECoR, general manager (I/C), Sharad Kumar Srivastava and all senior heads of departments, including DRM/Khurda Road Rinkesh Roy were present.

It should be stated here that a

BJP seeks action against BJD over 'Shah's audio'

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 28: The BJP wrote to the Election Commission of India (EC) Friday seeking immediate disciplinary action against BJD functionaries who allegedly maligned the image of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The BJP alleged that a fake and doctored audio clip has been released on various social media platforms by the BJD about the alleged meeting between Shah and independent candidate for Dhamnagar Assembly bypoll Rajendra Kumar Das. The BJP said no such meeting has ever taken place.

It should be stated here that Das filed his nomination as an Independent candidate after being denied a ticket by the BJD. Since then he has been expelled from the BJD. "This sinister and mischievous attempt to malign the image of Home Minister by the Biju Janata Dal is reprehensible in

Earlier, a BJD delegation had submitted a memorandum to the ECI alleging malpractices by the BJP

every sense. Such an act of the BJD amounts to corrupt practice under section 123 (4) of the Representation of People Act 1951," the BJP wrote in its complaint.

The saffron party has requested the ECI to register FIR against BJD functionaries responsible for the alleged distribution of the audio clip and take punitive action. Earlier, a BJD delegation had submitted Thursday a memorandum to the ECI here alleging malpractices by the BJP.

The BJD alleged that the BJP workers were maliciously tarnishing and defaming the image of Mission Shakti Women Self Help Group members.

Niche tourism to attract tourists, says Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 'Odisha Travel Bazaar 2022' at a City hotel here Friday. The event will continue till October 30.

"I am delighted to welcome the stakeholders of travel and tourism industry to the 4th edition of Odisha Travel Bazaar, a flagship event of Odisha Tourism which will showcase India's best kept secrets," Patnaik said in his inaugural address.

"Odisha has been taking focused strides to develop and introduce several niche tourism experiences. We have identified 17 priority destinations encompassing beaches, bio-diversity zones, heritage monuments and areas of religious and cultural importance for development. All these destinations will be developed in a manner that they match global standards," Patnaik added in his virtual address.



meeting on similar lines was held October 14 in Sambalpur. There also the MPs had brought to the notice of the officials the requirements of the people. Also the development works being executed in the Sambalpur division was discussed. Nine stations in Sambalpur division have been selected for soft upgrading, the MPs were informed.

In the meeting officials stated that the facelift of the Sambalpur station will be completed at the earliest. Facilities like waiting hall and VIP lounge, bitumen top road with RCC drain, pathway, portico cover shed, entry and exit gates, parking lot and renovation of existing station building will be carried out as quickly as possible.



PLEA FOR HC RELOCATION: Members of Bhubaneswar Bar Association stage a sit-in protest on the court premises in Bhubaneswar demanding the relocation of Orissa High Court to the Capital city, Friday

Gut bacteria could be the culprit behind arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis affects 1 in 100 people worldwide. It causes inflamed, painful and swollen joints, often in the hands and wrists, and can lead to loss of joint function as well as chronic pain and joint deformities and damage.

What causes this condition has been unknown. In a recently published study, Meagan Chriswell, of University of Colorado, and colleagues found an important clue to a potential culprit behind this disease: the bacteria in your gut.

What causes rheumatoid arthritis? Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune condition, meaning it develops when the body's immune system starts to attack itself. Proteins called antibodies, which usually help fight off viruses and bacteria, begin to attack the joints instead.

The origins of the antibodies that cause rheumatoid arthritis have been an area of study for many years. Some research has shown that these antibodies can

start forming at sites like the mouth, lung and intestines over 10 years before symptoms arise.

But until now, it was unclear why researchers were finding these antibodies in these particular areas.

The scientists wanted to investigate what could trigger the formation of these antibodies. Specifically, we wondered if bacteria in the microbiome, a community of microorganisms that live in the intestines, might be the ones activating the immune response that leads to rheumatoid arthritis.

Since microbes commonly live at the same sites as the antibodies driving rheumatoid arthritis, these scientists hypothesised that these bacteria could be triggering the production of these antibodies.

They reasoned that though these antibodies were meant to attack the bacteria, rheumatoid arthritis develops when they spread beyond the intestines to attack the joints. First, they sought to identify the intestinal bacteria targeted by these antibodies. To do



Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune condition, meaning it develops when the body's immune system, antibodies in particular, starts to attack itself

Since microbes commonly live at the same sites as the antibodies driving rheumatoid arthritis, scientists hypothesised that these bacteria could be triggering the production of these antibodies

this, they exposed the bacteria in the feces of a subset of people at risk for developing rheumatoid

Research had shown that these antibodies can start forming at sites like the mouth, lung and intestines years before symptoms arise. But until now, it was unclear why they were found in these particular areas

arthritis to these antibodies, allowing us to isolate just the bacterial species that reacted and

bound to the antibodies. They found that one previously unknown species of bacteria was present in the intestines of around 20 per cent of people who were either diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis or produce the antibodies that cause the disease.

Subdoligranulum didoesgii has not been detected in the feces of healthy people before, and it is currently unknown how prevalent this bacteria is in the general population.

These bacteria can activate specialised immune cells called T cells in people with rheumatoid arthritis. T cells drive inflammatory responses in the body, and have been linked to the development of different autoimmune diseases.

These findings suggest that these gut bacteria may be activating the immune systems of people with rheumatoid arthritis. But instead of attacking the bacteria, their immune system attacks the joints.

It is still unknown why people with rheumatoid arthritis develop

an immune response to Subdoligranulum didoesgii. But it may be the culprit when it comes to rheumatoid arthritis because this bacteria is found only in the intestines of people with rheumatoid arthritis, and not in the intestines of healthy people.

While many immune responses happen in the intestines, they are usually self-contained and do not spread to other areas of the body. However, the researchers believe that a particularly strong intestinal immune response against Subdoligranulum didoesgii could allow antibodies to bypass the intestinal "firewall" and spread to the joints.

To confirm their hypothesis, we gave mice an oral dose of Subdoligranulum didoesgii and monitored their reaction. Within 14 days, the mice began to develop joint swelling and antibodies that attacked their joints.

The researchers hope this research can shed light on the origins of rheumatoid arthritis.

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Brown sugar worth ₹11cr seized; 6 held



This is the biggest ever seizure of brown sugar by Odisha Police

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasure, Oct 28: In a major drug haul, police have seized around 10 kg of brown sugar worth ₹11 crore and arrested six persons on charge of peddling the narcotic substance in Balasure district, a senior officer said Friday.

The seizure and arrests were made Thursday, police said.

IG (Eastern Range) Himanshu Kumar Lal and Balasure SP Sudhansu Sekhar Sadangi said the raid was conducted at a spot near Phuladi under Sahadevkhunta police station based on intelligence input.

"We seized more than 10 kg of brown sugar worth ₹11 crore," Lal said, adding that the narcotic drugs were kept in six polythene packets. Five locals and a man from Madhya Pradesh were among the six persons nabbed in this connection, the IG said. Prima facie investigation suggests the contraband was procured from West Bengal-Assam border and supposed to be supplied to various parts of Odisha, he added.

Apart from drugs, police also seized a motorcycle, one scooter, five mobile phones and ₹21,000 cash. Lal further said, "The SP had



received a tip-off about it October 27 after which a team was formed to nab the drug smugglers. Among the accused, Ayub was the kingpin and hails from Madhya Pradesh. This is the biggest seizure of brown sugar by Odisha Police till now. Indeed, this is a huge achievement as the quantity of seized narcotics is huge and its market value is high."

Applauding the team, Lal said the entire team did a commendable job. "Brown sugar is dangerous for individuals as well as their families. People in millions are suffering from drug menace. Our mission is to ensure maximum seizure of brown sugar as we can and we are giving high efforts for it."

Police have launched further investigation to trace the links of the brown sugar smugglers. "We can ascertain more details about the network only after interrogation," he added.

DHAMNAGAR BYPOLL

CEO REVIEWS READINESS, WARNS CODE VIOLATORS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 28: After a host of complaints of code violation was received amid an intensified campaigning for the bypoll to Dhamnagar Assembly constituency in Bhadrak, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sushil Kumar Lohani Friday held a review meeting on poll preparation. He also assessed the complaints received against various political parties regarding violation of the model code of conduct.

The meeting was held at the Sadhabana Hall at the Collectorate in the presence of Collector Sidheswar Baliram Bonder, additional chief electoral officer Shatrughna Kar, Eastern Range IG Himanshu Lal, SP Charan Singh Meena, Additional Collector Ramdas Tudu and other officials.

They discussed issues related to poll management, preparedness, law and order, action on poll code violators, threat and bribe to voters, inducement, police deployment, sending of polling parties to booths and surveillance squads.

The CEO directed the district electoral officer to take action against people found violating the model code of conduct.



Lohani also informed about 'eVIGIL', an online application for citizens to report any violation in model code of conduct/expenditure during the election period. "All the reported complaints will be taken care of within a minimal time span of 100 minutes by the commission," he said.

"Model code of conduct is a guiding principle for political parties and candidates and needs to be followed meticulously. All parties need to avoid corrupt practices," he further added.



SPORTS MEET: Girls played a Kho Kho match at a three-day inter-college sports meet that was kicked off on the premises of NIT Rourekela, Friday. Over 550 students from different colleges took part in various sports events.

Kidney disease plays havoc in Kandhamal village; 150 afflicted



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Oct 28: Kidney disease has been playing havoc at Ranipathar village of Sudukumpa panchayat under Khajuripada block of Kandhamal district. In the last few years, more than 10 people in this village have died of the kidney ailment, while over 150 people are affected at present.

However, no exact reason is known as to why so many people in the particular panchayat have been affected by the disease. People have been living in apprehension of catching the dreaded disease.

Meanwhile, following directive from the Collector, a medical team visited the village and collected blood samples from the families of the affected and other villagers.

This exercise will be carried out for two more days. On the basis of the blood sample reports, investigation will be started to look into the actual cause of the disease. Locals alleged that the administration is least concerned about such steady rise in the number of affected in the village. No medical team has ever examined the cause of the disease in Nuasahi, Bangalasa, Rugudisahi and Khandikutisahi of the panchayat, locals lamented.

"If anyone is down with fever, all are panicked about possibility of kidney disease," they said.

Till date, six people affected by the kidney disease have died in

Ranipathar village while 20 others are affected at present.

In Bangalasa, six are affected while three people have died.

One Champeswar Sahu of Bangalasa was down with fever seven years ago. He was admitted to the district headquarters hospital. As the fever did not subside, he was referred to Burla medical in Sambalpur where doctors diagnosed that he had kidney issues.

For last seven months, another villager Tukuna Behera is confined to his house after getting affected by the kidney disease.

One Pramod Kumar Behera is also suffering from the same disease and his haemoglobin count is decreasing day by day, locals said.

Likewise, many others such as Barun Kahari, Indrajit Dip, Sukant Behera, Damodar Behera, Gokul Behera and Ratna Behera are affected by the diseases.

However, people suspect that the water from the tube well they use may be the reason for the rise of kidney disease cases in the area. Though they had apprised the administration about their doubt on the groundwater, the latter has not taken any step till date, locals alleged.

They had demanded that a medical experts' team should visit the village to look into the reason for the kidney disease.

Contacted, CDMO Manoj Kumar Upadhyay assured of sending a medical team to investigate what is causing the fatal disease there.

2 die in bike-auto crash in Keonjhar

Keonjhar: Two persons died while four others were injured after a motorcycle collided with an auto-rickshaw on Pandapada-Naranpur road under Pandapada police limits in Keonjhar district Thursday night. All the injured have been admitted to the district headquarters hospital. The identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained when the last reports came in.

SBI holds mega plantation drive, donates ambulance

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 28: As a CSR initiative, a mega plantation drive of one thousand herbal medicinal plants was successfully organised at Parala Maharaj Engineering College here by the State Bank of India, Regional Business Office, Berhampur in collaboration with Odisha Environment Society. The occasion was graced by SBI Chief General Manager Chander Shekhar Sharma.

Sharma encouraged students to come forward for the noble cause. In another function later during the day, SBI donated an ambulance to Servants of People Society (SOPS) or Lok Sevak Mandal to provide better medical and relief services to the needy. CGM Sharma handed over the key to Rajendra Kumar Jena, chairman of SOPS at Administrative Office, Berhampur.



Among other senior officials, DGM (B&O) Sandip Kumar Chowbey was also present in this function. SOPS chairman Jena thanked SBI for donating the ambulance and stated that the ambulance would add quality to their service.

3 Bangladeshi fishermen rescued off Paradip coast

Paradip: Three Bangladeshi fishermen who were stuck in the sea after their boat capsized under the impact of cyclone Sitrang were rescued by some local fishermen at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district. Reports said that the three were floating in the sea for five days after their boat capsized. One of them was critical. All of them have been admitted to Atharbanki Community Health Centre.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETECONIBBS 2022111, Dated : 20.10.2022
NAME OF WORK : REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORITY ENGINEER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR INTEGRATED RE-DEVELOPMENT OF BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 393.95 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 3,47,000/-, Completion Period of the Work : 24 (Twenty Four) Months.
Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1200 hrs. of 11.11.2022.
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 considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) 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.
The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions.
Chief Administrative Officer (CON)/ PR-135/CF/22-23 Bhubaneswar

CONTRACTUAL ENGAGEMENT
Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) is a Category-I Mini Ratna CPSE engaged in the business of refining and marketing of Petroleum Products. All set to ramp up its refinery capacity from 3 to 9 MMTPA. NRL's mega project includes amongst others, import of Crude Oil at Paradip Port and laying of cross-country pipeline from Paradip to Numaligarh to transport the same.
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Retainer (Project - Land)	01	65 years	Graduate/ Post-Graduate	Min. 15 years*	1 year
Retainer (Project - Security)	01	65 years	Graduate/ Post-Graduate	Min. 10 years*	1 year

Interested candidates may visit the Career Section of NRL website www.nrl.co.in for more details* and online application process.
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E-mail ID: dfo.city@gmail.com, Tel: 0674-2548836
Bid Identification No. DFO (CITY)-FE & CC-01/2022-23
Letter No.353 Date: 28.10.2022
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
e-Procurement Bid Identification No. DFO(CFD)-FE & CC 01/2022-23
No.MM-240: Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

1	Name of the Work	Construction of Buildings works as per DTCN available in the website www.tenderodisha.gov.in .
2	No. of Works	05 Nos (Forest Guard quarters-2 Nos, Forester Quarters-2 Nos, Range Officers quarter-1 No. at different places of City Forest Division
3	No. of Covers	Single Cover
4	Estimated Cost	Rs. 9.46 to Rs. 14.14
5	Period of Completion	04 Calendar Months
6	Date & Time of Bidding	11:00 Hrs. of 29.10.2022 to 09.11.2022 16.00 Hrs.
7	Class of Contractor	"D" & "C" Class Contractor
8	Last date & Time for receipt of bids in portal	16:00 Hrs. of 09.11.2022
9	Submission of Original documents (TP Cost, Bid Security Declaration, affidavit in scheduled- F), joint venture agreement with electrical contractor in case of composite and other documents as per DTCN	During office hours dt. 09.11.2022 16.00 Hrs.
10	Bids received online shall be opened on	11:00 Hrs of 10.11.2022
11	Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	Divisional Forest Officer, City Forest Division, Bhubaneswar

Further, details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.in. The Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
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MURDER OVER SORCERY

11 awarded life term

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Oct 28: Adjudicating the murder of a woman over suspected witchcraft, the ADJ court in Rourkela Friday convicted 11 people involved in the case and awarded life imprisonment to them in Biramitrapur area of this district. Besides, three women complicit in the case were sentenced to three years of imprisonment each.

According to the case diary, a 55-year-old woman identified as Jashoda Singh was murdered on the day of Holi, March 2, 2018. A complaint was filed at the Biramitrapur police station in this regard. It was alleged that a total of 14 people including three women had attacked the elderly woman, her husband, and son with swords, stones and bricks, suspecting them to be practicing sorcery. The woman died while her husband and son were critically wounded.

Police investigation cracked the murder mystery and revealed that the family was attacked on the suspicion of practicing witchcraft.



MOCK DRILL: Fire personnel demonstrated a mock rescue operation before the students of a school in G Udaygiri block of Kandhamal district, Friday

WOMAN'S KILLING OVER WITCHCRAFT

Fearing police action, Ganjam village turns ghost town

All of the 200 houses in the village were found locked up Friday as all the villagers except a few elderly people have deserted the village fearing police action

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kabisuryanagar, Oct 28: Two days after villagers allegedly beat a woman to death and brutally assaulted three others over suspicion of witchcraft at Madhurajhola village in Kaniari panchayat under this police limit in Ganjam district, the village has turned into a ghost town as all of the 200 houses in the village were found locked up. Fearing

police action, all the villagers except a few elderly people have done a vanishing act, Friday while police patrolling is still on in the village.

A small trader who comes to the village said that he had never seen the village so empty in his life ever before. So far police have filed five cases while 33 people have been produced in court.

"There are no children in the village school and Anganwadi centre here," said headmaster Subrat Rao Dora. Moreover, many residents have shifted away their domestic animals and vehicles to the houses of their relatives living in nearby villages.

IIC Prabhat Sahu said that a number of accused are still absconding and arrests could rise in the days to come.



in their police complaint alleged that residents of the same village lynched their mother. Those who suffered serious injuries were Yudhisthir Nahak, Rajendra Nahak and Bishnu Nahak.

After the brutal killing of the woman, police have launched an investigation and detained 15 men and 40 women so far. Police said that they are interrogating the detainees.


Four platoons of police forces have been deployed in the village.

However, later that night, a woman, who was possessed as per the villagers' claims, blamed Yudhisthir Nahak, Rajendra Nahak, Bishnu Nahak and Maheswar Nahak for the death of the kids. A youth identified as Gudu Nahak assaulted Yudhisthir and hit him on the head. Later Yudhisthir lodged a police complaint. However, the move by Yudhisthir angered the other villagers. They then targeted the houses of Rajendra and Bishnu and attacked them and their family members. They tied Rajendra and Bishnu to poles and mercilessly thrashed the two.

They were finally released after block chairperson Birendra Khatai intervened. Yudhisthir, in the meanwhile, had fled the village. Unable to find him, the mob attacked his family members. In the process, Yudhisthir's wife Jhunu suffered serious injuries and died before help arrived.

True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become.

SRI AUROBINDO



Govt's Rescue Efforts

The fact that this is its last effective Union Budget may have weighed on the government's mind when it appointed Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra, a 1990-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre as the new revenue secretary after incumbent Tarun Bajaj retires at the end of November. At a time when the global economy is still struggling and India is facing rising food, fuel and fertilizer subsidy burden, and the rupee declining, additional forces are now being rushed to aid the rescue efforts. As the top babu of the Revenue Department Malhotra will be responsible for giving the final touches to all tax-related matters related to the Budget. Malhotra's appointment comes along with over a dozen senior appointments in the latest reshuffle ordered by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Notable among these is the appointment of Aramane Giridhar, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, who will be the next Defence Secretary; Alka Upadhyaya, a 1990-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, who is the new Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and Nagendra Sinha, a Jharkhand cadre officer who will take over as Steel Secretary after the superannuation of incumbent Sanjay Kumar Singh in December.

This is the latest in a rapid series of babu reshuffles announced by the Modi sarkar. As it enters the final turn of its tenure before the 2024 general elections, the Budget and the next few months may well set the course for the future.

J&K's solution to IPS crunch

The scarcity of IPS officers in Jammu & Kashmir is so acute that the government has reportedly decided to promote 13 SSPs as officiating DIGs, without completing their mandatory service of 14 years for eligibility, to fill the vacancies at the higher levels. Sources have informed DKB that against the 29 sanctioned posts of DIGs, there are 20 vacancies! Three IPS DIG-rank officers including Amit Kumar, Tejinder Singh and Abdul Jabbar are on Central deputation.

It is said that most likely, three officers from the 2009 batch and 10 from the 2010 batch may be promoted as officiating DIGs. The officers of the 2010 batch likely to be promoted include RM Bhat, SSP Baramulla; Sridhar Patil, AIG Technical Headquarters; Altaf Ahmed Khan, SSP CID, Vikas Gupta, OSD, Prisons; Nisha Nathyal, Javid Iqbal Matoo, AIG Building Police Headquarters, among others.

From the 2009 batch, the officers likely to be promoted include Imtiaz Ismail Parray, Shailendra Mishra and Rahul Malik. These officers are being promoted as officiating DIGs after 13 and 12 years respectively and will be confirmed after they complete 14 years of service.

Rajasthan babu gets 'kiss of death'

The arrival of an Awaiting Postal Order (APO) is the kiss of death for an IAS officer, in career terms. It is considered a blot on their escutcheon, so to speak. So, there is much consternation in Rajasthan, when a young 2017-batch officer Avdhesh Meena, who is currently posted as commissioner in the Jodhpur Development Authority, received his APO orders while he was holding a meeting with other officials.

Babus in Rajasthan are split over why this has happened. Depending on whom one talks to, it is said that Avdhesh Meena's performance was sub-par; others say that the babu did not field calls from the ruling Congress netas, and reportedly the APO order has come at the direction of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

Apparently, the action was so swift that even the Principal Secretary of the Urban Development and Housing Department, KL Meena came to know of it after he returned from a meeting with the state Chief Secretary. It is also interesting that Avdhesh has been transferred five times during the current government of Ashok Gehlot. He had been in his current assignment for only three months.

Sources say that this post has seen a quick turnover of officers in a short span; it saw three officers, namely Gaurav Agrawal, Q Choudhary, and Inderjeet Yadav, before the appointment of Avdhesh Meena. And it seems that it will see a new babu soon.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- The world is the great gymnasium where we come to make ourselves strong. **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**
- The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. **NELSON MANDELA**
- I have no special talent, I am only passionately curious. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**

WORDSWORTH

Amperkine

The hottest research topic in biotechnology is that of smart drugs, which will enhance memory and concentration, either to counter the effects of ageing or to give younger people a competitive advantage. (These drugs are also called cognitive enhancers or nootropics, from the Greek no-os, "mind" and tropos, "a turning"). Though many such drugs already on the market work through a placebo effect, a new class called amperkines show promise of a genuine pharmacological effect. They work by enhancing the action of a neurotransmitter chemical in the brain called AMPA (which is short for alpha-amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole-propionic acid) which handles virtually all routine transmissions of electrical impulses across synapses. The word is formed from the abbreviation AMPA, plus the Greek word kinein, "to move", and is a trademark of the University of California at Irvine, where the initial research was carried out.

Webucation

Obviously enough, this is education provided over the World Wide Web, a concept also sometimes called e-education. Most of the new terms beginning with Web- have been short-lived, but this one shows signs of surviving. It refers to various ways of using the Internet to contribute to learning at a distance, in particular for bringing education to groups not previously well served. But it also includes school management systems, educational software, and ways to wire the classroom. Many companies in the educational field and many prestigious educational institutions are investigating the options for webucation. The idea is seen to have great potential, but there's also a lot of work to be done making it a practical (and paying) proposition.

LOL

INSTALLING A CARPET

A carpet layer had just finished installing carpet for a lady. He stepped out for a smoke, only to realise he'd lost his cigarettes. In the middle of the room, under the carpet, was a bump. "No sense pulling up the



entire floor for one pack of smokes." he said to himself and flattened the hump with his hammer. As he was clearing up, the lady came in and said, "Here is the packet, I found them in the hallway." "Now," she said, "if only I could find my parakeet."

MEAT HABIT & FOOD CRISIS

FOCUS EUROPE

European countries are experiencing their worst cost-of-living crisis in decades, owing to surging energy and food costs. COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, and climate change have compounded the increase in commodity prices, leading to food shortages and rapidly rising food insecurity in the developing world. But there is good news: with a simple (but critical) change in food production, the European Union can ease food-price inflation and bolster global food supplies.



Sarah Lake and Nico Muzi

AN AVERAGE EU CITIZEN CONSUMES TWICE AS MUCH MEAT AS THE GLOBAL AVERAGE. AS A RESULT, TWO-THIRDS OF ALL CEREALS IN THE EU ARE USED FOR ANIMAL FEED

An analysis by consulting firm SYSTEMIQ shows that by cutting meat production by just 13% – the equivalent of European consumers going meat-free for one day a week – the EU could reallocate enough grain and land currently used to feed livestock to offset the 23 million tons of wheat Ukraine produced in 2020.

This should come as no surprise. After all, meat is a notoriously inefficient source of nutrition. For every 100 feed calories consumed by cattle, we produce just one beef calorie. As it stands, we are using vast amounts of land and fertilizers to grow food that only livestock can eat.

Meanwhile, fertilizer prices have soared by 60% in the past year, owing to reduced exports from Russia and Ukraine (which together account for over one-quarter of all fertilizer production) and manufacturing disruptions across Europe caused by soaring gas prices. "To avert a future crisis, we need to bring fertilizer prices down," Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), recently warned.

Simply put, the meat industry's inefficient use of fertilizers drives up food prices, exacerbates world hunger, and pushes farmers into



Reallocating land from meat production to grains, vegetables, legumes, and alternative proteins would be a far more effective way to feed a growing population on a warming planet

poverty. Reallocating land from meat production to grains, vegetables, legumes, and alternative proteins would be a far more effective way to feed a growing population on a warming planet. For example, it takes an average of 48 square meters to produce one gram of beef protein for every square meter needed to produce one gram of protein from peas.

Reducing EU meat production would also provide significant climate benefits. After all, animal farming generates as many greenhouse-gas emissions as all the world's cars, trucks, planes, and ships. According to our calculations, cutting livestock-related emissions by five million tons of carbon dioxide would be the same as removing more than four million new gasoline-fueled cars from Europe's roads.

Even a relatively modest cut in Europe's meat production would have a meaningful global impact.

According to the UNCTAD, lower-income countries suffering from acute food insecurity, such as Benin, Somalia, and Laos, are almost entirely dependent on wheat imports from Ukraine and Russia.

Against this backdrop, OECD countries continue to allocate a disproportionate amount of land to feed livestock. This partly reflects massive overconsumption: the average EU citizen consumes twice as much meat as the global average. As a result, two-thirds of all cereals in the EU are used for animal feed.

But while diverting grain from livestock to human consumption could prevent major food shortages across the developing world, it would also reduce food insecurity in wealthier countries, which are facing severe food-access issues of their own. In France, for example, roughly 10% of the population relies on food banks.

European policymakers grap-

pling with rising food and energy prices must combat the global food crisis and climate change by reducing incentives for industrial meat production and creating incentives for plant-based proteins and sustainable meat substitutes. By spurring a market shift toward more sustainable proteins through initiatives like the EU's sustainable food-systems framework, policymakers can encourage supermarkets and fast-food restaurants to offer more low-emissions proteins like plant-based meat and other emerging meat substitutes. Such policies would stimulate investment in European businesses while providing significant environmental and health benefits.

But policymakers must also ensure that farmers are not sidelined. They must take measures to support livestock farmers and encourage them to move away from industrial meat production. For instance, ranchers and farmers should receive financial incentives to reduce their herds and switch to regenerative agricultural practices. In this way, we can ensure that consumers can access affordable proteins without European farmers losing their livelihoods.

Given the greater frequency of extreme weather events such as flooding and droughts, and the ongoing war in Ukraine, it is hard to imagine that food prices will fall any time soon. But just as they have learned to turn down the thermostats to reduce their dependence on Russian gas, Europeans can eat less meat. Saving millions of vulnerable people from famine is surely worth such a modest effort.

Sarah Lake is Executive Director of Madre Brava. Nico Muzi is Managing Director of Madre Brava.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM HUNGER AND POVERTY

Government must face the reality



Dhurjati Mukherjee

INDIA CANNOT MOVE AHEAD WHEN A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE POPULATION STRUGGLES FOR ITS LIVELIHOOD, LIVING IN POVERTY AND SQUALOR AND DOESN'T LIVE A HUMAN EXISTENCE

The Global Hunger Index, 2022 in its 17th edition ranked India 107 among 121 countries out of 136 nations. India was accorded a dismal score of 29.1 out of 100, falling under the 'serious' category and was placed behind Sri Lanka (66), Myanmar (71), Nepal (81) and Bangladesh (84). Afghanistan was the only country behind India among SAARC nations. The Modi government has rejected the report, but those in the field find it distressing and question the government's performance over the years.

Authors of the report primarily refer to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) that endeavours to achieve "zero hunger" by 2030. According to them, the report attempts to "raise awareness and understanding of the struggle against hunger". The index score is computed using four broad indicators—undernourishment (a measure of the proportion of the population facing chronic deficiency of dietary energy intake), child stunting (low height for age), child wasting (low weight for height) and child mortality (death of a child under the age of five).

A nation with a low score on the index gets a higher ranking, and the higher the country's score, the lower its ranking. All the four indicators used in calculating global hunger are recognised by the world

community, including India, and used for measuring progress towards the UN SDGs. In 2021, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries, and a year before it was placed 94th.

The report's rejection by the Centre can't be said to be judicious and acceptable globally. Some commentators have highlighted the government's flimsy objections and questioned the WHO's criteria. But the criteria are fixed by an international committee of experts from different countries across the globe. It would be better for India to suggest modifications, rather than discard the report.

According to Niti Aayog, 25 percent of the population in India is poor. Every fourth person of the total population of India is in poverty. However, the somewhat encouraging news is reflected in the Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2022 which found that as many as 415 million people exited poverty in India in 15 years (2005-06 to 2019/2021) with the incidence of poverty showing a steep decline from 55.1 percent to 16.4 percent. The UNDP was quick to add in the report the challenge faced by India as it continued to have the largest number of poor people worldwide at 228.9 million in 2020.

The prevalence of hunger is directly related to the incidence of poverty in the country. Poverty in

India is an ever-present problem that has endured throughout the country's history and unfortunately, it seems that it will continue to be a problem as long as income inequality continues to exist and the percentage of the population living below the poverty line remains so high. Although there are some schemes that have been put in place to help alleviate poverty, there will always be those who struggle due to a lack of access to resources and opportunities.

It is worth mentioning here the World Bank's report, Poverty and Shared Prosperity (2022), which sheds light on a historic increase in global poverty in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic shock – 71 million more people are likely living in extreme poverty, 11 percent higher than in 2019. The magnitude has been the largest in South Asia. Between 23-56 million or 32-80 percent of the poor are estimated to be in India, a feature consistent with the shock GDP contraction in the pandemic year, the largest among the developing economies.

In 2021, according to the World Bank, little progress was made to reverse the pandemic-induced increase in global poverty to pre-Covid levels. Overall, these have been very uneven and not strong enough growth in at least low and middle-income countries. Worse,

this restoration is not expected to be stalled this year, at least in India due to high food and energy prices. Despite the RBI's interventions, the increase in food inflation has greatly affected the poorer sections, causing unimaginable suffering.

Therefore, food insecurity remains an alarming issue due to such entitlement failures in India. While the government has rejected the findings of the Global Hunger Index as "unscientific", we cannot ignore the dismal ground realities. India faces an under-nutrition challenge that is not only large but worsening, more so after the pandemic. It is time for the government to face up to these inconvenient truths and pursue the means and mechanisms needed to improve the situation. How fast the economy grows, poverty and hunger remain big challenges for the government. The need, therefore, is to strengthen the social infrastructure of the country and focus on villages in the rural and backward districts of the country.

India cannot move ahead when a substantial portion of the population struggles for its livelihood. It should take the aim of the GHI report i.e. to "raise awareness and understanding of the struggle against hunger", in the right spirit. Act it must and do so earnestly.

A new era in cricket

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, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, In an attempt to bridge pay parity between India's male and female international cricketers, the BCCI reconstituted the apex council. Having been a promoter of Women's cricket since the early 1980s I feel that equality for our women cricketers as a matter of right is given a boost as the BCCI Honorary Secretary announced that the Indian women cricketers will be paid at par with their male counterparts. As per the announcement made both men and women cricketers will be paid Rs 15 lakh for Tests, Rs 6 lakh for one-day internationals and Rs 3 lakh for Twenty20 internationals in equal terms. It is a step in the right direction. Recently, the women cricketers won the Asia Cup in Australia and that was the proudest moment. They also participated in the IPL format of the game at various levels and that is outstanding. It is indeed a new era in women's cricket and opened up a new chapter in eves' cricket.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Fresh twist

Sir, The poaching episode that unfolded in Hyderabad Wednesday night took another twist, with the BJP denying any role in trying to bribe four MLAs of the state's ruling Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS). The saffron party called the arrest a poorly scripted drama and demanded an investigation by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court. We believe police have recovered cash-counting machines from a farmhouse at Aziz Nagar in Moinabad, where three men were arrested. The events coming days before the Munugode bypoll have raised eyebrows.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Multifarious challenges

Sir, In Rishi Sunak, Britain has received its 57th Prime Minister. He also became the third occupant of No. 10, Downing Street in less than three months, and the first-ever non-white PM of the country. But the significance of the first person of colour becoming a British PM may get lost in the class dynamics of the country's critical political moment. The past few weeks have seen the UK markets hit with storm and turbulence due to Liz Truss's botched and unfunded plans to cut taxes for higher earners, amid a cost of living crisis and with the country facing a looming black hole in public finances. The challenges before Sunak are multifarious, the foremost obviously being to shore up an economy sliding towards recession and reeling after his predecessor's brief and disastrous experiment in libertarian economics.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

national



“We know that terrorists are enemies of everyone and friends of none and we know that terrorists do not work in isolation and are part of a larger network. What they were doing was part of a larger conspiracy. Coimbatore is a known place for harbouring terrorists for a long time”
RN RAVI | TN GOVERNOR

COURT REJECTS VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

A special CBI court Friday rejected an application by a correctional home in Kolkata for the virtual appearance of former Minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with the multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission scam and instead ordered his physical presence on October 31



of the day quote

People of Gujarat will usher a new era of politics by collapsing the political fortress of the BJP, which has been in power for the past 27 years, and ensuring a landslide victory of AAP party in the upcoming Assembly elections
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

Central government's various development schemes are being successfully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir with active support of local people
SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

The BJP-led government in the state has not undertaken a single development work in Adampur, where Assembly bypolls are scheduled for November 3
BHPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER HARYANA CM

Online PhD programmes offered by edtechs not recognised: UGC, AICTE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Online Ph.D programmes offered by EdTech companies in collaboration with foreign educational institutions are not recognised, the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) announced Friday.

This is the second such warning this year to students by the higher education and the technical education regulators. Earlier this year, the UGC and the AICTE had warned their recognised varsities and institutions against offering courses in distance learning and online mode in association with Ed-tech companies, saying no "franchise" agreement is permissible according to norms.

"In order to maintain the standards for awarding Ph.D degrees, the UGC has notified the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of MPhil, Ph.D degrees) Regulation 2016. It is mandatory for all higher educational institutions to follow UGC Regulations and its amendments for awarding Ph.D degrees," according to a joint order issued by



the UGC and the AICTE.

Students and the public at large are advised not to be misled by advertisements for online Ph.D programmes offered by EdTech companies in collaboration with foreign educational institutions, it said.

"Such online Ph.D programmes are not recognised by the UGC. Aspiring students and the public at large, are requested to verify the authenticity of Ph.D programmes as per UGC Regulation 2016 before taking admission," the

order said. The central government had in July warned EdTech companies against unfair trade practices.

The government is also working on a policy to regulate EdTech players operating in the country. The aim of the proposed policy is to curb monopoly and prevent the exploitation of students by some EdTech platforms through lofty promises or unfair practices.

The Union education ministry is in talks with the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to work out a common policy for the sector. The EdTech sector has witnessed an upswell in the past two years after education moved to online mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COIMBATORE BLAST

Accused met men with ISIS links

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore, Oct 28: A man, one of the six accused in the explosion case here, confessed during interrogation that he met two men in a Kerala prison who had links with an ISIS group involved in the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka, police sources said Friday.

Feroze Ismail confessed that he had met Mohammed Azharuddin and Rashid Ali, lodged in a prison in the neighbouring state and further questioning is on to ascertain the motive behind the meeting, they said. Azharuddin and Ali are in jail in connection with a case against them in the neighbouring state.

Five accused were taken to their houses and searches were carried out, police said. In the meanwhile, police continued vehicle checks in Coimbatore district and took into their custody unclaimed and abandoned motorcycles and cars parked on the roadside. Also, officials intensified vehicle checks at police and forest outpost locations on Tamil Nadu's border with Kerala. Police also stepped up searches on the premises of suspects in other parts of the State.

On 23 October, 75-kg of explosives, including potassium nitrate



were seized from the residence of 29-year old Jameesha Mubeen who was killed after a gas cylinder exploded in a car he was travelling. Mubeen is suspected to have played a key role in a conspiracy bid to carry out sabotage activities here.

The Deepavali eve explosion happened while he was moving past a temple in the car in this western textile city and he had tried to evade a police check post.

Six persons have so far been arrested in connection with the car explosion case and the National Investigation Agency has taken up investigation following a recommendation by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

Karnataka govt orders survey of Arabic schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kodagu (Karnataka), Oct 28: The ruling BJP in Karnataka has sought a detailed report on violations by the Arabic schools operating across the state, Minister for Education B.C. Nagesh said Friday.

Arabic schools operating in the state are not being run as per the rules. There is no proper learning of languages and science, he said while interacting with media in Madikeri.

Since several academicians and others have raised their concerns in this regard, a detailed report has been sought from the Commissioner of the Education department, the Minister stated. Very few madrasas where Arabic education is imparted follow rules. Many are violating the guidelines of the education department which has become evident at the outset, he said.

There are 106 aided and 80 unaided Arabic schools operating in the state. "We will get clarity once the study is done," he said.

About 27,000 children are admitted to Arabic schools every year. There is a huge difference in the statistics on how many are actually joining Arabic schools, Minister Nagesh said.

He also stated that there is an allegation that many Arabic schools are not at all giving importance to teaching Kannada, English, Maths and Science subjects. Education is the right of all children. Because of religion, no child should miss the education, he underlined.

Azam disqualified from UP Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 28: The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat Friday announced the disqualification of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan from the House, a day after a court sentenced him to three years in jail in a hate speech case.

Principal Secretary of the UP Legislative Assembly Pradeep Dubey said that the Assembly Secretariat declared the Rampur Sadar Assembly seat as vacant. "A vacancy has been declared by the UP Vidhan Sabha Secretariat consequent upon the disqualification due to the judgment passed by the court," he said.

Dubey said, "We do not disqualify (a sitting member), we only declare vacancy (of the respective seat). Disqualification had already been done by the court order." The Rampur MP-MLA court had on Thursday convicted Khan in a 2019 hate speech case and had sentenced him to three years of imprisonment.

The Representation of the People Act says that anyone sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time in jail.

The Rampur court had granted bail to Khan in the case besides providing him time to file an appeal against sentencing.



SHORT TAKES

PFI leader held

New Delhi: The banned Popular Front of India's state secretary C A Rauf was arrested on Friday from Kerala for his alleged involvement in unlawful activities and encouraging youth to join terrorist groups as part of a conspiracy to establish "Islamic rule" in India, the National Investigation Agency said. Rauf, a resident of Karimpullipalakkad, was the 13th accused arrested in Popular Front of India (PFI) Kerala case, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. In September, the central government banned the PFI and several of its associates for five years under a stringent anti-terror law, accusing them of having "links" with global terror groups such as the ISIS.

Five killed

Nakashipara (Nadia): Five people, including two children, died on Friday morning after the vehicle in which they were travelling collided head-on with a truck on National Highway-12 in West Bengal's Nadia district, a police officer said. Of the five deceased, four belonged to one family, and the fifth person was the driver, he said. According to the officer, the family was on their way to Nabadwip from Raiganj when the accident happened in Nakashipara area around 6.30 am. A speeding truck, which was coming from the opposite direction, rammed into the car near a toll plaza on the highway, he said. The driver abandoned his vehicle on the spot and fled the scene.

Jumbo electrocuted

Ranchi: A male elephant died of electrocution after it came in contact with a high-voltage wire in a village in Jharkhand's Ranchi district, a forest official said Friday. The pachyderm was passing through a paddy field in Chogadhi Barwadhi village, some 60 km from state capital Ranchi, late on Thursday when the incident occurred, he said. "I received information about the incident on Friday morning and visited the spot to look into matter. The carcass has been sent for post-mortem," the official stated.

84 shops gutted

Shillong: At least 84 shops were gutted in a blaze at a market complex in the Meghalaya capital Friday, officials said. However, no casualties were reported in the inferno that broke out around 4 AM. Three fire tenders doused the blaze after several hours of firefight. A vendor at the market complex said that goods worth lakhs of rupees have been damaged.

21.4 lakh new TB cases reported in India in 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: A total of 21.4 lakh TB cases were notified in India in 2021 - 18 per cent higher than 2020 - with over 22 crore people screened for the disease across the country for early detection and treatment, according to the WHO's Global TB report.

Under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, an initiative of the government, more than 40,000 Nikshay Mitra are supporting over 10.45 lakh TB patients all over the country presently; the Union Health Ministry said.

The World Health Organization, which released the report on October 27, noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the diagnosis, treatment, and burden of disease for TB all over the world. Taking note of the report, the Union Health Ministry on Friday claimed that India has, in fact, performed "far better" on major metrics as compared to other countries over time.

"India's TB incidence for the year 2021 is 210 per 100,000 population - compared to the baseline year of 2015 (incidence was 256 per lakh of population in India); there has been an 18 per cent decline which is 7 percentage points better than the global average of 11 per cent," the ministry said in a statement.

These figures also place India at the 36th position in terms of incidence rates (from largest to smallest incidence numbers), it said. While the COVID-19 pandemic impacted TB programmes across the world, India was able to successfully offset the disruptions through the introduction of critical interventions in 2020 and 2021, which led to the National TB Elimination Programme notifying over 21.4 lakh TB cases - 18 per cent higher than 2020, the statement said.

The ministry said the success can be attributed to measures implemented in the programme over the years, such as the mandatory notification policy to ensure all cases are reported to the government.



A woman takes bananas home for Chhath Puja in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

Govt amends social media grievance rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The government Friday notified rules under which it will set up appellate panels to redress grievances that users may have against decisions of social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook on hosting contentious content.

The three-member Grievance Appellate Committee(s) will be set in three months, a gazette notification issued by MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) said.

The government has, in the new rules, added objectionable religious content (with intent to incite violence) alongside pornography, trademark infringements, fake infor-

mation and something that could be a threat to sovereignty of the nation that users can flag to social media platforms. Their decisions on such flaggings can be challenged in the grievance committees.

Soon after the amendments were notified, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tweeted: "Empowering users. Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) has been introduced for hearing appeals against decisions of Grievance Officer appointed by the intermediary". In another tweet, the minister said, "Privacy policy and user agreements of intermediary to be made available in the Eight Schedule Indian languages".

While big tech companies had been advocating self-regulation,



the government seems to have taken a view that users' concerns about content on social media platforms need to be addressed by a grievance appellate body.

The government had, in February 2021, notified IT rules that provided for social media platforms to appoint a grievance officer. Users at the first stage flag complaints against content or another

user, to the grievance officer. The rules have now been amended through the Friday's notification to strengthen grievance redressal mechanism. The amendments provide for social media platforms to acknowledge user complaints within 24 hours, and resolve them within 15 days thereafter.

The complaints could range from child sexual abuse material to nudity to trademark and patent infringements, misinformation, impersonation of another person, content threatening the unity and integrity of the country as well as "objectionable" content that promotes "enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion or caste with the intent to incite violence".

'World's tallest' Shiva statue to be inaugurated today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 28: The 369-foot-tall Shiva statue 'Viswas Swaroopam' installed in Nathdwara town of Rajasthan's Rajsamand district will be inaugurated Saturday.

Claimed to be the tallest Shiva statue in the world, it will be opened to the public scriptures preacher Morari Babu in the presence of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, assembly speaker CP Joshi, and others. The statue, which is situated 45 kms from Udaipur, has been constructed

by Tat Padam Sansthan.

The Sansthan trustee and Miraj group chairman Madan Paliwal said that a series of religious, spiritual, and cultural events will be held for nine days- from October 29 to November 6- after the inauguration of the statue. Religion preacher Morari Babu will also recite Ram Katha during the nine days.

"This wonderful statue of Lord Shiva installed in the city of Shreenathji will give a new dimension to religious tourism," Paliwal said. Installed on a hill-



top over an expanse of 51 bighas, the statue is styled in a posture of

meditation, and is said to be visible from 20 kilometers away.

The statue is also clearly visible at night as it has been illuminated with special lights, Jaiprakash Mali, spokesperson for the programme said.

"This is the world's tallest Shiva idol in which lifts, stairs, and a hall for devotees have been built. There are four lifts and three stairs to go inside," he said. Three thousand tonnes of steel and iron, 2.5 lakh cubic tonnes of concrete and sand have been used in its construction, which took 10 years to complete.

The foundation of the project

was laid in August 2012 in the presence of Ashok Gehlot, who was the CM even then, and Morari Babu. Mali said that the statue has been constructed to last 250 years and can withstand wind speed up to 250 kmph.

"Wind tunnel test of the design of this statue has been done in Australia," he added. The venue around the statue will host activities like bungee jumping, zip line, and Go-Kart, and will house a food court, adventure park, and a jungle cafe for the tourists to enjoy their day, he added.



MATTER OF CONCERN

Stubble burning cases on the rise in Punjab

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 28: Keeping in view the increased instances of stubble burning in Punjab this year, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas has issued statutory directions for implementation of the state specific action plan.

Punjab witnessed 8,147 stubble-burning incidents from September 15 till October 27, registering a 20-per cent rise over the number of farm fires in the corresponding period last year.

The state saw 1,111 crop residue-burning incidents Thursday, with Tarn Taran, Sangrur and Patiala accounting for 40 per cent of those.

CAQM said that as per the satellite remote sensing data, up to October 24, only about 39 per cent of sown area in Punjab had been harvested and thus rising number of fire events is a matter of concern.

As per the Standard Protocol developed by ISRO for CAQM, for the period September 15 to October 26, total paddy residue burning events reported in Punjab are 7,036 compared to 6,463 for the same period during the last year.

CAQM stated that about 70 per cent of farm fires during the current paddy harvesting season were reported only from six districts namely Amritsar, Firozpur, Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, Patiala and Tarn Taran.

These districts account for 4,899 cases as against a total of 7,036 incidents in Punjab.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE
PADDY STRAW BURNING IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA IS ONE OF THE REASONS BEHIND THE ALARMING SPIKE IN AIR POLLUTION LEVELS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

AS THE WINDOW FOR RABI CROP WHEAT IS VERY SHORT AFTER PADDY HARVEST, FARMERS SET THEIR FIELDS ON FIRE TO QUICKLY CLEAR OFF THE CROP RESIDUE

These traditional six hotspot districts had also accounted for about 65 per cent of the total burning incidents during the last year for the same period.

Out of a total 7,036 reported cases, 4,315 stubble burning incidences were reported during the last six days alone which is about 61 per cent.

The Commission stated that it has been closely working with the Punjab government, starting in February 2022, well before the paddy sowing season 2022, to sensitize the state administrative machinery towards their preparedness to prevent and control the incidents of stubble burning.

For effective implementation of the plan of action, the Commission also held consultative meetings with major departments concerned of the gov-

ernment of Punjab like Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Environment, Power and Punjab Pollution Control Board.

Based on a broad framework developed by the Commission and learnings from the past paddy harvesting seasons, a comprehensive action plan was prepared by the state government of Punjab.

Key points include diversification to other crops, diversification to low straw generating and early maturing paddy varieties, crop residue management including bio-decomposer application, IEC activities and monitoring and effective enforcement.

The commission has held nine meetings with officials of Punjab government from time to time regarding various issues related to stubble burning, including five meetings with the Chief Secretary.

TOXIC FOAM COVERS SECTIONS OF YAMUNA

Environmentalists blame Delhi govt

Chhath Puja, which involves the offering of 'arghya' to the Sun god by fasting women in knee-deep water, will be celebrated October 30 and 31

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Ahead of Chhath Puja, environmentalists blamed the Delhi government for "not taking adequate action" to make the Yamuna pollution free as toxic foam covered sections of the river near Kalindi Kunj.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has given his nod to hold Chhath Puja at designated ghats on the Yamuna and urged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure clean ghats and water for devotees, sources in his office said Wednesday. Environmentalist Vimlendu Jha said lack of politi-



FILE PHOTO

cal intent, zero urgency in cleaning the Yamuna and minimal action on the ground were behind the frequent foaming of the river.

"Environmental governance doesn't seem to be a priority for the Delhi government. The unfortunate part is that there is a lack of political intent, zero urgency in cleaning the Yamuna and minimal action on the ground, leading to frequent foaming and frothing of the river," Jha told PTI.

He also cited lack of minimum

flow in the river as a major reason behind the pollution every year.

"Delhi empties more than 3,500 million litres of municipal sewage in the river and, despite tall claims, over 50 per cent of the sewage is either untreated or not adequately treated, and flows directly into the Yamuna."

"Lack of minimum flow in the river is another major cause of the Yamuna's pollution," he said.

When asked about what actions the government had taken to re-

move the toxic foam, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said cleaning of the river had started.

Environmentalist Jha further said the Delhi government needed to treat every drip of sewage before emptying it into the river.

"Some of the critical tasks the government needs to undertake to keep the river clean and the citizens of Delhi safe are ensuring every drip of sewage is treated before emptying the drains into the river, adequate flow of water in the Yamuna and a comprehensive common effluent treatment plan and management," he said in a statement.

Bhavreen Kandhari, another environmentalist, alleged that toxic foam covered sections of the river every year due to negligence and absence of real action on the ground.

Several citizens pointed out the violations but there are no officials on the ground to carry out a survey, she alleged.

OVER 81 LAKH MT PADDY PROCURED SO FAR IN PUNJAB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana, Oct 28: More than 81 lakh metric tonne of paddy has been procured so far in the ongoing Kharif marketing season in Punjab, a senior official said.

Additional Chief Secretary Anurag Aggarwal said paddy procurement operations were being carried out seamlessly in all grain markets across the state.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

So far, 84.48 lakh MT paddy has arrived in the mandis, and 81.80 lakh MT has been procured by the various procurement agencies, he said. A payment of more than ₹11,531 crore has been made to the farmers.

Aggarwal was in the Khanna grain market, about 45 km from here, to take stock of the procurement operations.

The ACS said the Punjab government was committed to ensure a hassle-free and smooth procurement season and every grain of crops would be procured without causing any inconvenience to the peasantry. He said the farmers were receiving their payments timely besides ensuring foremost priority to prompt purchase.

Later, Aggarwal went to the village Libran where progressive farmers had adopted in-situ crop management wholeheartedly and became an inspiration for others by not burning stubble.

He said by mixing stubble in the fields, these farmers saved the environment from harmful gases and earned various benefits in terms of increased yield of crops and improved soil health.

Chhath Puja declared as Dry Day in Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 28: For the first time, Chhath Puja has been declared as Dry Day in the capital city. This year, the Puja falls October 30 (Evening) and October 31 (Morning). The LG, in his capacity as "Government" as per Section 2(35) of Delhi Excise Act, 2009, has declared the Dry Day.

Meanwhile, the LG has also written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure that sufficient manpower and logistics must be put in place well before time at all designated sites.

"It has been brought to my notice that more than 840 sites have been identified and designated for this purpose by the departments concerned. Anticipating large gatherings this year and keeping in mind the zeal and fervour with which the festival is celebrated, it becomes imperative on part of the administration to leave no stone unturned in the unfettered organisation the festival at all designated Chhath Puja Ghats, with utmost professionalism," LG Saxena has said in the letter.

Roads from plastic waste in Bathinda

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Oct 28: To scientifically utilise the plastic material which otherwise is not recycled, Punjab's Bathinda Municipal Corporation has started constructing roads from it.

Punjab Local Government Minister Inderbir Singh Nijjar on Friday said the introduction of the use of plastic in road construction, an effective solution to the waste has been found with reduced cost.

In Jujhar Singh Nagar, the road from Bajwa House to the Main Street and street number 3-A and 3-B roads have been constructed by using plastic waste.

He said 1,000-running-foot-long road has been constructed by using eight per cent plastic waste in bitumen.

The minister said the use of plastic for the road construction will help solving problem of its menace.



He said by using plastic for the construction of roads, the roads will be made of better quality than before.

Along with this, the cost of road construction will also reduce. He said soon in other municipal committees and corporations the

use of plastic for road construction will start.

India wants its biggest plastic polluters to clean up their mess but new rules introduced in February 2022 have done little to reduce plastic pollution. Only a proportion of producers, importers and brand owners have registered on a centralised portal that would track their plastic collection and recycling targets.

While these targets are set by the government, they are based on the self-declared volume of plastic manufactured or imported by those brands.

In Jujhar Singh Nagar, the road from Bajwa House to the Main Street and street number 3-A and 3-B roads have been constructed by using plastic waste

'30% consumers yet to apply for monthly electricity subsidy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Nearly 30 per cent of the electricity consumers and subsidy beneficiaries are yet to apply for the power subsidy even as the last date of application, October 31, inches closer, government officials said Friday.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had last month announced October 31 as the deadline to apply for power subsidy for the month.

He had said that those who do not apply for the subsidy will have to pay their non-subsidised bills but can apply next month.

There are 58 lakh domestic power consumers in Delhi, of whom 47 lakh avail the subsidy.

Officials said that 33,14,488 lakh electricity consumers have applied for power subsidy, while the remaining 13.85 lakh consumers are yet to do it. "This means that around 29.47 per cent of the electricity consumers availing subsidy, are yet to apply for it. The last date is October 31," a government official said. He added that the above statistics show that



According to officials, over 33 lakh electricity consumers have so far applied for the power subsidy in the national capital

even though a large number of people want the subsidy, a still considerable percentage want to opt out. Out of 47 lakh electricity consumers who avail the subsidy, nearly 30 lakh are those who get zero bills and 16-17 lakh who get a 50 per cent subsidy.

At present, consumers with a power consumption of less than 200 units do not have to pay any charges and those with a consumption of up to 400 units get a 50 per cent subsidy.

On ground, it's duty vs health for traffic cops



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 28: With the national capital's air quality deteriorating, Delhi Traffic Police have come up with creative ways to alert people through social media and campaigns being organised across the city.

In a fun way of sharing memes on Twitter, cops have urged people to help reduce air pollution by using public transport and carpooling rather than going out in private vehicles in large numbers.

"Dwarka, Punjabi Bagh Ya Ho Dhoola Kuan. Sabko Milkar Delhi Mein Kam Karna Hai Dhuaan! #DelhiMaangePure," Traffic Police tweeted, in its recent campaign on pollution.

"Road Safety Cell staff sensitised truck drivers and school students about road signs & traffic rules. Students took the oath to ensure that their parents get their vehicles checked for pollution at regular intervals," it said in another tweet recently, while sharing pictures of students and truck driv-

ers taking pledge. Traffic police also advised people of the Capital to use bicycles, avoid use of personal vehicles for short distance travel, and travellers to get pollution under control certificate for ₹60 rather than getting a challan of ₹10,000.

"We have from time to time started campaigns for air pollution and urged the city residents to participate in it," said a traffic cop. "As a part of society, we all should contribute in keeping air quality clean," he said. Though cops have pulled up their socks to deal and

spread awareness about the rising pollution levels in the city, they, while performing their duties on ground in managing traffic, are themselves the victims of hazardous gases.

Experts said that a primary cause of lung ailment among the traffic police personnel is due to prolonged exposure to high levels of nitrogen oxide and sulphur oxide which are the toxic gases released through vehicular fumes.

Though the traffic cops use safety gears, experts suggested that reg-

ular transfers of officials are needed from high traffic zones to avoid exposure to hazardous conditions. A senior police official said that they regularly organise health camps for the traffic officials.

"If any cop complains of poor health, transfer is also considered," the official added.

In the past three decades, the number of motor vehicles on Delhi roads has increased by approximately 21 times contributing to more vehicular pollution.

AIR QUALITY CONTINUES TO BE 'VERY POOR' IN DELHI

New Delhi: The air quality of the national capital Friday continued in the "Very poor" category as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city touched 326, according to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) data. The overall concentration of Particulate Matters PM 10 and PM 2.5 was recorded at 239 under "poor" category and 326 under "very poor" category in the capital city. In Pusa, the AQI was recorded 318 while PM 10 was reported at 195 under "moderate" category. At Lodhi Road, the AQI was reported 301 with PM 2.5 concentration at 310 and the PM 10 stood at 173 under moderate category.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Farmer union calls off stir near Mann's house

Farmers under the banner of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) had been protesting since October 9

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 28: A farmer union Friday called off its 20-day-long protest near the residence of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in Sangrur district following an assurance from the state government that their demands will be met.

Farmers under the banner of the BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) had been protesting since October 9.

Their demands included compensation for crop damage due to rain and pest attack, ₹200 per quintal for managing paddy stubble, adequate relief against land acquisition and minimum support price for crops like maize and moong.

The decision to end the stir came after a meeting between leaders of the union and Punjab Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh



Dhaliwal at Circuit House in Patiala. "We have reached a consensus on all demands of farmers after a meeting with union leaders of the BKU, Ugrahan. Farmers have agreed to call off their protest," Dhaliwal said after the meeting.

Farmer union president Joginder Singh Ugrahan said the government has agreed to fulfil their demands.

"We have got a written assurance from the government that they will fulfil our demands. Therefore, we are calling off the protest," he said. During the stir, protesters had parked their tractor-trailers on a three-km stretch.

Farmers had been carrying ration, mattresses, cooking gas cylinders, fans and other essentials to the protest site to press the chief minister to accept their demands.

of the day quote

The Central government should issue directions to financial institutions for blocking bank accounts even during a holiday in case of a cyber crime

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

Arvind Kejriwal neither has knowledge of the Indian Constitution, nor does he know how to respect the secular Indian Constitution. Kejriwal's complicity with BJP and RSS has become clear

SWAMI PRASAD MAURYA | SP LEADER

Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Man held in Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested a man who allegedly ran his car over people following an argument with a bike rider, injuring three persons. The incident occurred Wednesday in Delhi's Alipur area. The accused has been identified as Nitin Maan, a resident of Alipur. According to a senior police official, a PCR call was received Wednesday regarding the incident following which a police team rushed to the spot.

Five booked

Botad (Saurashtra): Botad police have booked five persons on charges of gang-raping a 31-year-old woman, police said Friday. According to a complaint lodged by the survivor's father, the accused confined the woman on the night of October 26 and repeatedly violated her till next afternoon. The incident took place when the woman had hired an auto for Gadgha on October 26. Idrish Sandhi, along with Savlat Sandhi and Sahil Sandhi, forcibly took her to an abandoned place and took turns to assault her sexually.

Arms seized

Chandigarh: The Border Security Force has seized six AK-47 rifles, three pistols, and 200 rounds of ammunition along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, officials said. The recovery was made Thursday evening from a bag during a search near zero line in the Ferozpur sector. From the bag, three AK-47 rifles, six empty magazines, three mini AK-47 rifles, five magazines, three pistols and six empty magazines along with 200 rounds of ammunition were recovered.

Five dead

Kolkata: At least five people, including a child, were killed Friday after a car collided with a truck in West Bengal's Nadia district. The accident took place near the toll plaza over National Highway 34 at Nakashipara. According to witnesses, the car was heading towards Kolkata from Raiganj, while the truck was coming from the opposite direction.

Three arrested

Bhopal: Days after a Portuguese tourist was attacked and robbed in broad daylight at a busy market in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, the police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three accused involved in the case. District Collector Avinash Lavania along with a couple of senior police officers met the Portuguese national -- Nuno Rodricks -- at a city hotel where he has been staying for the last one week.



We can see industrialists do not have confidence in this 'khole sarkar' (government formed out of bribery worth crores of rupees as alleged by the Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction) and that is why every investment which was supposed to come to Maharashtra is now moving to other states

AADIYA THACKERAY | FORMER MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

VAGHELA'S SON JOINS CONGRESS

Mahendrasinh Vaghela, son of veteran Gujarat politician Shankersinh Vaghela, joined the Congress in the presence of party leaders in Ahmedabad Friday



NCW TEAM TO PROBE 'AUCTION' OF GIRLS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 28: The National Commission for Women (NCW) Friday constituted a two-member fact finding team to look into the matter of girls being auctioned off to settle disputes over loan repayments in Rajasthan's Bhilwara.

In a statement, the NCW said: "It has been further reported that in many settlements of the village, girls are sold for prostitution on stamp paper. In some cases, their mothers are subjected to rape on the diktats of caste panchayats for the settlement of disputes.

"The Commission has taken cognizance of the reported crime which is extremely appalling and traumatizing. The Commission has constituted a two-member fact finding team to look into the matter. Chairperson Rekha Sharma has written to Chief Secretary, government of Rajasthan to take urgent action in the matter and apprise the Commission of the action taken.

"The Commission has also written to the Director General of Police, Rajasthan to immediately invoke relevant provisions in the FIR and to arrest all the accused at the earliest. A copy of the letter has also been sent to Superintendent of Police, Bhilwara."

On Thursday, the National



Chairperson Rekha Sharma has written to Chief Secretary, government of Rajasthan to take urgent action in the matter and apprise the Commission of the action taken

On Thursday, the NHRC had also sent a notice to the state government in connection with the same matter

Human Rights Commission India (NHRC) had also sent a notice to the state government in connection with the same matter.

In a statement, the NHRC said that it had taken "suo motu cognizance of a media report that in a half dozen districts of Rajasthan, the girls are sold on stamp paper and if not, their mothers are subjected to rape on the diktats of caste panchayats for the settlement of disputes".

"Reportedly, whenever there is a dispute between the two parties particularly involving financial transactions and loans etc, the girls aged between 8-18 are auctioned to recover money. These girls are

being sent to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai, Delhi and even foreign countries and subjected to physical abuse, torture and sexual assault in slavery. The media reports have documented the ordeal of many victims of such horrendous crimes.

"The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to human rights violations of the victims of the such abominable practice. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan calling for a detailed report in the matter, along with an action taken report, measures already taken and if not, proposed to be

Key planners of 26/11 remain unpunished, says Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 28: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Friday said the key conspirators and planners of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks continue to remain protected and unpunished, and stressed that India understands the cost of terrorism more than others.

He said that when it comes to proscribing some terrorists, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has "regrettably" been unable to act in some cases because of "political considerations", an apparent reference to China which has blocked the UNSC sanction of Pakistan-based terrorists on several occasions.

Since terrorist organisations require funds and resources to function and to undertake activities, curbing terror financing is a key aspect of tackling the menace, the minister said. "Terrorism may have plagued several regions of the world, but India understands its cost more than others," he said.

"But with that experience comes the steeling of national resolve. Decades of cross-border terror has not and will not weaken our commitment to fight back. We must rise above our political differences to address this scourge. The battle against terrorism must be fought resolutely at all fronts, all situations and all places," he added.

The minister was delivering his inaugural session at a special meeting here on 'Countering the Use of New and Emerging Technologies for Terrorist Purposes'. The first leg of the event is being held at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in south Mumbai. This hotel was

one of the places attacked by the terrorists during the November 2008 attacks.

"The key conspirators and the planners of 26/11 terror attacks continue to remain protected and unpunished," Jaishankar said during the wreath-laying ceremony to pay tributes to the victims of the 26/11 attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel.

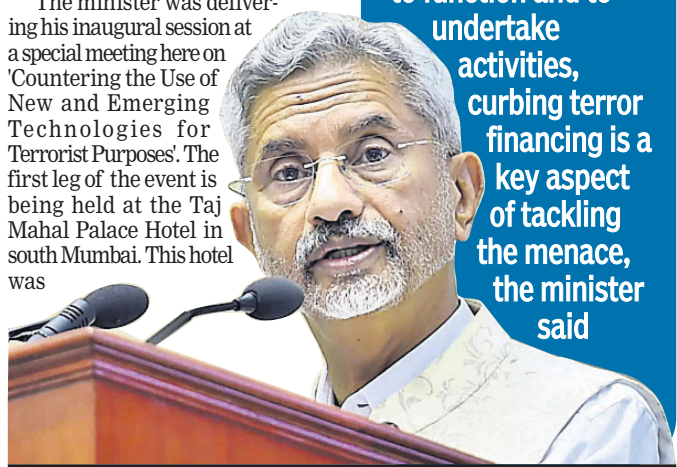
This undermines the collective credibility and collective interest, he added.

Jaishankar said the "shocking" terror incident was an attack not just on Mumbai, but on the international community.

"In fact, this entire city was held hostage by terrorists, who had entered from across the border," he said without naming Pakistan.

As many as 140 Indian nationals and 26 citizens from 23 countries lost their lives in the attacks, he said. Jaishankar, Michael Moussa-Adamo, Gabonese Foreign Minister and president of the UNSC along with the members from international community paid tributes to the victims who lost their lives in the 26/11 terror attacks.

Since terrorist organisations require funds and resources to function and to undertake activities, curbing terror financing is a key aspect of tackling the menace, the minister said



Rajnath inaugurates 75 infra projects

Rajnath Singh inaugurated the projects at a function held at the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DS-DBO) road that provides connectivity to India's northernmost outpost of Daulat Beg Oldi in eastern Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Friday dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects including bridges, roads and helipads built at a cost of Rs 2,180 crore in strategically key areas of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim among others.

He inaugurated the projects at a function held at the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DS-DBO) road that provides connectivity to India's northernmost outpost of Daulat Beg Oldi in eastern Ladakh. The highlight of the event was the onsite inauguration of 120-metre-long 'class-70 Shyok Setu' on the



DS-DBO Road at an altitude 14,000 feet, the defence ministry said.

The bridge will be of strategic importance as it will facilitate logistics movement of the armed forces. Other projects inaugurated virtually by Singh included two helipads, one each in Hanle and Thakung, in Eastern Ladakh, it said.

These helipads will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force in the region. The rest of the projects were inaugurated virtually by Singh. The 75 projects included 45 bridges, 27 roads, two helipads and one 'Carbon Neutral Habitat' and they are spread across

six states and two Union territories.

Twenty of the projects are in Jammu and Kashmir, 18 each in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, five in Uttarakhand and 14 in other border states of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. Speaking on the occasion, the defence minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensure the progress of far-flung areas to fulfill the security needs of the country.

Singh noted that infrastructure development along with the valour of the armed forces was the main reason that helped India effectively deal with the recent situation in

Woman gangraped; six arrested

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 28: A 23-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped in Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh district, and six accused have been arrested in this connection, police said Friday.

In her complaint, the victim told the police that she had come to Tikamgarh around one month back and she got familiar with one of the accused, who helped her find a flat on rent. The complainant further alleged that on October 26, one of the accused came to her rented flat and asked her to accompany her to a party



venue in the district.

The victim claimed that as she was familiar to the man, she agreed to go for the party, however, when she reached the venue, five more persons were also present there. After partying, they started molesting her under the

influence of alcohol.

The victim said that she resisted and decided to leave for her home but the accused took her to an isolated place and gang-raped her. Later, the victim lodged a complaint at the police station.

"The incident occurred on October 26 and all the accused were arrested. The woman had come to Tikamgarh a month ago," said Sub-Inspector Raghuraj. Police have registered a case under sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 294 (obscene acts and songs), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 376 (rape), 377 (Unnatural offence), and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Former Andaman chief secy grilled for 8 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port Blair, Oct 28: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) questioned former chief secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Jitendra Narain for over eight hours here Friday in connection with the alleged gangrape of a woman, an official said.

The SIT of the police was constituted to probe into allegations that a 21-year-old woman in Andaman and Nicobar Islands was lured to the chief secretary's residence by promising a government job and then raped by top officials including Narain there. Labour Commissioner RL Rishi was also accused of raping the woman while a police inspector and a hotel owner were named in the FIR as accomplices in the crime.

The police inspector was also interrogated by the SIT on Friday. Narain was brought to the Police Lines in the morning for questioning which lasted over eight hours, the official said. He was taken inside the Police Lines in Port Blair through a rear door to avoid protesters. "A heinous crime was committed against the woman. We want justice for her," a protester, carrying a placard denouncing Narain as a rapist, said. The former chief secretary left the premises using the same door after sundown. There is a possibility that Narain, who is staying in a private resort here, will be grilled again on Saturday, according to a source.

Despite new heating devices, Kangri still popular

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Kashmir Valley is famous and known all over the world in terms of its beauty and at the same time it is also unique in terms of its seasons. Where the view of winter is spectacular, during this time the traditional way of living, clothing and manners of the people also take a unique form.

In order to protect themselves from the bitter cold during winters, the people of Kashmir use a special device for warmth, which is called Kangri in the local language. In these days of cold, Kangri remains the support of the people

in the traditionally dressed pheran. Kashmiris have been using Kangri since centuries. Traditionally, it is actually a beautiful basket made of flexible beed twigs with a handle and inside a thick ring (matki) of baked clay called 'kandal' in Kashmiri.

Burning coals are placed in the kangri, which stays hot for seven to eight hours, and everyone carries it easily from one place to another inside their furn, a long coat made of woollen cloth, to keep themselves warm. Kangri is a part of Kashmiri tradition. Without it, the harshest days of winter become more difficult.

The kangri makers make at-



tractive and beautiful kangris of different designs and they are sold not only at the shops but also by ped-

lers. There, customers also buy kangri with great gusto. Along with the kangri business, the pot-

ters who make the pottery required for it also earn a good amount of money.

A person dealing in kangri said that the price ranges from Rs 200-900. However, the rate depends on the texture and material. A 'dallan' i.e. wood, is attached to the kangri with a cord which serves to increase the heat by inverting the coals.

Kangri serves as a portable heater for people in the sub-zero temperatures of Kashmir. During winters, power outages are common in the Kashmir Valley, making all modern heating devices pale in comparison to the traditional kangri.

international

of the day quote

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud would soon visit Pakistan

The climate crisis is happening now - destroying livelihoods, disrupting food security, aggravating conflicts over scarce resources and driving displacement

China is willing to deepen exchanges with Russia at all levels and promote bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields to a higher level

China reaffirms support for Putin

Speculation was rife that Xi may reorient his full support to Putin after the Congress in the light of reverses suffered by the Russian leader in his war in Ukraine, especially after Putin said in his meeting with the Chinese leader last month at the SCO summit at Samarkand that he understands Beijing's "questions and concerns"

Party of China (CPC), is emerging as Xi's top official on foreign policy issues. He will take over his new position in March next year.

Wang chose to make his first phone call to Lavrov after the party congress to highlight the continued importance Beijing attached to Moscow. "China is willing to deepen exchanges with Russia at all levels and promote bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields to a higher level," he was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

In his interaction with Lavrov, Wang said, "China will be resolutely supporting Russia in the future so that under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian people overcome difficulties, remove all obstacles and put into practice their development strategy goals, as well as make further progress in strengthening Russia's status as a power in the international arena."

The 20th Congress of the CPC, which concluded Monday, re-elected Xi, 69, as its General Secretary for a record third term, the only leader after party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after a 10-year term. So far, all Chinese leaders have retired after two five-year terms. Xi, who is equated with Mao as the core leader, is widely expected to continue in power for life.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 28: China has reaffirmed its firm support to Russian President Vladimir Putin, playing down reports that it may recalibrate its strategy towards Moscow after the key Communist Party Congress which endorsed President Xi Jinping for a record third five-year term.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a telephonic conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov Thursday.

Wang, who was elected to the 24-member Politburo, a high-power body of the ruling Communist



Imran Khan offered extension to Bajwa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 28: Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan has admitted that he offered an extension in the tenure of Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in March amid the opposition's attempt to topple his government.

Khan's remarks came after Pakistan's ISI chief Lt Gen Nadeem Najum revealed at an unprecedented press conference Thursday that the army chief was given a "lucrative offer" for an indefinite extension in his tenure in March this year.

"It was made in front of me. He (Gen Bajwa) rejected it because he wanted the institution to move forward from a controversial role to a constitutional role," the ISI chief said, without naming former premier Khan.

Khan told 92 News TV in an interview Thursday that he told the army chief that if the then opposition was offering him an extension, then he could do the same. The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Separately, Khan reiterated his claim that a foreign conspiracy was hatched to topple his government.

Iran barred from Nobel ceremony

EARLIER THIS WEEK, THE ENVOYS OF RUSSIA AND BELARUS WERE BARRED FROM ATTENDING THE GLITZERY EVENT BECAUSE OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen, Oct 28: The ambassador of Iran also been excluded from this year's Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm because of "the serious and escalating situation" in the country, the private foundation that administers the prestigious awards said Friday. "We believe that given the se-

rious and escalating situation, Iran's ambassador should not be invited to the Nobel Prize award ceremony," the Nobel Foundation said in a statement. Normally, ambassadors stationed in Sweden are invited to the annual event December 10.

With the slogan #WomanLifeFreedom, the demonstrations in Iran first focused on women's rights and the state-mandated hijab, or headscarf for women. But they quickly evolved into calls to oust the Shiite clerics that have ruled Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The protests have also galvanised university students, labor unions, prisoners and ethnic minorities like the Kurds along Iran's border with Iraq. Since the protests erupted, security forces have fired live ammunition and tear gas to disperse demonstrations, killing over 200 people, according to rights groups.

Earlier this week, the foundation also said it would continue its practice of inviting the leaders of all parties in the Swedish Parliament except the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats. Following the country's September 11, the party is the second-largest in Parliament and a close partner of the new center-right government. The party has sought to distance itself from its far-right roots.

The Nobel Prizes are always handed out December 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.



The world faces probably the most dangerous decade since the end of World War Two

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

KING CHARLES III COIN PRODUCTION BEGINS

The Royal Mint, the official maker of UK coins, has started production of circulating coins featuring the image of King Charles III. The 50p coin has started to be struck at The Royal Mint in Llantrisant, Wales, and will enter tills, wallets and purses in December



A street photographer leaves Bolivar Square with her llama after it started to rain in Bogota, Colombia

PTI PHOTO

Putin terms ties with India special

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Oct 28: Russia has special ties with India and they have always supported each other and will remain so in the future, President Vladimir Putin has said, as he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pursuing an "independent foreign policy" in the interest of his country.

Putin's remarks came at a plenary session of the Valdai International Discussion Club, a Moscow-based think-tank Thursday. He said Russia and India continue to cooperate in the military and technical areas.

Putin's comments came more than a month after Prime Minister Modi told him that today's era is not of war as they met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in September. India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of



Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

"PM Modi is one of those individuals in the world who is able to pursue an independent foreign policy in the interest of his country, and his people without any attempts to stop him," said Putin.

Russia has been a major supplier of military hardware to India. In October 2018, India signed a

USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

Putin said India has walked a great development path from being a British colony to its modern state

We have special ties with India that are built on the foundation of really close allied relations for decades. We never had any outstanding issues with India, we have always supported each other and I'm positive that's how it will remain in the future as well

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

and this has yielded significant results for the country's almost 1.5 billion people.

The Russian leader said that the economic cooperation between Delhi and Moscow is growing as well. "Prime Minister Modi asked me to increase fertiliser supplies which is crucial for Indian agriculture and we have done that," he said, adding that the supplies have been increased 7.6 times without giving details.

SHORT TAKES

At least 42 dead in Philippines floods

Cotabato (Philippines): Flash floods and landslides set off by torrential rains swamped a southern Philippine province, killing at least 42 people, leaving 16 others missing and trapping some residents on their roofs, officials said Friday. Most of the victims were swept away by rampaging floodwaters and drowned or were hit by debris-filled mudslides in three towns in hard-hit Maguindanao province, said Naguib Sinarimbo, the interior minister for a five-province Muslim autonomous region run by former guerrillas.

US sanctions Iranian group

Washington: The US is imposing financial penalties on an Iranian-based organisation that raised money to target British-American author Salman Rushdie, who was violently attacked in August at a literary event. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned the 15 Khordad Foundation, which issued a multimillion-dollar bounty for the killing of Rushdie. He wrote "The Satanic Verses," which some Muslims consider blasphemous. Rushdie's agent says the author has lost sight in one eye and the use of a hand as he recovers from an attack by a man who rushed the stage at the event in western New York.

Japan Cabinet okays \$200B spending plan

Tokyo: Japan's Cabinet approved Friday a hefty economic package including 29 trillion yen (\$200 billion) in government spending to counter the blow to household budgets from inflation, signalling that the greater concern of its policymakers is that the economy will stall, not overheat. While central banks around the world are raising interest rates aggressively to try to tame decades-high inflation, with its own inflation rate near 3%, Japan has stuck mainly to using fiscal measures, or government spending, to counter that challenge.

8 found dead after Tulsa house fire

Broken Arrow (US): Eight people were found dead Thursday in a burning Tulsa-area house in what was being investigated as multiple homicides, police said. The fire was reported about 4 pm Thursday in a quiet residential area of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, 13 miles (20 kilometers) southeast of Tulsa. Broken Arrow police said that although the fire and the deaths were being investigated as homicides, they did not believe an immediate threat to the public existed.

Vulcanism in Mars' innermost part shaping its surface: Study

Mars is the only planet, other than Earth, in which scientists have ground-based rovers, landers, and now even drones that transmit data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bern (Switzerland), Oct 28: Vulcanism or volcanic activity still plays an active role in shaping the Martian surface, scientists said after detecting low-frequency quakes in the planet's innermost part indicating a potentially warm source comparable

to molten lava. The scientists analysed a cluster of more than 20 recent marsquakes that originated in the Cerberus Fossae graben system, a region consisting of a series of rifts or graben. From the seismic data, they concluded that the low-frequency quakes indicate a potentially warm source that could be explained by present day molten lava - magma at that depth - and volcanic activity on Mars.

Specifically, they found that the quakes are located mostly in the innermost part of Cerberus Fossae - a name for a creature from Greek mythology known as the 'hellhound of Hades' that guards the underworld.

The study, published in Nature Astronomy, was led by ETH Zurich



and involved scientists from Harvard University, Nantes Université, CNRS Paris, German Aerospace Center in Berlin, and Caltech.

When they compared seismic data with observational images

of the same area, they also discovered darker deposits of dust not only in the dominant direction of the wind, but in multiple directions surrounding the Cerberus Fossae Mantling Unit.

"The darker shade of the dust

signifies geological evidence of more recent volcanic activity - perhaps within the past 50,000 years - relatively young, in geological terms," lead author of the study Simon Staehler explained.

Exploring Earth's planetary neighbours is no easy task, the scientists said.

All other planetary exploration, so far, has relied on orbital imagery, according to the study.

"InSight's SEIS is the most sensitive seismometer ever installed on another planet. It affords geophysicists and seismologists an opportunity to work with current data showing what is happening on Mars today - both at the surface and in its interior," said another co-author of the study Domenico Giardini.

The seismic data, along with orbital images, ensures a greater degree of confidence for scientific inferences.

"One of our nearest terrestrial neighbours, Mars is important for understanding similar geological processes on Earth. The red planet is the only one we know of, so far, that has a core composition of iron, nickel, and sulphur that might have once supported a magnetic field," according to the study.

Topographical evidence also indicates that Mars once held vast expanses of water and possibly a denser atmosphere. Even today, scientists have learned that frozen water, although possibly mostly dry ice, still exists on its polar caps, the team said.

of the day quote

A mechanism is being put in place in the National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange to mitigate the risks of cyber attacks, with the new system expected to go live in March next year

MADHABI PURI BUCH | CHAIRPERSON, SEBI

We have a great subscription business, 900 million paid subs now on the platform and growing very fast. We doubled in 3 years

TIM COOK | CEO, APPLE

We are pleased with the strong financial performance in the current quarter. Our focus is to build a robust pipeline with products that improve affordability and access to patients globally

GV PRASAD | CO-CHAIRMAN & MD, DR REDDY'S LABORATORIES

SHORT TAKES

Tata Power net profit rises 85%

New Delhi: Tata Power Friday reported about an 85 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹935.18 crore in the September 2022 quarter, mainly on the back of higher revenue. The consolidated net profit of the company was ₹505.66 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2021, a BSE filing stated. The total income of the company rose to ₹14,181.07 crore in the quarter from ₹10,187.33 crore a year ago. Tata Power's PAT (profit after tax or net profit) has increased for the 12th consecutive quarter, demonstrating the effectiveness of its business strategy, the company said.

Vedanta profit dips 61% in Q2

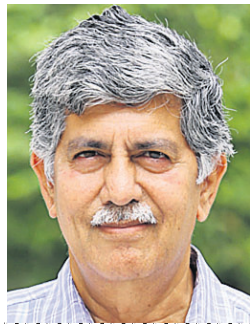
New Delhi: Vedanta Ltd Friday reported a 60.8 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at ₹1,808 crore for the quarter ended September 30 on the back of higher expenses. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹4,615 crore in the year-ago period, Vedanta Ltd said in a regulatory filing. The company's expenses during the July-September period increased to ₹37,221 crore from ₹23,171 crore in the year-ago period. Its consolidated income during the quarter under review increased to ₹37,351 crore from ₹31,074 crore last year.

Exxon rakes in a record \$19.66bn

Texas: Exxon Mobil broke records again with its profits in the third quarter, raking in \$19.66 billion in net income. The Irving, Texas company said Friday that it booked \$112.07 billion in revenue during the quarter, more than double revenue last year during the same period. Americans have struggled with painfully high gasoline prices in recent months, paying more than \$4.80 on average for a gallon of regular at the beginning of July. Prices eased somewhat towards the end of the quarter, but customers were still paying more than \$3.79 a gallon of regular, on average, in late September.

boAt raises ₹500cr

New Delhi: Imagine Marketing, the parent company of wearables brand boAt, Friday said it has raised ₹500 crore from existing shareholder, a Warburg Pincus affiliate, and new investor Malabar Investments. The company has withdrawn its listing plans for now, and is likely to reconsider IPO plans in the next 12-18 months, a source privy to the development said.



The high inflation rate in the last three quarters is mainly a consequence of the exogenous price shocks, and addressing the issue will require coordinated policy efforts

SHASHANKA BHIDE | MPC MEMBER, RBI

NHAI InvIT NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES LISTED

NHAI's Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) Non-Convertible Debentures was listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange Friday. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari said, "Today is a historic day and I feel very happy that we could finally give the Retail Investors an opportunity to participate in the Nation-Building activity. The minimum investment slab is just ₹10,000



MUSK'S TWITTER TAKEOVER

Tough road ahead for new Twitter boss

ELON MUSK PLANS TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF CEO AT TWITTER, TAKING THE HELM OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA GIANT ON TOP OF LEADING TESLA AND SPACEX

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 28: Overspending on Twitter Inc for \$44 billion was the easy part. Now, Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk must prove why he believes that Twitter is worth 10 times that amount and turn around a social media platform that he has spent months ridiculing.

Earlier this month, the outspoken billionaire said: "Myself and the other investors are obviously overpaying for Twitter right now. The long term potential for Twitter in my view is an order of magnitude greater than its current value."

Musk has provided few concrete details about his plans, and what he has shared appears far-fetched or contradictory.

Here is what lies ahead for Musk, the self-proclaimed "Chief Twit", according to current and former Twitter employees, analysts and investors who considered funding the deal.

X SUPER APP

Musk's biggest bet borrows from China's greatest hits of the 2010s. "Buying Twitter is an accelerant to creating X, the everything app," Musk tweeted earlier this month.

The idea of an everything app, also referred to as a super app, originated in Asia with companies like WeChat, which lets users not only send messages but also make payments, shop online or hail a taxi. The all-in-one service appealed to users who had fewer choices in a region where Google, Facebook and others were blocked.

Musk has told investors he plans to build one that will sell premium subscriptions to reduce reliance on ads, allow content creators to make money and enable payments, according to a source.

Apple Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google, which control the app stores on iPhones and Android phones, see themselves as super apps and would be unlikely to allow other super



Social messaging services wouldn't devolve into a free-for-all hellscape, where anything can be said with no consequences! The reason I acquired Twitter is because it is important to the future of civilization to have a common digital town square, where a wide range of beliefs can be debated in a healthy manner, without resorting to violence. There is currently great danger that social media will splinter into far-right wing and far left-wing echo chambers that generate more hate and divide our society

ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA

apps to develop, Galloway said. Consider Apple's recent rejection of Spotify's plan to sell audiobooks as one example of barriers to entry

CUTTING CONTENT MODERATION

Current and former employees who spoke with Reuters said Musk's plans to lower the guard rails that are common across all social media platforms would lead to a deluge of hateful, harmful and potentially illegal content on Twitter. Already, it has struggled with identifying and removing child porn.

Members of Twitter's trust and safety team, which includes content moderators, are expected to be among Musk's deepest job cuts, employees fear.

In 2019, Musk tweeted "I hate advertising." On the eve of the deal's expected closing, he appealed directly to advertisers in an open-letter tweet: "Twitter obviously cannot become a free-for-all hellscape, where anything can be said with no consequences!... Twitter aspires to be the most respected advertising platform in the world that strengthens your brand and grows your enterprise."

Advertisers are not buying it. Until Musk finds new sources of revenue, he can't afford to trigger

a backlash from a group that contributes 90% of Twitter's revenue. **OBEYING THE LAWS**

Musk has promised to preserve free speech of all kinds, but has also struck a more conciliatory tone with global leaders who aim to rein in Big Tech.

In May, Musk said in a Twitter video that he agreed with the European Union's new digital media regulation, which will force Big Tech to do more to tackle illegal content or risk fines of up to 6% of global revenue, in one of the world's most severe approaches to regulating content online.

Regulators across Asia are also toughening legal stances against social media platforms and ordering the removal of content they deem illegal, which includes speech by political dissidents.

In India, Twitter has waged a "sophisticated battle" with the government to protect free speech online, and this battle would be at risk with Musk in charge. Tesla's expanding business in China, where it generated \$14 billion last year, could also put Twitter at risk. Twitter is staffed with experts who review data requests from governments, but Musk has shown his contempt of these experts.

ROLLER COASTER RIDE

April 4- Musk discloses over 9% stake in Twitter

April 14- Musk offers \$54.20/share, a 38% premium to Twitter's April 1 closing price

April 15- Twitter adopts poison pill to protect company from takeover

April 21- Musk lines up \$46.5 billion in financing for the deal

April 25- Twitter board accepts Musk's offer

April 29- Musk sells Tesla shares worth over \$8 billion in a bid to finance takeover

May 2- Musk seeks to get more external investors

May 5- Musk discloses \$7.14 billion funding

May 13- Musk says Twitter deal on hold pending review of spam and fake accounts. Later tweets he remains committed to the deal

May 25- Twitter investors vote against re-electing Elon Musk ally to board. Musk pledges more equity to fund Twitter deal, scraps margin loan

May 26- Musk sued by Twitter investors for stock 'manipulation' during takeover bid

June 6- Musk threatens to walk away from the deal if Twitter fails to provide data on spam and fake accounts

July 8- Musk says he is terminating the deal as Twitter breached provisions of the merger agreement

July 10- Twitter hires US law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz LLP as it prepares to sue Musk

July 11- Twitter fires back at Musk, accusing him of "knowingly"

breaching an agreement to buy it

July 12- Twitter sues Musk for violating his \$44-billion deal

July 19- Twitter will get an October trial in its legal fight to hold Musk to his \$44 billion takeover

July 29- Musk confidentially countersues Twitter, escalating his legal fight against the company over his bid to walk away from the deal

August 4- Twitter rejects Musk's claims in a Delaware court filing that he was hoodwinked into signing the deal, saying it was "implausible and contrary to fact"

August 9- Musk sells \$6.9 billion worth of shares in Tesla saying the funds could be used to finance a potential Twitter deal if he loses the legal battle

August 23- A whistleblower complaint by former Twitter head of security Peiter "Mudge" Zatkos becomes public. It alleges the company misled regulators and investors about security and data privacy

September 7- Delaware judge Kathleen McCormick allows Musk to add the whistleblower claims to his countersuit against Twitter but denied request to delay the trial

October 4- Musk proposes to go ahead with his original offer of \$54.20 per share to take Twitter private

October 6- Judge halts Twitter lawsuit vs Musk until Oct 28 to permit deal closing

October 25- Musk informs co-investors he plans to close Twitter deal by Oct 28

October 27- Musk begins his Twitter ownership with firings, declares the 'bird is freed'

In Europe, the bird will fly by our (EU) rules

THIERRY BRETON | EUROPEAN INTERNAL MARKET COMMISSIONER

I hope @Twitter will now act against hate speech, fact check more robustly, and will no longer stifle the opposition's voice in India due to government pressure

RAHUL GANDHI | INDIAN POLITICIAN

I am very happy that Twitter is now in sane hands. Twitter must now work hard to rid itself of all of the bots and fake accounts that have hurt it so badly. It will be much smaller, but better

DONALD TRUMP | FORMER US PRESIDENT

Our rules and laws for intermediaries remain the same regardless of who owns the platforms. So, the expectation of compliance with Indian laws and rules remains

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | INDIA'S MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

RECORD SALES

Maruti Suzuki Q2 profit over 4X

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Maruti Suzuki India Friday reported an over four-fold increase in consolidated net profit to ₹2,112.5 crore in the second quarter that ended September 30, 2022, riding on record sales.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹486.9 crore in the same period last fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) said in a regulatory filing. Total revenue from operations was at ₹29,942.5 crore as against ₹20,550.9 crore in the year-ago period.

MSIL said it sold a total of 5,17,395 vehicles during the quarter, its



highest ever in any quarter.

"Sales in the domestic market stood at 4,54,200 units. Exports were at 63,195 units. Shortage of electronic components impacted production by about 35,000 vehicles in this quarter," it added.

The company said the year-ago quarter was marked by an acute shortage of electronic components

and consequently it could sell a total of 3,79,541 units, out of which 320,133 units were in the domestic market and 59,408 units were in export markets.

MSIL said its pending customer orders stood at about 4.12 lakh units at the end of the second quarter, out of which about 1.3 lakh vehicle pre-bookings are for recently launched models, including Grand Vitara and the new Brezza.

In the first half of the ongoing fiscal, MSIL said it sold a total of 9,85,326 units as against 733,155 units in the year-ago period. Domestic sales were at 8,52,694 units as compared to 6,28,228 units in the same period a year ago.

Xiaomi recently pulled its Mi Credit, which connects smartphone users with lending firms for quick loans, and Mi Pay apps from the local Play Store and its own app store, TechCrunch reported earlier Friday.

In India, Xiaomi's strongest market outside of China, the company has been subject to government probes for allegedly dodging tax regulators.

In April, India's federal financial crime agency froze \$676 million worth of Xiaomi's assets, alleging the company made illegal remittances to foreign entities by passing them off as royalty payments.

FIT FOR 55 EU okays ban on new combustion-engine cars from 2035

According to EU data, transportation is the only sector in which greenhouse gas emissions have surged in the past three decades, rising 33.5% between 1990 and 2019. Passenger cars are a major polluter, accounting for 61% of total CO2 emissions from road transport

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Oct 28: European Union lawmakers and member countries reached a deal to ban the sale of new gasoline and diesel cars and vans by 2035.

The deal EU negotiators sealed Thursday night is the first agree-

ment of the bloc's "Fit for 55" package, which the bloc's executive commission set up to achieve the goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent over this decade.

Under the deal, carmakers will be required to reduce the emissions of new cars sold by 55 per cent in 2030, compared to 2021, before reaching a 100 per cent cut five years later. The European Parliament and member states must formally approve the agreement before it comes into force.

The European Parliament said the deal is a signal ahead of the UN's annual climate change conference "that the EU is serious about adopting concrete laws to reach the more ambitious targets set out in the EU Climate Law."

The EU wants to drastically reduce emissions from transportation by 2050 and promote electric vehicles, but a report from the bloc's external auditor showed last year



that the region lacks the appropriate charging stations.

The EU Parliament said Friday that funding should be directed to help small- and medium-sized businesses that are part of the automotive supply chain, as well as vulnerable regions and communities, weather the transition to ending sales of cars that run

on gas and diesel.

World leaders agreed in Paris in 2015 to work to keep global temperatures from increasing more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and ideally no more than 1.5 degrees C (2.7 F) by the end of the century.

Scientists have said even the less ambitious goal will be missed

This is a historic decision, as it sets for the first time a clear decarbonisation pathway – with targets in 2025, 2030 and 2035 and aligned with our goal of climate neutrality by 2050. This sector, which accounts for 16 per cent of European emissions at the moment, will be carbon-neutral by 2050

PASCAL CANFIN | CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The EU is taking the scenic route, and that route ends in disaster. A European 2035 phase-out of fossil fuel-burning cars is not quick enough: New cars with internal combustion engines should be banned by 2028 at the latest

LORELEI LIMOUSIN | GREENPEACE CAMPAIGNER, EU

by a wide margin unless drastic steps are taken to reduce emissions. Greenpeace said the 2035 deadline is too late to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

"The EU is taking the scenic route, and that route ends in disaster," Greenpeace EU campaigner Lorelei Limousin said. "A European

2035 phase-out of fossil fuel-burning cars is not quick enough: New cars with internal combustion engines should be banned by 2028 at the latest." Limousin called the deal announcement "a perfect example of where politicians can bask in a feel-good headline that masks the reality of their repeated failures to act on climate."

Hosts ride on Mandeep goals

MEN IN BLUE START PRO-LEAGUE CAMPAIGN WITH EXCITING WIN OVER NEW ZEALAND IN 7-GOAL THRILLER



STAR PERFORMER: Mandeep Singh (arms raised) of India is jubilant after scoring the winning goal against New Zealand during India's Pro-League opener at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Friday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Mandeep Singh struck two field goals in the final quarter as India began their FIH Pro League campaign with a come-from-behind 4-3 win over New Zealand at the Kalinga Stadium here Friday. It was indeed a great victory for the side that won the bronze in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Egged on by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Indians displayed true grit to emerge victorious.

Mandeep scored in the 51st and 56th minutes after India were down 2-3 at the end of the third quarter. Mandeep Mor (13th) and captain Harmanpreet Singh (41st) were the other goal-getters for India who are ranked fifth in the FIH standings. World No. 9 New Zealand scored through Sam Lane (22nd and 35th) and Jake Smith (34th). New Zealand showed more attacking intent in the early exchanges. India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was called into action early in the match as he saved a de-

flected long-range attempt. However, the first penalty corner of the game came India's way, but Shamsher Singh smashed it wide. India took the lead from the first chance of the match. Nilakanta Sharma found Mor free on the right with an accurate pass. Mor then beat the onrushing New Zealand goalkeeper Dominic Dixon with a fierce drive. India were in the ascendancy and threatened to double the lead in the early period of the second quarter. But it was the Black Sticks

who equalised seven minutes from their first penalty corner. The shot from Lane was blocked by Surrender Kumar. The visiting team went for a review and replays showed that the ball came off Surrender's foot. Lane duly converted the penalty stroke. Just before half time, India came close to taking the lead but Sukhjeet Singh's shot from a narrow angle off an Abhishek assist was blocked by Dixon. Both the teams went to the interval with the scores tied 1-1. The third quarter was an exciting one and New Zealand surged ahead with two quick goals in the 34th and 35th minute. However, India pulled one back with captain Harmanpreet scoring from the penalty spot. India were down to 10 men towards the end of third quarter after Sumit was shown the yellow card (10 minutes out of play). New Zealand pressed hard and earned a couple of penalty corners but India survived, though trailing by one goal. India played the first seven minutes of the final quarter with 10 men but after that they scored two goals to win the match. Mandeep got his first goal with a brilliant individual effort and then hit the match-winner after a combined move down the middle. Mohammed Raheel made his India debut in the match and had a good outing. Overall it can be said that both sides had equal ball possession. India next play Spain at the same venue Sunday in their second Pro-League encounter.

Indian colts in final after thrilling draw with Britain

AUSTRALIA'S WIN OVER SOUTH AFRICA ENSURES A PLACE IN THE SUMMIT CLASH ROUND FOR THE JUNIOR STARS



Indian players celebrate after scoring a goal against Great Britain, Friday

AGENCIES

Johor (Malaysia), Oct 28: The Indian junior men's hockey team played out a thrilling 5-5 draw against Great Britain in their last round-robin league match of the Sultan of Johor Cup here Friday. The win helped them take second spot in the group with eight points. At that point of time, the colts had to wait for the Australia-South Africa game to be played later in the evening. South Africa were on six points and an upset win over Australia by a big margin could have propelled the former into the summit clash round. However, the Aussies thrashed South Africa 6-1 and set up a final date with India with the match to be played Sunday. Poovanna CB (seventh minute),

Amandeep (50th), Arajjeet Singh Hundal (53rd) and Sharda Nand Tiwari (56th, 58th) were on target for India while Great Britain scored through Max Anderson (first, 40th), Harrison Stone (42nd) and Jami Golden (54th, 56th). Great Britain were out of the blocks faster than India, with Anderson striking early on. However, India who were matching move for move were not to denied and midfielder Poovanna restored parity off a combined move after a few minutes. The second quarter saw both teams continue to match each other move for move. Both sides had chances to score, but failed to capitalise on those. The teams were tied 1-1 at the interval. In the third quarter, the British

side looked more aggressive than the Indians. They kept on piling the pressure and it paid off, with Anderson getting his second goal of the game to give Britain the lead. Two minutes later, Stone scored a third for Britain and India looked down and out at 1-3. However, in the fourth quarter, the Indians looked stronger. Amandeep made it 2-3 for India with a superb field goal. Then Hundal scored to make 3-3. Desperate for a win, Great Britain struck quickly twice to restore their two-goal lead at 5-3. With only four minutes left for the hooter, no one would have given India a chance to come back. However, Tiwari successfully converted two penalty corners to salvage a point for India and seal a spot in the final.

SHORT TAKES

Three new records

GHAZIABAD: Maharashtra-based weightlifter Akanksha Vyavahare created Friday, three new national records (NR) in the 40kg weight category at the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting tournament here. The weightlifter, who is also a part of the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme, created records in snatch, clean and jerk, and total. Akanksha bettered her existing snatch national record, by lifting 60kg. She recorded 71kg in the clean & jerk, and in the process, registered a total lift of 131kg which is the best in her weight segment this year.

Wawrinka advances

BASEL: Stan Wawrinka delighted home fans again at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament here Friday, digging deep to beat Brandon Nakashima 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in the second round after failing to serve out the match in the second set. The three-time Grand Slam winner had a chance to close out the match in the second set, but failed to do so. Wawrinka will face Roberto Bautista Agut in the quarterfinals after the sixth-seeded Spaniard eased to a 6-3, 6-2 win over another three-time Grand Slam champion, Andy Murray.

Charges dropped

MADRID: Prosecutors in Spain dropped Friday corruption and fraud charges against footballer Neymar and others accused in a trial over the Brazilian's 2013 move from Santos to Barcelona. In a dramatic move, the prosecutor announced the 'withdrawal of the charges against all the accused and for all the allegations' they had faced. Neymar, 30, had earlier said he did not remember if he took part in the negotiations which led to an agreement sealed in 2011 with Barcelona over his transfer two years later to the Spanish side from Santos. Spanish prosecutors had sought a two-year prison term for Neymar.

Stunning display

PARIS: The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stunned top seeds Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan in straight games to enter the semifinals of the French Open badminton tournament here Friday. Seeded seventh in the Super 750 event, Rankireddy and Shetty won 21-12, 21-16 in a quarterfinal match that lasted 49 minutes. The Indian duo will now face the Korean pair of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho for a place in the final. The Indians dominated both the games from the start and won by comfortable margins.

ANOTHER WASHOUT PUTS TWO TOP TEAMS IN A SPOT OF BOTHER

Rain plays spoilsport for Australia, England

AGENCIES

Melbourne, Oct 28: The crucial T20 World Cup clash between old rivals Australia and England was called off Friday without a ball being bowled due to intermittent rain. This development certainly makes the race to semifinals tougher for the two top teams. Only two teams each from the two groups qualify for the semifinals. After two rained out games Friday, England found themselves in the number two spot after sharing a point with Australia. They are on three points from three matches, the same as New Zealand, Ireland and Australia. However, New Zealand have played a match less than the other three group rivals. Australia among the four have the worst run rate.

"That's the wettest I've ever seen in this stadium. The run-ups were a real issue and around the inner circle, it was very wet. It's more about players' safety," said Australia skipper Aaron Finch. "We saw one of the Zimbabweans go down the other day. If you are trying to run there, it's going to be a real issue. Everyone was ready to play; there was a great turn-out, disappointing not to get on with the game. The amount of rain that Melbourne has had has been amazing, but also disappointing," Finch added. England skipper Jos Buttler too expressed disappointment after the second no show of the day. "It was supposed to be a massive oc-



IN SOMBRE MOOD: Aaron Finch and Jos Buttler talks to the umpires at the MCG, Friday

NO LUCK FOR AFGHANISTAN

Melbourne: Afghanistan's match against Ireland in the T20 World Cup was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to incessant rains at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here Friday. Play was eventually called off just after 4.30pm (local time), with both Afghanistan and Ireland receiving one-point apiece to stay in contention for a semifinal berth. The result pushed Ireland to second spot behind New Zealand on net run-rate as both teams have three points apiece with Ireland playing one match extra in Group 1 standings. cation, full house here against Australia, biggest game of your career. We are very disappointed not to be able to play tonight. But full focus on our next match and keep our tournament alive. We've been

playing some good cricket leading into the tournament," Buttler said. "Really disappointing the other night specially when we had majority of things in our favour. We don't become a bad team overnight. We are full of match-winners. Looking forward to the rest of the tournament," said Buttler referring to the shock loss to Ireland. Whatever, the captains may say, the weather in all probability will have a final say in the group standings and decide the fate of the teams.

ACTORS HAIL BCCI AFTER PAY PARITY

In a landmark decision Thursday, the board announced same match fees for both women, men

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 28: Top stars of the Hindi film industry, Shah Rukh Khan, Taapsee Pannu and Anushka Sharma have welcomed the BCCI's landmark decision of equal match fees for its centrally-contracted female and male players in a bid to promote gender equality in cricket. The BCCI had announced Thursday that henceforth, the Indian women cricketers will now receive ₹15 lakh per Test, ₹6 lakh per ODI and ₹3 lakh per T20I. It is the same match fees that their male counterparts get. Earlier, the women players received ₹1 lakh each for ODIs and T20Is while the match fee for a Test match was ₹4 lakh. However, it should be stated here that the Indian women rarely got a chance to play Test cricket. Legendary women's cricketer Mithali Raj had played only 12 Tests in a career lasting from 2004 to 2022. "What a good front foot shot.



Sports being such an equaliser (in more ways than one) hoping it will pave the way for others to follow," wrote Shah Rukh on Twitter. Taapsee, who played Mithali in the 2022 film *Shaabash Mithu*, expressed her gratitude towards the BCCI. "A huge step towards equal pay for equal work. Thank you BCCI for leading with example," the actor wrote on Twitter. Actor Priyanka Chopra shared

a video on her 'Instagram story' and wrote, "BCCI you've hit it out of the park with this one! A monumental decision in ensuring equality and pay parity. I hope this will be the first of many for us!" Taking to 'Instagram Stories', Anushka shared the screenshot of BCCI secretary Jay Shah's tweet and reacted to the post with three clapping emojis. The actor is set to play former pacer Jhulan Goswami in

Not missing Bumrah: Bhuvi

Senior pacer backs Arshdeep as India's future bowling star

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Oct 28: Jasprit Bumrah's absence no doubt is a huge loss for the Indian cricket team playing in the T20 World Cup. However, it doesn't mean that the current bowling unit would deviate from its individual plans to over-compensate for the premier bowler's absence, senior India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar said, Thursday. Prior to the World Cup, Bhuvi, as he is popularly known, endured a tough time during Asia Cup and the subsequent bilateral series against South Africa as his performance in death overs came under scanner. However, the Meerut man has been in excellent rhythm overall in the World Cup. "The kind of bowler Bumrah is, certainly it's a big loss for the team. However, it's not as if we would have to do something extra that Bumrah isn't around," Bhuvneshwar told reporters in the mixed zone after the game against the Netherlands. "We are doing exactly what our strengths are. It has helped as till now we haven't missed Bumrah," he added. Bhuvneshwar was asked if the criticism about his Asia Cup death bowling had hurt him. He did give an impression that he wasn't amused. "Itni saalon mein ek baar ho gayi cheezein kharab. So ho gayi. Baat khatm. (In all these years, I have had this one off tournament. It's happened. It's done and dusted)," Bhuvi said. "Media and commentators can say a lot of things (about death bowling), but as a team we knew that we will have our share



The win against Pakistan was important. No team want to lose the first game of the World Cup. It is difficult to make a comeback if you lose the first one of any event

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

of ups and downs. T20 is a format where it could be tough for bowlers," Bhuvi pointed out. Bhuvneshwar said he keeps away from social media during big events because that is where the criticism mostly is. His face also lit up when the topic turned to Arshdeep Singh. "He has been amazing since his debut. He continuously pesters me with questions. Why me? he also pesters Rohit (Sharma) and Virat (Kohli). So much so, that at times we try to hide from him," Bhuvneshwar said with a smile on his face. "Considering it is Arshdeep's first T20 World Cup, he is doing really well," Bhuvneshwar added.

MCFC maintain their unbeaten record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 28: Mumbai City FC (MCFC) continued their unbeaten streak with a 2-0 victory over Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) in an ISL match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here Friday. First half goals from Mehtab Singh and Jorge Diaz were enough to secure all three points for the Islanders. This is the third consecutive game KBFC have lost after winning the ISL opener earlier this month. Mumbai took the lead after 21 minutes. The hosts failed to clear a corner as the ball bounced off a couple of Blasters' players before coming to Mehtab who smashed it into the back of the net. Ten minutes later, poor defending from Marko Leskovic allowed Diaz to go one-on-one with the keeper. The Argentine kept his composure before scoring against his former club as the visitors doubled their advantage. The goal came a minute after Mongil had denied Lallianzuala Chhangte with a brilliant last-ditch tackle.



What a good front foot shot. Sports being such an equaliser (in more ways than one) hoping it will pave the way for others to follow.