HERE. NOW

PC'S HOMECOMING

Actor Priyanka Chopra takes to Instagram to share her excitement of coming to India after three years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday

flagged off a direct flight service be-

tween state capital Bhubaneswar

and Jeypore in Koraput district at

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme

Court Monday deprecated the 're-

gressive' and 'invasive' practice of

the 'two-finger test' on rape sur-

vivors and said it has no scientific

basis and instead re-victimises

women who may have been sexu-

ally assaulted, and is an affront to

and the states to ensure that it is

on victims of sexual assault and rape

to determine whether they are ha-

The top court said it is 'patriarchal'

and 'sexist' to suggest that a woman

cannot be believed when she states

that she was raped, merely for the rea-

It said any person who conducts

the 'two-finger test' or per vaginum

examination (while examining a per-

son alleged to have been subjected to

a sexual assault) in contravention

of the directions of this court shall

A bench of Justices DY

Chandrachud and Hima Kohli

made the remarks in a judgement

on a plea of the Jharkhand gov-

ernment in which it challenged

the acquittal of Shailendra Kumar

Rai alias Pandav Rai of rape and

The top court overturned the

be guilty of misconduct.

murder charges.

son that she is sexually active.

bituated to sexual intercourse.

The apex court asked the Centre

The 'two-finger test' is conducted

their dignity.

not conducted.

LEISURE



NAVEEN LAUNCHES BHUBANESWAR-JEYPORE F

11.35 am daily and reach Jeypore at

1.20 pm. On the return journey, it will

take off from Jeypore airport at

4.05 pm and arrive in Bhubaneswar

at 5.50 pm, officials said. The in-

troductory fare is `999, they said.

302, 341, 376 and 448 of the IPC, as

well as its order dated October 11,

2006 sentencing the respondent

(Rai) to rigorous imprisonment for

life for the offence punishable under

Section 302 of the IPC and rigorous

imprisonment for 10 years for the offence punishable under Section

"These sentences are to run con-

currently. The respondent shall be

taken into custody to serve the sen-

The bench noted that while ex-

amining the victim, the medical

hoard of the Sadar hospital at

Deoghar in Jharkhand conducted

the 'two-finger test' to determine

whether she was habituated to sex-

deprecated the use of this regres-

sive and invasive test in cases al-

leging rape and sexual assault.

This so-called test has no scien-

tific basis and neither proves nor

disproves allegations of rape. It

instead re-victimises and re-trau-

matises women who may have been

sexually assaulted, and is an af-

front to their dignity. The 'two-fin-

ger test' or per vaginum test must

The bench referred to its 2013 ver-

dict in Lillu versus State of

Haryana, where it was held that the

test violates the right to privacy, in-

tegrity, and dignity of a woman.

Continued on P4

not be conducted," it noted.

"This court has time and again

ual intercourse.

tence immediately," it added.

376 of the IPC," the bench said.

The airstrip in Jeypore was con-

the Biju Patnaik International

will operate the nine-seater flight

under the UDAN regional connec-

tivity scheme. The flight will de-

part from Bhubaneswar airport at

Ensure '2-finger test'

not done: SC to govts

It is 'patriarchal' and 'sexist' to

suggest that a woman cannot be

was raped merely for the reason

that she is sexually active: SC

The court said that any individual

conducting the 'two-finger test'

will be held guilty of misconduct

The SC directed the Centre and

the health secretaries of the

states to take steps and remove

study materials on 'two-finger

The test is conducted on victims

of sexual assault and rape to

determine whether they are

habituated to sexual intercourse

decision of the High Court and

upheld the trial court order hold-

ing Rai guilty of rape and murder

Court's decision dated January 27,

2018 and restore the Sessions Court's

judgment dated October 10, 2006

convicting the respondent of of-

fences punishable under Sections

"We therefore set aside the High

and awarded him life sentence.

tests' from the curriculum of

medical colleges

lieved when she states that she

Ahmedabad-based IndiaOne Air

Airport (BPIA) here.

ATTACK CONTINUES

NESWAR | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | 2022

A barrage of Russian strikes hits critical infrastructure in Kyiv, Kharkiv and other cities

INTERNATIONAL P1

HARDIK NAMED CAPTAIN

All-rounder Hardik Pandya to lead India in the three-match T20I series in New Zealand starting November 18

SPORTS P12

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SHORT TAKES

RBI to introduce digital rupee today

Mumbai: India's first digital rupee pilot project will commence Tuesday with nine banks, including SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, issuing the virtual currency for transactions in government securities. "...The first pilot in the Digital Rupee - Wholesale segment shall commence on November 1, 2022," the RBI said in a statement on 'Operationalisation of Central Bank Digital Currency-Wholesale (e?-W) Pilot'. It also announced that the first pilot in digital rupee retail segment is planned for launch within a month in select locations in closed user groups comprising customers and merchants.

OHRC seeks report on custodial torture

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Monday sought a report from the **Bolangir Superintendent of Police** (SP) over the allegations of inflicting torture on an elderly person in a civil dispute case by the officer in-charge (OIC) police station in Bolangir. The commission issued the order taking suo motu cognisance of reports appeared in various newspapers October 31.

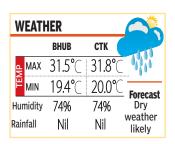
of Salebhata outpost of Loisingha

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Seems Make in India only applies to not safe bridges & pothole-free roads!

MARKET WATCH SENSEX **60746.59** 👚 786.74 18012.20 DOLLAR 82.32 ₹0.06 EURO GOLD SILVER



Instagram users report outage

gize for the inconvenience." Some users reported seeing a message that they were locked out but were still able to scroll through Twitter said they were completely

dropped, presumably because those accounts were locked

Instagram were impacted, according to outage-tracking website Downdetector, which collates status reports from a number of

much larger number of users.

While 10-year-old Madhu has carried a total of 59.821 kgs of load during his seven years of service with the force in Ladakh sector, Bahubali (9.6 years) has walked for 2,348 kms and carried 7,818 kgs in the last one year, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officials said.

The medals are given annually

transport wing who rendered exceptional services and undertook some of the most arduous journeys on the hills to reach remote border posts of the ITBP, a senior officer said. According to official records, the wing -- comprising ponies, mules and yaks -- carried a total of 30,45,019 kgs load as its

The medals were given to the

Top court to examine linking of Aadhaar with voter ID

structed in 1962 along with the es-

tablishment of a Hindustan

Aeronautics Limited (HAL) fac-

In the 1980s, Vayudoot operated

Visakhapatnam flight via Jeypore.

daily Bhubaneswar-

tory in nearby Sunabeda area.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme Court Monday agreed to examine a plea challenging the Centre's decision that enables linking electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem.

A bench of Justices SK Kaul and Abhay S Oka tagged the petition filed by former Major General SG Vombatkere with a similar pending matter.

"Petitioner has drawn to 2019 Aadhaar judgment to contend that only if some benefit is sought to be conferred then Aadhaar can be mandatory but not to deny rights, and the right to vote is the highest of such rights.

"Two other petitions have also been filed by him and there may be some overlapping. Thus, this requires tagging. Tag this petition with that matter," the bench said.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that right to vote is one of the most sacred rights and it should not be denied if an individual lacks Aadhaar. The Union government had notified the law to link the electoral roll with Aadhaar under the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021. The law allows electoral registration officers to seek the Aadhaar numbers of citizens who want to register as voters to establish their identity.

The Union government had said in Parliament that this process would be voluntary. However, several voters have received calls from election officials telling them it was compulsory to link the two.

lowing commercial flight operations October 20.



It was upgraded to an airport under

The Directorate General of Civil

Aviation (DGCA) granted the li-

cence for the Jeypore airport, al-

the UDAN scheme in 2017.

"Of these nine, two work as managers, while two work as ticket booking clerks (all four employed by Oreva group) at the bridge site. We will conduct a thorough inquiry and will not spare the guilty," said Range IG Ashok Kumar Yadav at a press conference.

The other five accused include two repairing contractors hired by the Oreva group and three persons working at the bridge as security personnel, said Yadav.

Earlier in the day, the senior IPS officer said the death toll from the bridge collapse has

Twitter may charge for verification

REUTERS

San Francisco, Oct 31: Twitter will revise its user verification process. Elon Musk said in a tweet, just days after he took over one of the world's most influential social media platforms.

'Whole verification process is being revamped right now," Musk said in his tweet without giving Twitter is considering charging

for the coveted blue check mark verifying the identity of its account holder, technology newsletter Platformer reported, citing two people familiar with the matter. Users would have to subscribe to

Twitter Blue at \$4.99 (roughly ₹400) a month or lose their 'verified' badges if the project moves forward, according to the report. Musk has not made a final de-

cision and the project could still be scrapped but according to Platformer it is likely that verification will become a part of Twitter Blue.

Separately, The Verge reported that Twitter will increase the subscription price for Twitter Blue, which also verifies users. from \$4.99 a month to \$19.99 (roughly ₹1,600) a month, citing internal correspondence seen

Gujarat tragedy toll rises to 134; 9 held

BHUBANESWAR: Following the bridge mishap in Gujarat's Morbi,

Morbi, Oct 31: Nine persons, including four employees of the Oreva group, were arrested by police Monday and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder in connection with the Morbi bridge collapse case, a senior official said, adding that the death toll has mounted to 134.

The Oreva group had bagged the contract to maintain and operate the British-era bridge that collapsed Sunday, killing 134 people.

mounted to 134.

Police have registered an FIR on

Dhabaleswar bridge shut for inspection

the Odisha government closed down the suspension bridge over Mahanadi river in Dhabaleswar of Cuttack district for a day (Tuesday) to carry out repair works. Speaking to media, Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani said a technical team had visited the suspensior bridge Sunday and submitted its report. Now, another team led by an additional district magistrate has been rushed to the bridge for further examination, he said. "The bridge will be closed down for devotees Tuesday. If the bridge will be found safe, it will be used with a minimum capacity. If needed, the bridge will be completely shut down," he said As an alternative, people can visit the temple by mechanised boats

charges of culpable homicide against agencies given the task of maintenance and operation of the bridge.

with proper safety precautions. PNN

The case was registered in Morbi under Indian Penal Code Sections 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), police said.

The FIR, lodged by 'B' division police inspector Prakash Dekivadia, stated the bridge over the Machchhu river was not in use for nearly eight months as the local administration had roped in a "private agency" for its maintenance.

'Bahubali', 'Madhu' get pat for carrying ration to LAC

New Delhi, Oct 31: Days after the WhatsApp outage, Meta-owned photo-sharing app Instagram stopped working Monday, with several users unable to get online and receiving a message that their account has been suspended.

The company said it was looking into an issue preventing thousands of its users from accessing the photo-sharing application It confirmed the issue on

Twitter, stating, "We're aware that some of you are having issues accessing your Instagram account. We're looking into it and apolo-

their feeds. Others posting on shut out. Some reported that their number of followers

Nearly 7,000 users of

sources including user-submitted errors on its platform. The outage may be affecting a

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 31: Yak 'Bahubali' and pony 'Madhu', part of the ITBP animal transport wing, have been awarded special service medals for delivering tonnes of rations, equipment and ammunition to forward posts along the India-China LAC in Sikkim and Ladakh sectors respectively, officials said Monday.

to those members of the animal

members walked over 3,43,593 kms in the current year.

The animals carry dry rations, fuel, ammunition, packaged food and other items to border posts that are located at high altitudes from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh ranging from a height of 8,000-16,000 ft.

two winners at their respective border posts on the occasion of the ITBP Raising Day that was cel-



ebrated on October 24.

While ponies can be brought up to the plains, Yaks are usually deployed at posts located at a height of 15,000 feet or above as they cannot sustain themselves below this height, the officer said.

The ITBP had instituted the 'Animal Transport' and a 'K9' (canine) medal in 2016 to honour the services of its four-legged soldiers who help the troops to maintain the logistics and supply lines at highaltitude border posts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The about 98,000 personnel strong ITBP is mandated to guard the 3,488 kms long LAC apart from rendering a variety of duties inthe internal security domain of the country.



leisure



K-POP SINGER-ACTOR LEE JIHAN **DEAD IN ITAEWON STAMPEDE**

Singer and actor Lee Jihan is confirmed to have passed away in the crowd crush that occurred during Halloween celebration in Seoul, South Korea over the weekend. His agency 935 Entertainment confirmed the sad news late Sunday night.

'MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PAID BILL FOR MY BIRTH'

Actress Julia Roberts says the late Martin Luther King Jr and his wife Coretta Scott King paid the hospital bill for her birth. The actress revealed the couple made the gesture as her parents couldn't afford the fee, and said her mum and dad befriended the Kings while living in Atlanta running a theatre school.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks,co™ accuracy • reliability • trust

You will be very enterprising and industrious today. You make your plans very carefully and execute them perfectly. Despite this, your progress will be very slow. However, Ganesha advises you not to despair and showers his blessings on you

TAURUS

This one of those ordinary days that, somehow, do not turn out too well. Unexpected expenses, that could totally upset your budget, cannot be ruled out Something or the other is likely to give you an uncomfortable stomach upset. Ganesha urges you to take your medi cines on time, and exercise moderation and discretion while deciding what and how much you should eat.

GEMINI

You had better start sharing your feelings with your family today, says Ganesha. Also, it's time to tell your family about your current financial status. It will help you feel better. Your energy levels will soar and you will approach everything with renewed vigour.

I CANCER You may discuss certain serious issues with your beloved today, predicts Ganesha. Your time till afternoon will be spent in discussions and deliberations about the issue However, this issue may not be enough in

LEO

After a long time, it seems as if the stars are aligning for you. Call it your field day, but today, everything will go your way, says Ganesha. Expect to get appreciated for your hard work in office. As for the home front, you will get all the support you need from your family members for refurbishing your home.

■ VIRGO

Surf's up as you enjoy an unexpected achievement! But your joy ride today may well be spent in vexing about the problems you have. Expect to gain new money for a new venture. Your business will rise atop the highest wave today, foretells Ganesha

Working for the government is always a key responsibility, says Ganesha. But today
of all days proves to be fabulous and phe nomenal for all those in government serv ice. Your actions will translate into accomplishment and you may rest assured that you shall be duly recognized and rewarded for your meritorious service.

SCORPIO Your business associates

will emerge as intangible assets for you today, says Ganesha. You will probably start off an innovative joint venture without any doubt or indecision. Hard work and enthusiasm are always a good combination for achiev ing success. Your skill and business sense will bring you positive feedback from your seniors, feels Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

The sage within you will take the lead today. You are likely to prescribe yourself to your own medication for peace of mind. Wise and content that you are today, you will spread the message of love around you. All in all, a peaceful day is in store for you today

CAPRICORN

People may call you a busy bee, but that you admittedly will be, says Ganesha. Work will demand your undivided attention, but the good thing is you will quickly get done with pending work one by one. In fact, you will be left with plenty of time in the evening which you are likely to spend romancing with your sweetheart.

AQUARIUS

It's a busy day at work, and you're probably involved in some pending project work. It's advisable that you don't get complacent. Keep an eye on your opponents to have an edge over them, suggests Ganesha. Colleagues will be supportive, and so will family.

PISCES

Today is a day of mixed fortunes. So, while you may not win a gazillion dollars in the daily lottery, you might just end up winning a return air ticket to Timbuktu. No one has really been there, but it is better than noth ing. However, the distress of those lost dollars is likely to be eased by the ecstasy awaiting you in the evening.



MUMBAI: Silver metallic clothing is currently all the rage on celebrity Instagram accounts. It may not be a new trend, but it certainly isn't going out of vogue any time soon and Malavika Mohanan is the most recent addition to the metallic trend.

Malavika Mohanan is the most wellknown actress, who has been appearing on the style radar for all the right reasons. She is renowned for turning heads with her gorgeous appearance. Malavika has once again dazzled everyone and lit up the internet with her most recent photos. Mohanan put on a gorgeous metallic ensemble by Deme X Kalki Fashion. She can be seen wearing a metallic silver skirt with a thigh-high slit and pleat details. She wore it

with a matching metallic crop top that had full sleeves, a front ruching detail, and a sweetheart neckline. Her silver outfit is worth Rs.

With a pair of silver earrings, rings, and minimal makeup that included black sharp eyeliner, silver eye-shadow, and sparkly pink puckered lips, she made sure to accent her appearance. She kept hair open to create the softest waves possible to successfully take over Instagram. From the style to sass, her ensemble was a complete stunner.

On the work front, Malavika was last seen in Tamil film *Maaran* alongside Dhanush and also has the Hindi film Yudhra in the pipeline with Siddhant Chaturvedi.

Priyanka shares excitement about her homecoming

LOS ANGELES: Priyanka Chopra is one of the top actresses and has managed to make her name as an international artist.

She has been living in the United States for years now. After three long years, she is all set to come back to India and this certainly is a piece of exciting news for all Priyanka Chopra fans. Earlier Monday, she took to Instagram Stories to share her excitement about her homecoming. She shared a photo of her boarding pass and wrote, "Finally...going home. After almost 3 years." Meanwhile, this will be her first trip after the birth of her daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas' birth, whom she welcomed in January via surrogacy. Looks like PeeCee has returned to

India to kick start the prep for

her much-anticipated

film, Jee Le Zaraa with Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif in the lead. However, she has not officially announced it yet. The film is helmed by Farhan Akhtar, who will be returning to director's chair after his last venture Don 2. Meanwhile, Jee Le Zaraa marks Chopra's return to the Hindi silver screen after the 2019 film, The Sky Is Pink, which was directed by Shonali

> Bose. The Bajirao Mastani actress was expected to return to India in April this year, however, it did not happen.



KBC:Odia contestant makes Amitabh walk the ramp

Pooja Tripathy, the first runner-up of Miss Odisha, called the walk 'lion walk' and not 'catwalk' as she wanted to make it look more graceful

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan walked the ramp along with Kaun Banega Crorepati 14 contestant and former Miss Odisha's first runnerup, Pooja Tripathy, on her request.

She called it 'lion walk' and not 'catwalk' as she wanted to make it look more graceful with the host. Pooia also spoke about the efforts her parents put into her education. Her mother mortgaged her gold ring so that she could participate in 2014's Ms Odisha beauty pageant. She also handed over a cheque for Rs 3,20,000 to her father as a tribute for his hard work to fulfill her dreams.

Pooja said: "Everything about KBC was so surreal. It still feels like a dream. I feel elated when I recall my moments on the show. The fact that I was able to give my cheque to my father as a tribute and walk with Mr Bachchan have been my best achievements which will stay with me forever."

She added: "I cannot imagine my episode to have gone more perfectly. It is a time that I will always cherish.

Carpet woven for Shah Jahan auctioned for £ 5,442K

The auction comprised 265 lots, including works of art, paintings, carpets and manuscripts from the 9th through to the 20th century

NEW DELHI: An exceptionally rare Royal Mughal pashmina carpet, woven for the court of the Indian Emperor Shah Jahan, circa 1650, sold Sunday at Christie's for 5.442,000 pound, achieving over twice the low pre-sale estimate. Competitive telephone bidding in the room

on the

Mughal Carpet lasted for over 10 minutes. The Mughal pashmina carpet is of Lattice and Flower design, exemplary for its brilliant colour and pattern, woven with the most luxurious and costly materials with prized pashmina goat hair woven onto a fine silk foundation. It is one of only four 17th century pashmina carpets remaining in private

Due to the fragility of the silk and the finely spun pashmina pile very few examples survive, making a carpet of this size and condition an extraordinarily rare survivor from the golden age of Imperial Mughal carpet production.

The carpet was a highlight in Art of the Islamic & Indian Worlds including Oriental Rugs and Carpets sale which totalled 15,989,352 pound. The auction comprised 265 lots, including works of art, paintings, carpets and manuscripts from the 9th through to the 20th century, and from Spain in the east to India in the west. IANS

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

3

9 4

6 4

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

2

5

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

SUDOKU

4

6 8

8



5

5

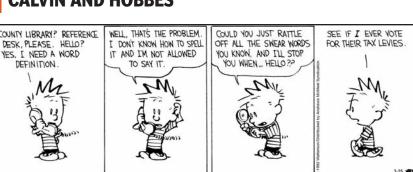
9

7 3

PEANUTS



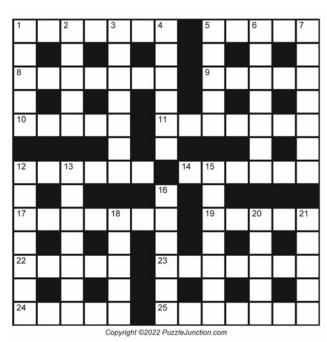
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN **CROSSWORD**



Across

- 1 Fr. country
- house 5 Impersonator
- 8 Whale's insulating layer
- 9 Billiards bounce
- 10 Sports facility
- 11 Height 12 Spice tree
- 14 Conformed 17 Charge card 19 Peruvian beast
- **Down**

22 Loafer

23 Torment

24 Barracks boss

25 Like some

peanuts

- 1 Deadly snake 2 Sky-blue
- 3 Kiss or hug, e.g.
- 4 Social turmoil
- 5 Coffee shop order
- 6 The smallest
- planet 7 Praise 12 Table linens
- 13 Movie promo
- 15 Capital of Emilia-
- Romagna
- 16 Cream puff

insect

18 Crisp 20 Listing 21 Plant-sucking

3 6 9 7 8 5

SUDOKU

7 1 8 2 3 5 4 6 8 9 8 2 3 1 7 6 5 9 4 6 8 7 1 3 5 9 4 2 2 7 4 9 3 1 6 5 8 2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



NATIONAL PLEDGE DAY

	200	COVID-19 TRACKER			
NATIONAL PLEDGE DAY		\	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
I&PR Minister Pradip Kumar		World	63,55,43,373	61,47,48,684	65,94,095
Amat inaugurated the state-level Rashtriya Sankalp		India	4,46,53,592	4,41,06,656	5,29,024
Diwas at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday	1	Odisha	13,36,132	13,26,654	9,203
Dilubaneswai, Monuay					

Naveen launches MiO portal, app



Ensure the MiO Conclave becomes a landmark event in state's industrial growth story, CM tells all depts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday (https://www.mio.investodisha.gov.i n) and mobile app for Make in Odisha Conclave-2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Patnaik urged all the departments to work in close collaboration to ensure the grand success of Make-in-Odisha (MiO) Conclave 2022. He called upon them to ensure that

Man gets life term in

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The

Additional Sessions Court here

Monday sentenced a man to life im-

prisonment holding him guilty of

murdering his grandparents-in-

laws and his maternal grandmother

over a dispute related to a land in

2015. The convict was identified as

Shiva Prasad Panda of Kapilaprasad

Panda has also been asked to

pay Rs 30,000 and he would serve

jail term of one year more if he fails

The convict had married the

granddaughter of Chakradhara

Sahoo and Sukanti Sahoo of

Akhandalamani Basti in Bharatpur

police limits. The parents of con-

vict's wife had died in a road mishap

several years before her marriage

to Panda. She was staying alone

with her grandparents,

ting pressure on his in-laws and

wife to register a landed plot

owned by Chakradhara and lo-

cated at the same slum area in

his name. He used to torture his

wife and ask her to convince her

grandparents to transfer the plot

in his name. Panda's wife had

also allegedly died under myste-

rious circumstances in a fire ac-

cident six months before the triple

cept the proposal, Panda got furi-

ous and attacked Sukanti and

Chakradhara with an axe January

Meanwhile, Shantilata, the con-

vict's grandmother, who was resid-

ing near the residence of

Chakradhara was also hacked to

death by Panda after she protested

him. Panda was arrested three

days after committing the heinous

Additional Public Prosecutor

Pradipta Kumar Mishra conducted

the trial on behalf of the victims.

When the victims refused to ac-

murder in 2015.

Chakradhara and Sukanti.

Panda was continuously

in Airfield police limits.

to deposit the amount.

triple murder case

POST NEWS NETWORK

MiO becomes a landmark event in Odisha's industrial growth story.

He said, "Odisha today is ranked among the top states of India in terms of live manufacturing investments and has been accorded the 'achiever' status in the recently released 'Ease of Doing Business' ratings.

He further said that the MiO is a platform for the state to showcase its growth story and present what the state has to offer to investors across the globe. It is a platform for industry captains and thought leaders to talk about the outlook of various industrial sectors, he said.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said, "We have to make all efforts in the next 30 days to see that this year's event becomes

POST NEWS NETWORK

same period.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: With the

Capital city gearing up to host the

Hockey World Cup in January 2023,

the City will also witness the sec-

ond edition of .Fest during the

A review meeting was held in this

regard under the chairmanship

ssion cum Additional Chief

Secretary in the presence of sen-

ior officials from all concerned de-

partments like Sports, Tourism,

Housing and Urban Development,

Commissionerate Police, Energy,

NHAI, along with senior officials

of Sundargarh district adminis-

points identified and assigned to re-

lated government agencies as part

of the preparation for .FEST and

the makeover of the Capital city.

the Priority Road Network (PRN)

comprising of around 80km roads

along major landmarks and pri-

Similarly, it was decided to en-

sure no digging of roads to be con-

ducted by any agency/department

especially Water Corporation of

Odisha (WATCO), GAIL and in-

ternet service providers starting from December 1, 2022 without

prior approval from the

ority areas in Bhubaneswar.

The meeting decided to improve

There were four major action

Development Commi

.FEST all set to make

a comeback in City

even better than two previous ones The state has brought up FICCI

as national industry partner and the govt has finalised all details of the sessions for the event, he added.

Welcoming the guests, Industries department principal secretary Hemant Sharma said that during the five-day event, there will be three conclave days with 20 sessions. The investors would get an opportunity to know the state's industrial prowess and future potential, he added.

Sharma said that the government has organised 10 roadshows in which the Chief Minister has led in five - Dubai, Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

After the MiO Conclave's resounding success in 2016 and 2018, the state is organising the third edition of the marquee event at Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 04, 2022.

While the state government unable to host the event in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic, the government stated that they would make up for that absence by hosting an even grander conclave this time. The state government is optimistic about this edition and hopes to see more participation and more investment intents than the previous two editions.

Bhubaneswar Municipal

Corporation (BMC). The elements

like night bazaar and city beauti-

fication works are to be supported

by Handlooms Textile & Handicrafts

department and Odia language,

Literature & Culture department.

to form an executive committee

for City Festival & Beautification

under the chairmanship of

Bhubaneswar Development

Authority (BDA) vice chairman.

department, Department of

Telecom (DoT), Sports and Youth

Services department, Police,

Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited,

TPCODL, WATCO, NHAI and

OFDC shall be part of this com-

Bhubaneswar had hosted the

World Cup Hockey in 2018 with a

dedicated city festival celebrating

food, entertainment, art and trails.

The city had gone festive for the last

time in 2018 before experiencing

Fani in 2019 and Covid since 2020.

Hence, the second edition of .FEST

is designed to celebrate city as an

urban tourism destination. The

fest shall have components like

Photo exhibition & Installations,

City trails, Heritage Walks,

International Food festival, Food

Truck Carnival and flee night mar-

ket to bring the festive vibe in the

Senior officials from BMC. Works

Moreover, a decision was taken

Exhibition on Patel at Utkal University

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Several educational institutions of the state including state and central universities observed National Unity day Monday to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Utkal University organised an exhibition on Patel's life to mark the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day on the campus.

The exhibition was inaugurated by university Vice-Chancellor Sabita Acharya in the presence of PG Council chairman Durga Shankar Pattanaik and several other faculty members. Display boards depicting Patel's life and his contributions to the Indian freedom struggle were installed at the PG Council Hall and the Administrative Building on the university campus. Students and faculties went around the exhibition and learnt about the legacy of Patel.

Similarly, the Central University of Odisha also celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas October 31 as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). The celebration started with the 'Unity Run' in the university campus. Chakradhar Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of CUO inaugurated the programme and highlighted the patriotism, leadership and sacrifice of Sardar Patel while also emphasizing his role in unifying the country.

He led the Unity run in the pre-

winter morning at the university campus.

BJP rally over lady blackmailer; BJD slams Centre for farm issues



A BJP worker being taken into custody during the agitation

MARITIME FAIR: A replica of Dhabaleswar temple being built to attract visitors at Baliyatra Lower Ground in Cuttack, Monday

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Capital city witnessed hectic political activities Monday as all three major parties - the ruling BJD and opposition BJP and the Congress hit the streets over different issues.

While BJP launched its agitation to gherao Naveen Niwas (Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's residence) over the death of a zilla parishad member of Puri district and the issue of a woman blackmailer, the ruling BJD too held a demonstration near the Raj Bhavan here blaming the Narendra Modi government over non-payment of crop insurance to farmers in the state.

The Congress on its part launched its 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Odisha from Indira Gandhi Park here with an aim to highlight the alleged failure of the BJP government at the Centre and BJD mis-

rule in the state. The police had a tough time when the saffron party workers faced obstructions at Sishu Bhawan square on their way to Naveen Niwas. A scuffle ensued as the police stopped the BJP leaders from proceeding. There were, however,

no reports of any casualties. The saffron party workers led by its national spokesperson Sambit Patra staged a separate agitation beating gongs and wearing masks of different BJD leaders, including some ministers allegedly involved in the Archana Nag blackmailing episode. We are agitating to ensure that

our voice reaches the Chief Minister who remains silent on different issues and shields the tainted leaders," Patra told reporters.
"Naveen Patnaik is in a deep

slumber and we need to wake him up. It has become very difficult for the people of Odisha to get justice these days," said BJP woman leader Pravati Parida said,

Instead of punishing the leaders allegedly in the Archana Nag blackmailing case and arresting School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash who is responsible for the death of ZP member Dharmendra Sahu, the police are stopping the BJP workers from taking out their protest march, she said.

BJD MLA Ananta Narayan Jena said the party is not perall such cases raised by the opposition," he said.

The ruling party members staged a dharana in front of the Raj Bhawan alleging non-payment of surance companies and blamed the BJP-led government at the Centre for the delay.

The BJD workers also staged an agitation before the offices of district collectors in 18 districts demanding speedy payment of crop insurance to farmers for the 2021 kharif season at the earliest.

It claimed that a large number of farmers are yet to get crop insurance money of the 2021 kharif season under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The insurance companies are delaying the payment of around Rs 500 crore, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said.

Rejecting the BJD claims, BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan said that the ruling party is trying to create confusion over crop insurance for farmers "to divert people's attention" from the alleged cash for vote slur on it in Dhamnagar bypoll and Archana Nag blackmailing case in which some of its lead-

The Congress meanwhile launched its 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Odisha and kicked off its 100-day programme from the Indira Gandhi Park here. The OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak, the party's state in-charge A Chellakumar and a host of senior leaders were present

ers are involved.



People who need fitness watches use them the least: PIO scientist

eople at risk of cardiovas-cular disease are less likely to use wearable health devices, like smartwatches and fitness bands, a study led by an Indian-American scientist has found.

Age, education and income are factors associated with less use of wearable health devices among people with and at risk of cardiovascular disease, said Lovedeep S Dhingra, a postdoctoral research fellow in the Cardiovascular Data Science (CarDS) Lab at the Yale

School of Medicine in Connecticut. "We were surprised to find that people with cardiovascular disease were notably less likely than people without cardiovascular disease to use wearable devices, which suggests those who are most likely to benefit from these technologies appear to be less likely to use them,' Dhingra said.

Based on the health information of 9,303 adults in the US, it was found that an estimated 3.6 million people with cardiovascular disease and 34.4 million people at risk of cardiovascular disease in the US used wearables.

This translates to only 18 per cent of all people with cardiovascular disease, and 26 per cent of all people at risk of cardiovascular

Only 12 per cent of people with cardiovascular disease older than 65 years used wearable devices, even though it is estimated half of all people with cardiovascular disease are older than age 65, said the study, which will be presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2022 in November.

In comparison, 17 per cent of people with cardiovascular dis-



ease aged 50 to 64 years reported using wearables, and 33 per cent of those in the 18 to 49-year age group with diagnosed cardiovascular disease used wearables.

People with cardiovascular dis-

ease with an annual household in-

come of \$50,000 or more were four

Based on the health information of 9,303 adults in the US, it was found that an estimated 3.6 million people with cardiovascular disease and 34.4 million people at risk of cardiovascular disease in the US used wearables

his translates to only 18% of all people with cardiovascular disease, and 26 per cent of all people at risk of cardiovascular

Only 12% people with cardiovascular disease older than 65 years used wearable

times more likely to use wearables than those with annual household incomes less than \$20,000. Dhingra and his colleagues found.

In addition, education beyond a college degree (post baccalaureate degree) was associated with 3.6-fold higher wearable use than those who received a lower edu-

cation level. "We need to ensure that wearable devices reach the people who need them most, by improving equitable access and promoting wearables as health devices to help improve health and decrease health dis-

parities," Dhingra, said. Wearable devices are worn on or close to the body that monitor and track health or physical activity. These electronic devices may help manage cardiovascular health with features like physical activity monitoring, heart-rate tracking, heart

electrical activity tracing, etc. The most common wearable devices included in the study were smartwatches and fitness bands.

child-friendly police stations started functioning in different districts of the state in the first phase Monday. Minister of State for Home department Tusharkanti Behera inaugurated the police stations in a special programme held at the office of Crime Against Women and Children Wing (CAW&CW) of the Crime Branch at

16 child-friendly **PSs inaugurated**

BHUBANESWAR: As many as 16

State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) campus here. Behera also inaugurated the Sampark Help Desk at the office of CAW&CW. The help desk that has been established with the technical collaboration of Unicef will provide psychosocial support to the victims of sexual violence. Speaking on the occasion. Behera said both the

initiatives are in tune with the 5T

charter of the state government.

Continued from P1

tory is wholly immaterial while adjudicating whether the accused raped her. Further, the probative value of a woman's testimony does not depend upon her sexual history. It is patriarchal and sexist to suggest that a woman cannot be believed when she states that she was raped, merely for the reason that she is sexually active," the bench said in its parting remark of

a woman is habituated to sexual intercourse or not is irrelevant for the purposes of determining whether the ingredients of Section 375 of the IPC (rape) are present in a particular case. The so-called test is based on the incorrect assumption that a sexually active woman cannot

plicitly recognised this fact when it enacted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 which inter alia amended the Evidence Act to insert Section 53A. "In terms of Section 53A of the Evidence Act, evidence of a victim's character or of her previous sexual experience with any person shall not be relevant to the issue of consent or the quality of consent, in prosecutions of sexual offences," the bench added.

Family Welfare had issued guidelines March 19, 2014, for health providers in cases of sexual violence vivors/victims of sexual violence -- which proscribe the application of the two-finger test.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, dated 28.10.2022. I, Bijay Rabindra Kumar Sahoo, resident of EB-287, Badagada Brit Colony, P.O./ P.S. Badagada, Khordha, Odisha have changed my name from Bijoy Kumar Sahoo to Bijay Kumar Sahoo. Henceforth, I shall be known as Bijay Kumar Sahoo for all purpose. Bijay Kumar Sahoo

By virtue an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Rayagada I MUDUNURU VENKATA aged about 45 years S/o. of Kasturi Nagar 3rd 2nd Lane,

Rayagada, Odisha. Earlier I was residing at in rented house behind Damayanti Rice Mill, Near CTO Office Ravagada, My Father's name is MUDUNURU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU which Mudunuru Ramakrishna Raju. My Mother's name is Mudunuru Parvathi which is wrongly mentioned as Mudunuru Pavathi. My Date of Birth is wrongly mentioned as 09.01.1977 instead of 28.08.1977 which is correct Date of Birth. I swear this affidavit in order to file before the Passport Authorities as a record proof of my above queries. I state on oath

are true and correct to the

best of my knowledge.

Ensure '2-finger...

"Nothing could be further from the truth- a woman's sexual his-The bench added that whether

be raped, it said. The bench said the legislature ex-

It said the Ministry of Health and Medico-legal care for sur-

CLASSIFIED

Kumar Sahoo, Son of Late Bhubaneswar-751018, Dist-

MURALI KRISHNA RAJU, Late MUDUNURU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU resident Lane, Opp to Ashok Nagar P.O./P.S./District-

was wrongly mentioned as that the above stated facts



PULLING DOWN: An excavator engaged by CMC carrying out anti-encroachment drive at Bidanasi in Cuttack, Monday

Q XXXX

The Original Vehicle

Manufacturers were

instructed to enhance

heir slot capacity so that

the vehicle owners can

get slots easily to affix

HSRP

in the state are now functional.

The OEMs were instructed to or-

ganise camps or temporary fitment

centre at 88 locations and at other

places of the state that is impor-

tant government or private estab-

lishments where the dealers net-

work of all OEMs are not available.

vehicle owners have already

booked for affixation of HSRP,

out of which grievances were re-

ceived from about 200 owners

which were resolved promptly by

STA and the Call Centres of OEM

HSRP in case of damage, all the auto

mobile manufacturers and au-

thorized HSRP vendors of OEMs

have been intimated with Standard

Operating Procedure for issue of du-

plicate or damaged HSRP which is

available online for the benefit of

The Orissa HC has taken cog-

nizance of the initiatives taken by

the State Transport Authority.

The next hearing is scheduled

With regards to replacement of

authorized vendors.

vehicle owners

November 28

As of now, about 29 lakh old

HSRP booking slots

touch 25k per day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The State

Transport Authority (STA) has in-

formed the High Court of Orissa

that booking slots for the High

Security Registration Plate (HSRP)

have been increased to 25,000 per

day. Also slots are available for the

HC, the STA said that several

steps have been taken by the de-

partment for increasing the avail-

ability of slots and fitment of

HSRP on old vehicles. The Original

Vehicle Manufacturers (OEMs)

were instructed to enhance their

slot capacity so that the vehicle

owners can get slots easily to affix

HSRP within short span of time.

All the OEMs through their au-

thorized HSRP vendors have en-

hanced the slots and now slots

are available for all the applicants

The Chief Executive Officer,

Odisha Computer Application

Centre (OCAC) and the secretary,

Electronics and Information

Technology department were re-

quested to provide HSRP online

booking facility to vehicle owners

at all Mo Seva Kendras of the state.

Facility for online booking of HSRP

is now provided to vehicle owners

at all Mo Seva Kendras across the

state including the areas where

open HSRP facilitation counter at

all RTO and ARTO offices (38 offices)

to provide HSRP booking facility

to vehicle owners at RTO offices.

The RTOs were instructed to pro-

vide a space in their office for above

purpose. HSRP facilitation cen-

tres at all RTO and ARTO offices

All OEMs were instructed to

internet facility is inadequate.

for booking of HSRP.

In an affidavit submitted to the

month of November now.

Odia entrepreneur receives Mitchell Prize-Audience award POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Hamburg, Oct 31: Young Entrepreneur from Odisha and Founder of SakRobotix Lab Private Limited, Bhubaneswar, Sakyasingha Mahapatra, bagged the prestigious MITCHELL PRIZE -AUDIENCE AWARD at G20YEA (Young Entrepreneur Alliance) Summit 2022, held at HAMBURG, Germany October 28. Mahapatra, the only participant from Odisha was a part of the Indian delegation to the G20YEA, Hamburg, Germany.

A service robot by SakRobotix was displayed in the G20 YEA Summit. Mahapatra presented the idea of robots and the future of robotics in India. Through his presentation, Mahapatra focused on how education system in India is transiting towards robotics and the future of robots in the educational field.

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance (G20 YEA) is a global network of approximately 500,000 young entrepreneurs and the organizations that support them. The business should have social and / or sustainability impact on at least one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. Spain is also invited as a permanent guest. This year the G20 YEA Summit hosted in Hamburg, Germany October 27-28



ORHDC LOAN FRAUD

Ex-IAS Vinod Kumar, 2 others get 3-year RI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: A special vigilance court here Monday sentenced three persons to three years' rigorous imprisonment in the Orissa Rural Housing Development Corporation (ORHDC) loan fraud case. The convicts are ex-IAS officer Vinod Kumar, A Anand Rao and Radha Ranjan Pattnaik.

The court also asked the convicts to pay a fine of Rs 50,000 each. The convict has to serve additional jail term of six months if failed to pay the fine.

The fraud was committed during the tenure of Kumar as the Managing Director of ORHDC between the period January 4, 2000 and May 15, 2000. The convict, Radha Ranjan who is the MD of a private company, State Federation Labour & Construction Cooperative Limited (SFLCC), applied for housing loans for twenty of its employees from ORHDC. He applied for the loan with connivance of Kumar and Anand Rao who was working as the



Corporate Loan Section of ORHDC However, it was later found that

the above twenty persons were not the employees of the SFLCC. Similarly, the ORHDC sanctioned the loans flouting all the government guidelines.

The ORHDC was then offering the housing loans to the employees of government and semi government organizations and PSUs of super cyclone affected districts only.

"Total loan amount of Rs.8,80,000/- was sanctioned and disbursed in the name of 20 persons by using forged and fabricated documents as genuine and thereby caused huge financial loss to government," informed Hemant Kumar Swain, Special PP, Vigilance.

SAI Int'l School hosts Career Talk

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: SAI International School hosted an inbased on the dynamic field of Chartered Accountancy for the students of Classes IX - X and students from the XI and XII Commerce stream, Monday. It was conducted by the eminent luminaries-CA Ranjan Kumar Prusty, Chairman of Bhubaneswar Branch, ICAI, CA Narayan Choudhury, Managing Partner of NCAP & Company LLP, CA Pradip Sahoo, Vice Chairman, ICAI Bhubaneswar Branch.

The SAI students got their expert opinions and valuable inputs on imperative topics on various aspects such as Statutory, Internal, Concurrent, Revenue,



Financing & many more. Addressing the students, Prusty

said, "SAI International School offers a great platform for the students who wish to pursue Chartered Accountancy as a career in future. CA Bijaya Kumar Sahoo who was one of the most sought-after CA's of Odisha, established this institution with a great vision to spread quality education for all". Director Academics and Senior Principal of the school thanked the prestigious guests for a highly inspiring and invigorating

Will accomplish work by '24: CM to voters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday asserted that development of Dhamnagar, where a by-election will be held November 3, is his responsibility and five years' work will be completed in 18 months.

Addressing the voters of the Dhamnagar constituency in Bhadrak district virtually, Patnaik who is also the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president urged them to elect a woman from the seat as "mothers work more efficiently'

He is obviously referring to BJD nominee Abanti Das, the lone woman among the total five candidates. BJP MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi's death necessi

tated the by-poll.

"I appeal to the people of Dhamnagar to elect a woman as their MLA. The development of Dhamnagar is my responsibility and we will ensure that five years' work is completed in the next 18 months," Patnaik said.

was shown on large screens at 13 places in Dhamnagar.

Though BJP's Bishnu Charan Sethi had won the 2019 assembly elections, Patnaik claimed that the people changed their opinion in the recently concluded panchayat and civic polls and voted en-masse

the Covid-19 pandemic. The BJD had won all the by-polls held since 2019. The BJD's official candidate is fac-

ng a rebel as its former MLA

It was earlier speculated that

Patnaik will go to Dhamnagar

for campaigning. He did not hit

the campaign trail during by-

elections to Balasore, Tirtol,

Pipili and Brajarajnagar as-

sembly constituencies held amid

Union minister and senior BJP for party nominee Surbyabanshi Suraj during the day while many senior Congress leaders canvassed for their candidate Baba

DHAMNAGAR BYPOLL

By "18 months", he apparently referred to the next assembly election in the state which is due in 2024. The 2019 poll was held in April along with the Lok Sabha election.

Patnaik urged people to protect the identity of Dhamnagar as the land of "peace and amity"

His address in the virtual mode

for the BJD.

The BJD won all six Zilla Parishad seats and 9 of 11 wards of Dhamnagar Notified Area Council (NAC) in the panchayat and civic polls held in February and April respectively this year.

"I am optimistic that the people will repeat it," Patnaik said.

Rajendra Das is in the fray as an Independent candidate. leader Bisheswar Tudu campaigned

Harekrushna Sethi.

I'm victim of 'super politics', not Super Cyclone: Gamang

Gamang, a veteran tribal leader of Odisha, who had held ministerial berths under prime ministers Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and PV Narasimha Rao since 1982, had to quit as the Odisha chief minister immediately after the 1999 super cyclone that killed around 10,000 people in

the eastern state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Some 23 years after resigning as chief minister of Odisha following mounting criticism of his handling of rescue and rehabilitation of the 1999 super cyclone, Giridhar Gamang claimed he had been a victim of "super

Gamang, who was then a member of Congress, said he had resigned as the chief minister due to "internal party politics" and alleged that some people of the grand old party had "planned" his ouster

and had "succeeded".

'I am a victim of super politics and not super cyclone," the veteran tribal leader said in an interview with PTI.

Gamang, a veteran tribal leader of Odisha, who had held ministerial berths under prime ministers Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and P. V. Narasimha Rao since 1982, had to quit as the Odisha chief minister immediately after the 1999 super cyclone that killed around 10,000 people in the eastern state

On the reason behind quitting as

chief minister barely nine months after occupying the post, Gamang said "Since over two decades, I have been accused of failing to handle the super cyclone and there fore resigned from the chief ministership. I have tolerated it all along. But, it is not a fact.

During his five-decade old political career, Gamang has hit the limelight several times and he made history when his lone vote in the Lok Sabha when he was also a Congress MP from Koraput had played a key role in bringing down the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government on April 17, 1999.

The 79-year-old veteran tribal leader and nine-time Lok Sabha MP had resigned from the Congress in 2015 and joined the saffron party.

"Have you ever seen or heard any opposition party like BJD or BJP raising an issue over my style of functioning as the chief minister or criticising me over super



cyclone management? "It was my party (Congress) peo-

ple then who made all sorts of allegations against me just for political reasons"

"I resigned as the CM because of the internal party politics in the Congress and therefore, I call it that I was a victim of super politics," Gamang said.

While resigning as the chief minister, Gamang said "I met the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi and offered to resign. Nobody told me to resign, but I did it on my own when I felt that somebody was trying to rule over me. As CM, I was supposed to rule and not be ruled by somebody.' Gamang further said: "Madam

(Sonia Gandhi) asked me who was ruling over me and I said," You know it better.'

Asked why he so easily readily tendered resignation on the demands of his opponents, Gamang said: "You know the state was then undergoing a crisis due to the super cyclone. I did not want my people to face a political crisis. They (opponents) took a political line while I resigned on humanitarian grounds so that people were not subjected to more trouble.'

Referring to the allegations of his alleged failure in handling the devastating super cyclone in 1999, Gamang said that he performed his duty on humanitarian grounds as a chief minister and never indulged in politics.

'You know, there was no technology or scientific assistance during the 1999 superstorm. We were told that wind and water (tide) will hit the Odisha coast, but are now aware of a tsunami-type calamity

"The tidal surge reached 30 km from the seashore while the people were evacuated from within 3 km of the coast. Of about 10,000 deaths, over 7,000 people died due to tidal surges as high as 15-20 feet. How can the CM stop tides sans any scientific or technological assistance?" he asked.

Terming the death of so many people during his chief ministership as "unfortunate", Gamang claimed not a single person died during the post-cyclone relief and restoration activities.

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NGT panel surveys slurry pipeline on Suna riverbed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Oct 31: Acting on an order of National Green Tribunal (NGT) a high level team has conducted a probe into the transportation of minerals through slurry pipelines passing through Joda town and forested villages of Keonjhar district.

Directed by NGT, the team comprising senior administrative officials and engineers reached Joda Thursday (October 27) and conducted a survey of the pipeline. The team led by Keonjhar ADM Chandramani Mahal and including Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) senior officer Sandip Singh, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Kolkata scientist GP Singh, Water Resources officer Pranab Nayak and SPCB re-

Fishing ban near

sites from today

Kendrapara, Oct 31: The Odisha

government will impose a seven-

month-long ban on fishing activ-

ities from Tuesday in an area

spanning 20 km from the mouths

of rivers Dhamara, Devi and

Rusikulya, marking the begin-

ning of the nesting season of Olive

The prohibition is clamped every year -- from November 1 to

May 31 – to ensure the turtles don't get entangled in fishing nets or come under the propellers of

trawlers, the Forest official said.

ercise, involving Forest and Fisheries departments, and the

marine police, besides the Indian

Coast Guard (ICG) personnel, will

be carried out near the river

mouths to keep a check on un-

lawful activities, he stated Monday.

trawlers and support boats are being pressed into service to in-

tercept illegal fishing trawlers

in prohibited zones, said the

The state government has de-

cided to extend one-time liveli-

hood assistance of ₹7,500 to the af-

fected fishermen families in view

At Gahirmatha coast here,

which is known to be the largest

rookery for these endangered

species, a blanket ban on sea-fish-

ing remains enforced round the

year, the official pointed out.

Forest official.

of the ban.

Five high-speed boats, 13

A multi-layered patrolling ex-

Ridley turtles, an official said.

Ridley nesting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

gional officer Prasant Kar conducted a survey of the river through computers. Notably, NGT ordered a probe

over complaints filed before it on the basis of a report titled 'Stir over pollution in rivers Suna, Karo gains pace' published in **Orissa POST** editions dated July 10 and August 12, 2019.

The team members also visited the spot where the riverbed of Suna has been excavated with the help of an excavator for laying of a slurry pipeline. They expressed their displeasure over the devel-

As per reports, various big firms prepare slurry of minerals by using freshwater from rivers and transport it to their respective units at Paradip and Jajpur

Berhampur, Oct 31: A woman

was duped of ₹53,000 by her cousin

on the pretext of providing her a job

in a finance firm in the Silk City, po-

Lenka, a resident of Panigrahi Pentha

area under Bada Bazaar police lim-

its in the city. The accused was iden-

tified as Dillip Kumar Lenka. The

matter came to the fore after the

woman lodged a complaint against her

cousin accusing him of duping her.

ised a job for the woman in a fi-

According to police, Lenka prom-

The woman was identified as Pinky

POST NEWS NETWORK

lice said Sunday.

Woman defrauded of ₹53K by cousin

through the pipelines. Meanwhile, some companies have been laying the pipelines by digging the ground and the riverbed.

However, natural resources like land, water and forest covers get destroyed during the process. Laying of pipelines is also impacting the elephant corridors in the district and polluting the river which is the lifeline of people living in the vicinity.

Such a move by the industrial firms has evoked sharp reactions from various outfits. The outfits have called for an agitation demanding protection of the rivers from pollution arising out of the transportation of minerals through

slurry pipelines. Two non-governmental outfits Lokshakti and Jan Andolan Rashtriya Samannwaya Samiti also called for a 'padyatra' in protest against the river pollution.

Transportation of minerals through slurry pipelines has also affected the livelihood of truck owners in Koira of Sundargarh district, Guali, Bhadrasahi, Barbil, Joda, Bileipada, Jurudi, Bamebari, Keonjhar of Keonjhar district, Chandikhole of Jajpur district and Paradip of Jagatsinghpur district. They are strongly opposing the laying of pipelines.

nance firm and asked her to give her

photograph and copies of voter

identity card, Aadhaar card and

bank passbook. Later, he even man-

aged to get her signature on a paper

and took a loan of ₹53,000 in her

After receiving the money, Lenka

spent the money in buying house-

hold articles for his house. The ac-

cused managed to commit the fraud

taking advantage of the woman's

inability to read English properly.

tress as the finance company is

regularly sending her notice to pay

The woman has now been in dis-

name without her knowledge.



RUN FOR UNITY: Students and people from various walks of life participated in a marathon organised by the 19th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the occasion of National Unity Day in Rourkela, Monday

Expansion of BeMC area on the anvil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 31: Four villages on the outskirts of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) will be merged with the civic body area. A letter numbered 17974 has been issued by the Housing and the Urban Development department Friday in this regard. People of a number of villages surrounding the BeMC had long been demanding merger of their villages in the BeMC hoping to avail better facilities.

Such an initiative of the Housing and Urban Development department has been welcomed by Saharatali Anchal Kriyanusthan

In the letter, it was stated that Lochapada of Lochapada panchayat, Sanakusthali of

This had enraged the people of Badakusthali panchayat, 18 panchayats. They formed an

Bramhapalli of Gaunchu panchayat and Golabadh of Golabandh panchayat will be made part of

However, it may be noted here that a gazette notification was out in 2008, stating that 18 panchayats in the periphery of the BeMC will be merged with the latter. But the notification was not executed later.

villages will be made part of the civic body merger of four villages under the

civic body within three months.

Lochapada, Sanakusthali,

Bramhapalli and Golabadh

However, the department had not executed the verdict. Later, the Committee members filed another petition September 21 pointing out contempt of court order at the High Court. The High Court in its order had directed the department to implement its order within a month.

The Committee also demanded that after merger of the villages, the civic body authorities should carry out various developmental works to provide better civic amenities.

Fishermen in a fix over scanty catches

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Oct 31: Fishermen under this block of Kendrapara district are witnessing a sharp decline in fish catch due to discharge of toxic effluents into Mahanadi and other rivers by the industrial firms in Paradip. Toxic river water has also posed threat to the survival of other aquatic creatures in the water bodies. It has severely impacted the fishermen in this block leaving them worried as they are failing to get good catch.

Traditional fishermen under this block earn their living from catching indigenous varieties of fish from these rivers. However, with the river water slowly turning toxic, they are starting to feel the pinch. This has pushed them into distress as they ponder over the uncertainty that lies ahead.

Their livelihood has been severely

BANE OF RIVER POLLUTION



hit due to a sharp drop in fish population. They continue to spread their nets in the rivers but fail to catch the fish of their choice. Earlier, fish varieties like Hilsa, Bhekta (Potei), Kani fish, tiger prawns and freshwater prawns were found in abundance in these rivers but their population has dwindled due to discharge of toxic effluents by the industrial firms. The effluents are snapping the lives of these aquatic creatures

and hindering their growth. The local fishermen used to go in their boats and spread their nets in a 15-km stretch from Mahanadi river mouth to Chaumuhani to catch fish which were once found in abundance. This helped them earn around ₹1,000 to ₹3,000 daily to meet the expenses of their family. However, with fish catch dwindling they are finding it difficult to get back the money they invest in catching fish

from the river, some fisherman said. The fishermen are not alone. Locals are also feeling the pinch. Earlier, they used to spread nets or put up their snare to catch fish from farmlands, nullahs and rivulets but it has become a dream for them to get fish with the river water turning toxic.

Dibakar Gochhayat and Hari Das said fishing from river and sea was their mainstay when they would face crop loss due to floods and drought. The fish used to support them and their families during such crises, they said.

The local people used to catch fish by angling or by putting up snares. A Bhekta or Khanga would then weigh from 5 kg to 10 kg. However, since the industrial plants have started discharging their effluents into the rivers, fish are slowly gradually vanishing from the river, they added.

Concern over frequent road mishaps in Sorada

4 LIVES LOST IN 10 DAYS



POST NEWS NETWORK

outfit Saharatali Anchal

Kriyanusthan Committee and

moved the High Court against the

non-execution of the notification

dated December 12, 2021.

Adjudicating the case, the High

Court had in January 11, 2022, di-

rected the Housing and Urban

Development department for

Sorada, Oct 31: With the death of four persons in last 10 days, rash and unruly driving by bikers and other vehicles has posed serious threat to the commuters triggering concern among the locals under this police limit in Ganjam district.

The threat has grown manifold with minors and inexperienced riders handling twowheelers. The stretch of the national highway from Mundamarai to Pipalpanka via Sorada has turned into an accident black spot. Sights of people riding bikes without helmets, talking on mobile phones and tripling on bike are usual scenes in the area. As a result, accidents often occur on the highway and precious lives are lost.

Recently, three people died after two bikes collided head on at Ghasipada on the national

highway connecting Sorada with Daringbadi in Kandhamal district. Later, a 65-year-old woman was killed after being hit by a car on Nuagad road. As a result, four lives have been lost in last 10 days on this stretch. However, the administration has failed to take steps to avoid recurrence of the mishaps. On the other hand, people in villages adjoining the highway are living in a state of panic due to over speeding by bikers and

other vehicles. This has prompted the villagers to put up used tyres on roadside so that vehicles will reduce their speed on spotting the tyres on the highway. Locals said that rash driving and over speeding could be curbed if police takes prompt action against the errant riders and bikers. They also demanded to impose fine on people talking on mobile phones while plying their vehicles on the highway.

Minority, farmer voters hold key to Dhamnagar bypoll

THE CONSTITUENCY ALSO HAS A UNIQUE HISTORY OF DECEASED MLAS' KIN WINNING BYPOLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadrak, Oct 31: Crisscrossed by at least four rivulets and bordered by Baitarani River, agrarian Dhamnagar Assembly constituency in Bhadrak district is witnessing hectic political activities with parties putting in all efforts to win the seat in the by-polls November 3.

The bypoll was necessitated by the untimely death of sitting BJP MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi September 19.

The saffron party, banking on sympathy votes, has fielded Sethi's son Suryabanshi Suraj.

The ruling BJD, helmed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has nominated Abanti Das, a woman selfhelp group member, while Congress has fielded advocate Baba Harekrushna Sethi.

However, the by-election has become a prestige issue for the ruling party as its former MLA Rajendra Das is contesting the by-poll as an Independent candidate after the state leadership preferred a woman candidate at the last moment.

Incidentally, Rajendra Das was the political mentor of Abanti Das.

"I will fight for the Swabhiman (self-respect) of Dhamnagar as



the local people support me,' Rajendra Das said even as the BJD is banking on the CM's charisma to clinch victory.

BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra, who has extensively campaigned for party candidate Abanti Das, sounded confident of the party nominee winning the bypoll.

'We are confident of BJD's victory in Dhamnagar by-election. Even though the BJP had won the seat in 2019, the BJD secured a majority of the seats in the panchayat and urban polls held earlier this year. The candidature of Rajendra Das will not have any impact as people will vote for Naveen Patnaik and nobody else," he said.

The Congress also hoped for a win as party candidates have se-

cured the seat seven times since 1951. "The people of Dhamnagar have realised that BJD and the BJP are two sides of the same coin, so they will vote for the Congress,' OPCC president Sarat Pattnayak said while campaigning for the party nominee.

The electoral history of Dhamnagar, however, shows that the segment has witnessed three bypolls since 1951 and every time, voters elected the son or wife of the sitting MLAs whose deaths necessitated the by-elections.

The first bypoll was held in 1961 when the then Congress legislator Muralidhar Jena died and his wife Satvabhama Dei was elected in the by-election that followed.

The second bypoll was held in

1990 when newly elected Dhamnagar MLA Hrudananda Mallick died during the victory procession. His son Manas Ranjan Mallick won the seat.

Now, in the third bypoll, deceased MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi's son Suraj is the BJP candidate.

'We are confident that the people of Dhamnagar will pay their tributes to Bishnu Babu by blessing his son Suraj," said Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who campaigned in the constituency October 28 and 29.

The nomenclature Dhamnagar originates from two words - 'Dharma' (religion) and 'Nagara' (town), advocate Prahallad Singh said.

He said Muslims are a deciding factor as they constitute around 24,000 of the 2,38,417 voters.

School teacher Ramchandra Samal, however, said that the BJP candidate had won the 2019 Assembly election by a margin of 4,625, which shows the "secular nature of Dhamnagar voters".

Locals, however, said there was not much development in the constituency despite the area having

given two chief ministers to Odisha. Former chief minister Harekrushna Mahtab was elected from East Bhadrak constituency, of which Dhamnagar was a part. Another former chief minister, Nilamani Routray, was elected from Dhamnagar seat.

"Bhadrak is a natural calamityprone district and witnesses frequent floods and cyclones. There is no major industry in Dhamnagar constituency and our youths depend on Kolkata for livelihood," Debendra Mohanty, a farmer, said.

He said although rivulets Salandi. Reba, Kapali and Genguti, besides Baitarani River, cause floods almost every year, farmers do not get river waters for irrigation.

While campaigning for the BJP candidate, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bisheswar Tudu assured the people of Dhamnagar that the Central Water Commission (CWC) will soon send a team to study the flood issue.

The BJD, however, took the matter to the Election Commission of India (ECI) alleging that the Union minister violated the model code of conduct by making promises during an election.

Both the BJD and the BJP also accused each other of indulging in 'cash-for-vote'.

Government of Odisha OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KANTABANJI (R&B) DIVISION

e-mail ID: eerbkbj@rediffmail.com, Tel/FAX No. : 06657-220216 Bid Identification No.07 / KBJ / 2022-2023

No.B-759: The Suprintending Engineer, Kantabanji (R&B) Division, Kantabanji on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in Single System to be received in online mode only for Building Works

No. of work

Nature of work

Class of contractor D&C

Rs.17.36 lakh

Approximate value of work Tender cost Rs.6.000/-

Date and time of vailability From 11:00 Hours of dt.03.11.2022 of Bid documents in online to 17:00 Hours of dt.15.11.2022 Date of Opening of Technical :-11:30 Hours on dt.16.11.2022

Bid (Cover-I) in online 8) Other details can be seen in the bidding documents e-procurement portal "www.tendersodisha.gov.in 9) Any corrigendum / addendum will be displayed in the above

Sd/-A. BEHERA

Superintending Engineer, OIPR-34099/11/0009/2223 Kantabanii (R&B) Division



It is not God who made man wicked. It is man who makes himself wicked by separating himself from God.

THE MOTHER



Pink Wave

t a time when the Far-right is on the rise in Europe capturing one government after another, the fourth largest democracy in the world - Brazil - has returned the Left to power with Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva winning the Presidential contest defeating the Far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in the second voting October 30. Lula's victory signifies that the "pink wave" of Leftist governments gets further strengthened in South America as Brazil joins Colombia, Chile, Peru, Honduras, Argentina and Mexico which have already put Left parties in the saddle.

Brazilian voters narrowly decided against a second term for Bolsonaro and rallied behind former President Lula who took 50.9 per cent of the vote against Bolsonaro's 49.1 per cent.

Lula makes a spectacular comeback. He left office in 2010 despite having an 83 per cent approval rating. He also brought about an economic boom and a jump in living standards for poorer Brazilians during his two terms beginning in 2003. But in 2017, federal prosecutors implicated him in a huge corruption scheme and slapped a jail term on him on charges of accepting a bribe. He and Brazil's Left stoutly denied the allegations and in 2021 Brazil's Supreme Court threw out the charge overturning his conviction. It ruled that his right to a fair trial had been compromised. That cleared him to run for president again this year.

No wonder Lula celebrated his victory with a Twitter post deliberately using a term of Christian religion as his rival party had spread a canard against him during election campaign that he would close down churches and build "unisex" toilets in schools and colleges. He said he "experienced a resurrection in Brazilian politics" and went further with the religious analogy to declare that his opponents tried to "bury me alive, and now I am here to rule the country—in a very difficult situation.

Bolsonaro, an avowed Right wing politician with a penchant for dictatorship, also tried to get Brazil's military onside for a potential campaign to overturn the election. He had established deep ties between his government and the institution, appointing active generals to key ministries and Walter Souza Braga Netto, a reserve army general, as his 2022 running mate. In fact, the election was marred by an alleged coordinated attempt at voter suppression. Residents of towns around the country—predominantly in Lula strongholds in the north and northeast of the country—shared footage on social media of Brazil's federal highway police manning road blocks, while newspapers reported an unusually high number of traffic stops on buses, delaying travel to polling stations. The highway police's director general Silviney Vasquez had publicly endorsed Bolsonaro prompting the head of Brazil's electoral court, Alexandre de Moraes at one stage to order him to end the road blocks.

The race was Brazil's closest-run in three decades. Voters faced a stark ideological choice between Lula, a progressive Leftist, and Bolsonaro, a deeply conservative populist who promised to defend Christian values in Brazil. In the end, Bolsonaro has turned out to be the first incumbent to lose a re-election bid in Brazil since the 1990s.

Bolsonaro, a 67-year-old former army captain, has been in international news for the past four years for dismantling the protections for the Amazon rainforest which only helped illicit timber trade and played havoc with the climate. His irrational stand on tackling COVID-19 also brought untold miseries for Brazilians. He opposed vaccination as the pandemic raged and dismissed the cause of once in a century catastrophe as a "flu". He incurred the displeasure of the people by effecting a wide-ranging relaxation of gun laws, expanding police powers and launching a crusade against gender ideology and coloured people. This put him in the same bracket with Far-right and intolerant politicians, including former US President Donald Trump who even appealed to Brazilians to vote for him.

Lula may have to tread cautiously during his presidency. Bolsonaro is likely to try and block him at every step as he told his supporters he would not accept his defeat easily. As in the case of the USA, Brazil has also become sharply polarised between Rightist and Left-democratic forces. His success in governance would be a great boost to Left politics as Brazil is the largest Latin American country.

WISDOM CORNER

In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit.

Your daily life is your temple and your religion. When you enter into it take with you your all.

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive

WORDS**WORTH**

Chronogram

Even a nodding acquaintance with classical Greek will tell us that a chronogram is writing that's connected with time. Etymology will not take us any further and we have to consult the reference books for additional enlightenment. A chronogram is a phrase or sentence, often an inscription, in which certain letters, taken to be Roman numerals, express a date. The letters available are I, V, X, L, C, D and M, though we moderns are allowed to cheat with three not in the Latin alphabet: J can be taken to be I, U to be the same as V and W to be a double U or VV. A famous example appeared in an old pamphlet. attributed to George Wither: "LorD have MerCle Vpon Vs". If we add the Roman numerals up, we get 1666, the date of publication. Such encoded dates were once popular, especially on medals and on bells to show the date they were cast. In the latter part of the nineteenth century, James Hilton wrote three big books detailing every example of the technique he could find. The arrival of the first of these prompted this verbal assault from a critic: It is impossible to think of any more witless, pointless effort of literary ingenuity. ... We confess to a feeling of dread lest the thing should spread and become common. Nothing can be more likely unless it is nipped in the bud. We have hardly yet got rid of 'double acrostics'. They linger still in the back pages of some of the 'society papers'. But chronograms are so much more foolish, so much more senseless, and so much easier to make and to guess, that there is every reason to fear an outbreak of them before long (Saturday Review, 6 Jan. 1883). Isaac D'Israeli (father of Benjamin Disraeli) didn't think much of chronograms either, describing them as "literary follies". In 1888, the Birmingham Daily Post greeted the publication of the second of Mr Hilton's volumes by calling them "vexatious and gratuitous fritterings". Whether it was the force of these criticisms, or the narrow compass offered by the technique, they fell out of favour.

■ Chthonic

This adjective refers to people and things that belong to or inhabit the underworld. The biggest problem with it, once you've worked out how to spell it, is how to say it. American dictionaries suggest that the initial ch should be silent, while most British ones say that it should be said as k, reflecting the Greek source, khthon, earth. No such ambiguity exists with another word from the same source, autochthon, an original inhabitant of any country, who seems to have sprung from the soil; here the ch is said as k. The classic Greek word referred not to the surface of the ground, which would be gaia, but to what lies underneath. Both gaia and khthon were associated with the supernatural beings that dwelled in these domains, Gaia being the personification of the Earth and the original mother of all beings, while the deities of chthonic realms were Pluto and Persephone. The English word is comparatively new, from the late nineteenth century. It has flowered as a favourite term of SF and fantasy writers. "Like the rumble of a live volcano it came," wrote Piers Anthony in his 1985 collection of short stories, Anthonology, "throbbing up from the fundament, pressuring chthonic valves, gathering into an irresistible swell."

FOCUS GOOGLE

UNBEARABLE BIGNESS



Ajit Ranade

SHOULD GOOGLE NOW BE REGULATED LIKE A UTILITY, **JUST LIKE** REGULATING **WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY?**

f vou use the internet, you cannot do so without using Google. It is the oxygen of the internet. It is the name of a company, but it has become a verb in the English language. And in many other languages. It has at least one billion users for each of its internet products, like search, email, video repository, storage, operating systems for mobile phones, maps and navigation and more recently, payments. And all these are totally free. Only on increased storage space, you have to pay a nominal amount. This is a company which arose out of the research of two graduate students at Stanford University. It is basically a search and indexing service, which is extremely efficient. Google has an index to more than 50 billion pages on the internet and is still growing exponentially. In many countries, more than 90 or even 95 per cent of all searches use Google. More than 2.5 million searches happen every minute across the world. And the results of those searches, which are instantaneous, are all free, People trust the searches and make their decisions based on those searches.

One of the tenets of Google, indeed its motto, mentioned in the prospectus of its first stock offering (IPO) is "Don't Be Evil". By that the company meant, that it would never betray the trust of its users. It would only show relevant search results, would never annoy users with pop-up ads and it would never sell search results. It would never monetise that trust which people who used Google place implicitly on the company.

This is a company which is worth 1.5 trillion dollars today, among the top five in the world. And to think it was born on the stock market just eighteen years ago. If the users are not paying for the service they get, how does the company earn nearly 185 billion dollars of revenue every year? By selling ads. It is by far the world's leading online ad selling company, generating 150 billion dollars in ad sales. It sells the "eveballs" of its users to the advertisers and their



Google's bigness and ubiquity are becoming bothersome. Since it pervades almost everything we do on the internet, it is in the eye of regulators

intermediaries. The users don't mind since they are using Google purely out of free choice, with the confidence that their information will not be sold to advertisers, only their eyeballs.

This then is the gentle giant, mostly loved by users, and has more goodwill than other tech giants like Amazon and Facebook. But its bigness and ubiquity are becoming bothersome. Since it pervades almost everything we do on the internet, it is in the eye of regulators. Even UPSC exam aspirants cannot do without Google. Or writers, authors, creative artists, even bureaucrats. Should Google now be regulated like a utility, just like regulating water and electricity supply? Since access to the internet has been raised to a citizens' right, just like other utilities, in many countries, Google search also needs to be regulated the same way as access to drinking water. It affects public welfare. It should remain non-discriminatory, and nobody should be excluded. Apart from the utility aspect, the other thing that bothers policymakers is the sheer bigness, the size of the company. It can lead to abuse of dominance, and a conduct which can thwart if not strangle competition. Even if the motto of the company is "Don't be Evil". Is the company pursuing monopolistic practices, arm twisting vendors, or gagging would-be competitors? Complaints have

been bubbling. Many of these come from the "abuse of dominance" or what are called anti-trust violations in US law. In 2018 the European Union's competition regulator found Google guilty of using its large market share of the Android operating system, by forcing phone makers to use Chrome as the default browser, and quashing competition from other browsers. It also forces phone makers to bundle other Google apps, to the detriment of competitors. This was found in violation of the EU's competition law and the fine was 4.34 billion euros, the highest ever imposed on Google, until then. (Technically it was on a company called Alphabet, the parent of Google, which was formed after a restructuring in 2015). The company appealed against the 2018 ruling, and after four years has lost the appeal in the general court. The company can now appeal to the apex court in the EU, but chances look slim, since the appellate court has upheld the fine. Google on its part says that Android is free, and users have the choice of phone makers as well as service providers and can also uninstall apps if they don't want them

Android is also open source, unlike Apple's iOS operating system. But the court was unconvinced by Google's defence. The court said that Apple's business model was different since it was only selling high-end mobile devices, whereas Google by giving a free operating system, was in the business of widening its user base, and using that base to sell adver-

As if to follow up, Google has been hauled up by India's competition watchdog, the Competition Commission of India, and a hefty fine of ₹2265 crore has been imposed. The charges are almost the same that the EU has slung on Google. This is that Google has been abusing its dominant position, and large market share (nearly 90%) of the Android operating system. It was preventing mobile handset manufacturers from installing other browsers and apps, thereby curbing competition. Interestingly CCI's ruling was not the result of or in response to any complaint by a user, vendor, advertiser or customer. It came out of a summer project done by three student interns, who studied the EU case and its applicability to Indian conditions.

The other charge against Google in India is that it forces users to use only Google Pay in the Play Store, rather than any other pay ment option. The investigation by CCI is quite in depth, and this column cannot fully summarise all the technical details. Google plans to appeal since it feels the CCI fine and charges are unfair. In the meantime, far from these rather abstruse and technical bat tles, the exam aspirants, the online shoppers, the late-night video viewers are all happily using Google indifferent to the confrontation between regulators and tech giants. It is time that Google updated its motto, "Don't Be Evil", to something additional like "Do the Right Thing".

> The writer is a noted economist.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Asad Mirza

THE LATEST

THAT CHINA

PRESENTS

THE MOST

STRATEGY STATES

CONSEQUENTIAL

AND SYSTEMIC

CHALLENGE

DEFENCE

US prioritises defence ties with India

ministration unveiled the sis on China. plans to boost its defence ties with India to deter Chinese aggression in the region.

The latest defence strategy states that China presents the most consequential and systemic challenge, while Russia poses acute threats to vital US national interests abroad

and to the homeland. "The world is changing. We're at a significant inflection point in world history. And our country and the world, the US has always been able to chart the future in times of great change. We've been able to constantly renew ourselves. And time and again, we've proven there's not a single thing we cannot do as a nation when we do it together, and I mean that - not a single solitary thing." Biden stated in the in-

troductory note to the strategy. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin highlighted the different challenges posed by China and Russia as he unveiled the strategy. According to him the dangers are both conventional – Moscow's aggression toward its neighbours and Beijing's efforts to gain control of Taiwan -- and nuclear, with Russia possessing an extensive arsenal and China's stocks of atomic weapons growing fast. The strategy like-

'S President Joe Biden's ad- wise places the primary empha- strategic approach to different re- subscribe to the rules-based in-

seeking to "refashion the Indo-Pacific region and the international system to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences," describing this dynamic as "the most comprehensive and serious challenge to US national security."

As for Russia, it says the "acute threat" posed by Moscow has been most recently demonstrated by its invasion of Ukraine. Though the strategy tries to portray the US ties in the Indo-Pacific as the most important one, yet India as a whole is mentioned in the strategy only five times and that too in the context of the Indo-Pacific, and there too it refers to China's campaigns to establish control over the East China Sea, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea, and disputed land borders such as with India.

It proclaims to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific, which could only be achieved if the US builds collective capacity with other countries like India. It further asserts that no region will be of more significance to the world and to everyday Americans than the Indo-Pacific, yet it fails to demonstrate India's importance to achieve this goal as a partner.

The document lists out the US Vision, Washington's role in the global arena, and an overview of its North Africa by eschewing grand designs in favour of more practical steps that can advance US interests and help regional partners lay the foundation for greater stability, prosperity, and opportunity for the people of the Middle East and for the American people.

The strategy sets forth a new framework for US policy in the region based on America's unparalleled comparative advantage in building partnerships, coalitions, and alliances to strengthen deterrence, while using diplomacy to de-escalate tensions, reduce risks of new conflicts, and set a longterm foundation for stability.

However, it clearly states that the US will not allow foreign or regional powers to jeopardise freedom of navigation through the Middle East's waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al Mandab, nor tolerate efforts by any country to dominate another, or the region, through military build-ups, incursions, or threats.

But if we scrutinise the strategy in a little more detail then we realise the emerging contradictions present in the strategy. When the strategy declares the US commitment to support countries "that

gional issues. Focussing on Middle $\;\;$ ternational order," will it include US National Defence It further asserts that Beijing is East, the strategy talks about tweak- those OPEC countries which reing its policy in the Middle East and cently snubbed the US demands for increased oil production?

> When it talks about "military build-ups" then does it really mean that the US will halt its longstanding efforts to advance its partners' "military build-ups" in the face of the threat from Iran? Further how could the US achieve the Israeli "dominance" of the Hamas and Hezbollah?

Further the strategy lays stress on US diplomacy to reduce tensions "wherever possible," will it translate into normalising ties with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, or meeting with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah?

All this double talk on various regional and global issues and inherent contradictions of the strategy lead on to surmise that it is more of a document to placate the American public and not aimed at really achieving or changing substantially the US polices on these issues. Overall the National Security Strategy 2022 comes out as a bit of disappointment though perhaps packaged coherently for the first time.

> The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi.

etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Gujarat tragedy

Sir, The tragedy in the Morbi district of Gujarat Sunday evening has already taken away more than 140 lives. The century-old Morbi hanging bridge fell when many were celebrating Chhath Puja there. According to reports, the bridge was closed for seven months for the purpose of repair and opened on 26 October without getting any safety certificate. This negligence from the administration has caused this horrifying tragedy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed their condolences and announced compensation for the affected people. Gujarat police also seem to be in action after the incident and arrested contractors and others involved in the process of repairing the bridge. This incident shocked everyone throughout the country and once again bought to the limelight the scams and corruption that happen in construction works in the country. This incident is a warning to all engineers and contractors to not indulge in any scams. The administration should also inspect the newly constructed bridges before giving permission to open them. The older bridges should also be checked regularly as well. **Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK**

Pay parity

Sir, The BCCI has recently decided to bring in pay parity between male and female cricketers thus ending the era of pay discrimination. The women cricketers will now be making the same amount of money as their male counterparts which is ₹15 lakh for a Test match, ₹6 lakh for an ODI match, and ₹3 lakh for a T20 match. That said the contract amount or in simple terms the salary of women cricketers is peanuts if compared to their male counterparts. A female A grade cricketer earns ₹50 lakh in a year while a male A grade cricketer takes home a hefty ₹7 crore. The pay equity will make sense only when these figures also match.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

National unity

Sir, National Unity Day is observed in India October 31 every year in memory of the first Deputy Prime Minister of India and Home Minister: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Sardar Patel was also known as the 'Patron Saint of India's Civil Services' and the 'Iron Man of India'. This year marks the 146th anniversary of the great leader who played an instrumental role in India's struggle for independence, and later during the country's integration.

Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI

national

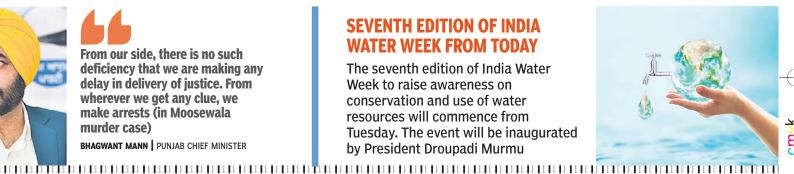


From our side, there is no such deficiency that we are making any delay in delivery of justice. From wherever we get any clue, we make arrests (in Moosewala

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

SEVENTH EDITION OF INDIA WATER WEEK FROM TODAY

The seventh edition of India Water Week to raise awareness on conservation and use of water resources will commence from Tuesday. The event will be inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu

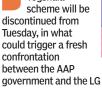


Sardar Patel has also gave democracy. It was he who gave the task of Constitution to Ambedkar and also intervened to

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

The BJP is jittery, the party knows that it stands no chance in either seat. That is why its leaders from across the state, and even outside, are touring the two constituencies TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

The "Dilli Ki Yogshala" discontinued from Tuesday, in what could trigger a fresh confrontation between the AAP



MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM

SHORT TAKES

Infiltration bid foiled in Kashmir

Srinagar: A terrorist was killed after an infiltration bid was foiled by the police and army in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district Monday, the army said. The Army said based on specific input of Jammu and Kashmir Police and further corroborated by other intelligence agencies, a joint operation was launched in general area of Jumagund Kupwara by the army and police "At approx 10.25 a.m., taking advantage of bad weather and visibility conditions, a terrorist was seen trying to infiltrate onto own side of Line of Control," army said.

Woman poisons boyfriend, arrested

Thiruvananthapuram: The Crime Branch wing of Kerala Police on Monday arrested the woman accused of poisoning to death her 23-year-old male friend after he refused to break up with her. Earlier in the day, Greeshma (22) had attempted suicide by consuming a disinfectant when she was taken to the toilet at a police station here. The police arrested her after confirming that her health condition was stable.

Four drown as car plunges into pond

7 pilgrims killed

Mumbai: Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital for some health problems here Monday morning, a party official said. Pawar, 82, will be kept in the hospital for three days as per the medical advice, and is likely to be discharged November 2.

Delhi's air on brink of turning 'severe'

Delhi has suspended most construction and demolition activities as air quality in the Indian capital is set to worsen from Tuesday because of calmer winds and other meteorological conditions



New Delhi, Oct 31: A layer of eye-stinging smog lingered over Delhi on Monday as its air quality neared the 'severe' zone with stubble burning accounting for 22 per cent of the city's PM2.5 pollution.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 392 (very poor), worsening from 352 on Sunday, It was 354 Thursday, 271 on Wednesday, 302 on Tuesday and 312 on Monday (Diwali).

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

Low wind speed allowed pollutants to accumulate in the air and the situation might deteriorate to "severe" on Tuesday morning, said Mahesh Palawat, vice president (meteorology and climate change),

WB govt seeks

report on cable

bridges in state

Kolkata, Oct 31: A day after the

Morbi bridge collapse which killed

141 persons in Gujarat, the West

Bengal Public Works Department

(PWD) Monday sought a detailed re-

port on the condition of all the

and Dooars regions and the hills of

State PWD Minister Pulak Roy

has sought a report from all the

district PWD engineers on this

count within the next 24 hours.

Roy has also convened an emer-

gency meeting of the top bureau-

crats and engineers from the de-

partment at the state secretariat

at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, which is ex-

pected to be attended by Chief sec-

retary H.K. Dwivedi. Sources in

the PWD said that Roy wants up-

dated information on the health of

the cable bridges in the districts, in-

cluding reports of renovation works

undertaken in the recent past.

Darjeeling in North Bengal.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

cable bridges in

bridges, accord-

ing to sources in

the state secre-

tariat Nabanna.

are mainly scat-

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gles of the Terai

These cable

the state.

Skymet Weather. He said humidity may increase and the wind speed may reduce further from November 4 under the influence of a strong Western Disturbance leading to another episode of smog.

According to SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, the share of farm fires in Delhi PM2.5 pollution stood at 22 per cent on Monday. It was 26 per cent on Sunday, the highest this year so far, and 21 per cent on Saturday.

Palwat said the transport-level wind direction and speed is favourable for transport of smoke from stubble burning.

According to an analysis by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, people in the capital breathe the worst air between November 1 and November 15 -- the period when stubble burning peaks.

The city records an average

PM2.5 concentration of 285 micrograms per cubic metre from November 1 to November 15. PM 2.5 level from 61 to 120 is considered "moderate to poor", 121 to 250 is "very poor", 251 to 350 is "severe" and more than 350 is "severe plus".

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) reported 2,131 farm fires in Punjab on Monday - the highest so far this season, 1,761 on Sunday, 1,898 on Saturday, 2,067 on Friday and 1,111 Thursday It logged 70 and 20 cases of stubble burning in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, Monday.

The CAQM had Thursday said the increased incidents of stubble burning in Punjab this year "is a matter of serious concern"

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Punjab would have seen a large reduction in stubble burning had the Centre supported the state government's "mega plan" to provide cash incentive to farmers for not burning crop residue.

With pollution levels worsen ing, the Centre's air quality panel had on Saturday directed authorities to impose a ban on construction and demolition activities in Delhi-NCR, except in essential projects, and other curbs under stage three of the Graded Response Action plan GRAP.

GRAP is set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

The next stage in the "Severe Plus" category or Stage IV can include steps like a ban on the entry of trucks into Delhi, allowing 50 per cent of staff to work from home in public, municipal and private offices, closure of educational institutions and the plying of vehicles on an odd-even basis, etc.



MATTER OF FAITH: Devotees perform rituals of 'Chhath Puja', at Marina Beac, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

COVID LOCKDOWN

Air India ordered to refund cancellation fee to passenger

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 31: The Second Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Bengaluru has directed Air India to refund Rs 44,029 to a passenger whose flight from Bengaluru to London was cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown.

While refunding the Rs 1,35,143 ticket price to the passenger Milin Jagdishbhai Parekh, the airlines had deducted Rs 44.029 as 'cancel



The 'incidental charge' of Rs 5,000 which got deducted was also ordered to be paid back within 45

The Commission's recent order came after a two-year fight by Parekh who had filed his complaint in March 2020.

Parekh had booked a flight to London in January 2020 and he was to fly from Bengaluru in April that year. However in March that vear, the COVID-19 lockdown was imposed which banned all international flights.

PLEA FOR NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN ON LSD

SC seeks replies from Centre, states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre and six states Monday on a plea that has sought the formulation of a national health plan on lumpy skin disease (LSD) in cattle. The plea, filed by Pune-based

NGO Aryavarta Mahasabha Foundation, came up for hearing before a bench of justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala, which issued notices and sought responses from the Centre and the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Madhya

The plea, drafted by advocate Pawan Prakash Pathak, said lumpy skin disease has been rapidly spreading among cattle in eight states and more than 75,000 cattle have died due to it since

According to the plea, the Centre has begun administering the "goat pox vaccine" to all cattle in the affected states and said it is "100-per cent effective" against the disease. "Already 1.5 crore doses have been administered in the eight affected states. The total cattle population in India is around 20 crore," the plea said, adding that the country has also developed an indigenous vaccine -- LumpiLUMPY SKIN DISEASE IS A CONTAGIOUS VIRAL INFECTION

THAT AFFECTS CATTLE AND CAUSES FEVER, NODULES ON THE SKIN, AND CAN ALSO LEAD TO DEATH THE DISEASE SPREADS THROUGH

MOSQUITOES, FLIES, LICE AND WASPS BY DIRECT CONTACT AMONG CATTLE, AND THROUGH CONTAMINATED FOOD AND WATER

ProVacInd - for the disease and two companies are manufacturing it.

It said animals are also essential for maintaining the ecological balance on earth and in recent years, the protection and welfare of animals have taken a prominent place in the

The plea said the milk yield could be severely impacted if vaccination is delayed. It has sought a direction to the respondent states to formulate a national health plan on lumpy skin disease among

Tiruvarur (TN): Four persons, including a one-year-old boy, drowned when the car in which they were travelling plunged into a roadside pond in Visalur village in Nannilam taluk in the district Monday, police said. A woman, among the travellers in the ill-fated vehicle, has been admitted to the government hospital here and her condition is said to be critical, the police said.

in road accident

Mumbai: Seven pilgrims were killed when a speeding car rammed into their procession Monday evening in Maharashtra's Solapur district, police said. The accident took place around 6.45 pm near Sangola town, about 390km from Mumbai, when a group of 32 pilgrims (warkaris) was on a multi-day religious walk (dindi) to temple town of Pandharpur from Jatharwadi in Kolhapur district, an official said.

Pawar unwell

Apex court seeks replies of Centre, EC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre and the Election Commission (EC) on a PIL challenging the vires of Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which deprives prisoners of their right to vote.

A bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit and comprising Justices S Rayindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi considered the submissions made by advocate Zoheb Hossain and sought response from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the poll panel.

The plea was filed in 2019 by Aditya Prasanna Bhattacharya, then a student of the National Law University, challenging the Constitutional validity of section 62(5) of the Act.

The plea contended that the provision, uses the yardstick of confinement in a prison to disenfranchise persons and this, coupled with the use of excessively broad language, causes the provision to generate several anomalous and shocking consequences. "In addition to convicts who have

PIL SEEKING VOTING RIGHTS FOR PRISONERS



been sentenced to a particular period of imprisonment, even under-trials, whose innocence or guilt has not been conclusively determined, are deprived of their right to vote, as they too are confined in prison, although they have not been sentenced to imprisonment," said the plea.

After hearing submissions, the top court scheduled the matter for further hearing on December 29.

The plea argued that due to the excessively broad language used by the provision, even those detained in civil prison are deprived of their right to vote.

Thus, there is no reasonable classification based on the purpose of the imprisonment, it added.

Mumbai not 'fully ready' for car seat-belts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 31: From November 1, the Mumbai Traffic Police will implement the rule making it compulsory for all drivers and passengers of motor vehicles to wear seat-belts, officials said, even as a top automobile expert feels the city is still "not fully prepared"

The order was issued October 14 following the amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act's Section 194(b)(1), which has mandated that any person driving without a seat belt or carries passengers not wearing the same shall be liable for punishment. "The Mumbai



time to all vehicle owners who do not have seat-belt facility for all to install them by the deadline of From Tuesday, all motor vehicle driv-

■ The Mumbai Traffic Police had given

ers and commuters in such vehicles on Mumbai roads must compulsorily wear the seatbelts or face punitive action under the laws

Western India Automobile Traffic Police shall deploy special teams at vantage points to check the Association (WIAA) Chairman Emeritus and ex-Member of compliance to the rule, make random checks of vehicles on the two Parliament, Y.P. Trivedi lauded the highways and other roads, at key move as "very positive from the safety aspect" but feels enough signals or junctions to ensure all follow the new safety rule," said a time was not given to the vehicleowners to implement it.

Apex court for fair play among Railway employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme Court Monday said that employees working under the Railway Board in different zones or divisions are required to be treated equally and there cannot be any discrimination.

The apex court dismissed the appeals filed by the Centre, through the Northern Railways, and others against the November 2019 verdict of the Delhi High Court that directed it to count 50 per cent of service rendered by commission vendors, prior to their absorption, as "qualifying service" for grant of pensionary benefits.

The top court noted that as far as commission vendors working in the western, eastern, southern and south-eastern railway are

ZONES/DIVISIONS, BUT WORKING UNDER THE SAME EMPLOYER," THE TOP COURT SAID concerned, pursuant to different orders passed by the Central Administrative Tribunals (CAT) and the high courts, which have been confirmed by the apex court,

the issue is held against

"It cannot be disputed that em-

the Railways.

WORKING -- IN DIFFERENT

THERE CANNOT BE DIFFERENT

CRITERIA/PARAMETERS WITH RESPECT

TO SIMILARLY SITUATED EMPLOYEES

- COMMISSION VENDORS/BEARERS

ployees working in different divisions/zones in the Railways are under the very same employer Railway Board which is under the Ministry of Railways. There are 16 zones and 68 divisions in the Railways," a bench of justices MR Shah and B V Nagarathna noted in its 36-page judgment.

"Therefore, the employees working under the same employer --Railway Board -- working in different zones/divisions are required to be treated similarly and equally and are entitled to similar benefits and are entitled to the same treatment. As rightly submitted on behalf of the respondents, there cannot be any discrimination inter se," the bench said.

department official

On the ground of parity, it said, the commission vendors working in the Northern Railways are entitled to the same benefits that are held to be entitled to all similarly situated commission vendors working under different zones or divisions.

It said to deny similar benefits would tantamount to discrimination and be in violation of the Constitution's articles 14 (equality before law) and 16 (equality of opportunity in matters of public employment).

The high court had held that services rendered by commission vendors or bearers in the Northern Railways, prior to their absorption, should be counted for the purposes of pensionary benefits.

In its verdict, the apex court observed that with respect to commission vendors or bearers working in the western, eastern, southern and south-eastern railway, they were held to be entitled to 50 per cent of the services rendered prior to their regularisation to be counted for pensionary benefits and they were granted such benefits.

It said there cannot be discrimination among the similarly situated commission vendors or bearers.

Dealing with the submission on behalf of the Centre that there shall be huge financial burden on the Railways, the bench noted that the issue is with respect to pensionary benefits.

In UP, children feel the heat of state's caste-driven politics

THERE ARE

INNUMERABLE CASES

OF CHILDREN BEING

DISCRIMINATED

AGAINST IN

GOVERNMENT

SCHOOLS ON THE

BASIS OF CASTE

the school itself and it is only when

a TV channel highlights the inci-

dent that action is taken," says

Ram Prakash Srivastava, a retired

lage in an eastern UP constituency.

says, "The caste system has gained

strong roots and unless the local

MLA or MP belongs to a margin-

alised caste, Dalit children are vic-

timised in schools. Teachers, while

beating them or scolding them,

use cuss words and caste shame

them. I belong to the Dalit com-

munity but there is little I can do

to protect the children because the

local MLA belongs to the upper

Sangita, a class four student who

belongs to a Dalit community, says

that the school teacher tells her to

sit in a separate row and she is

caste and so do the local officials.

Vinay Kumar, the head of a vil-

school teacher in Ballia.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 31: In Uttar Pradesh, 'C' is for children and 'C' is also for caste. It is school children who bear the brunt of the prevailing caste politics in the state.

There are innumerable cases of children being discriminated against in government schools on the basis of caste. Most of them either go unreported or do not invite any action.

Last year, in Amethi, the principal of a primary school in Gaderi in Sangrampur area was accused of allegedly forming a separate queue of Dalit children when they were served the midday meal.

An FIR was registered against the principal Kusum Soni, under sections of the SC/ST Atrocities Prevention Act and she was suspended. The case was also reported to the district magistrate who ordered a probe by the Basic Shiksha Adhikari. There was also the case of segregation of utensils used by Dalit students in a government school in Mainpuri district.

"This has now become a way of life, especially in rural areas. The caste feeling is so dominant now that it is the children who refuse to eat food cooked by a Dalit or sit with children belonging to Dalit castes. We try to sort out the matter in also asked to sit away from others when the midday meal is served. "Big (read upper caste) children do not play with me and they also

"Big (read upper caste) children do not play with me and they also get the food first," she says. Sangita says that the only time she is given 'VIP aur accha kaam (treatment)' is when 'mantri ji' comes to school.

Her mother, Asha, says that the teacher asks her to put oil on Sangita's head and comb her hair and she is taught how to speak to the guest. In return she gets candies but once the visit is over, things are back to being worse.

Radhika Saxena, who works with children belonging to marginalised communities, says that the caste discrimination in schools remains a major factor in keeping the kids, especially girls, away from school.

"The drop-out rate increases as children start growing up and begin to realise that they are being subjected to abusive behaviour. Some male teachers even derive sadistic pleasure by not allowing girls to relieve themselves during school hours and this kind of behaviour is only for Dalits," she says.

Radhika says that the problem lies with the social and political system which has become highly caste-oriented and teachers are a part of it.

"De-sensitising teachers does not work and now even children are becoming caste conscious which is a highly dangerous trend for the future. I have seen some upper caste children refer to Dalit children with abuses," she adds.

A retired IAS officer, who served in the state education department for a long time, admits that government schemes exist mainly on paper and the reality is different.

"We provide uniforms, shoes, books and other incentives but who checks whether the children are actually getting the benefits. There is no system to check if teachers behave well with children. The human resource factor is missing from the system and books alone will not make schools a better place." he says.



FESTIVE SPIRIT: Devotees offer prayers to the rising sun as part of Chhath Puja festivities at Dussehra Ghat behind the Taj Mahal in Agra, Monday.

Family wakes up to find croc in their home

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Etawah (UP), Oct 31: A family in Jatia village in Etawah woke up shocked to find an eight-foot long crocodile in their house.

Harnam Singh, the owner of the house, said that the crocodile entered the house Saturday night when they were sleeping.

"As soon as one of us saw the crocodile, everyone was woken up and we informed the police. The cops spoke to a local wildlife expert Dr Ashish Tripathi who said that we should quietly move out and lock the house from outside. This is what we did and everyone stayed up all night," he told reporters.

The rescue operation began Sunday under the supervision of Dr Tripathi. It took the police and the wildlife experts considerable



time to grab the crocodile in a trap and safely remove it from house. It was later handed over to the forest

AFSPA may go from more areas: Himanta

"We do not know how it entered the house. When we heard the goats' bleating at night, we realised something was wrong and found the crocodile," said Harnam Singh.

He further said, "My mother started shouting and hearing her voice, my daughter opened the door of the room and rushed towards her. That is how the reptile

entered the room."

Dr Tripathi, meanwhile, said the crocodile was a juvenile and not a fully-grown adult.

"We checked the crocodile and found that it was eight foot long. The reptile's age is between 1.5-2 years. The villagers were very scared but we decided against carrying out the rescue operation at night as this crocodile is very aggressive," he said.

He added that the crocodile crawled out from a canal flowing nearby in search of food. "It is a freshwater crocodile and will be released in its natural habitat." he added.

SP has conceded bypoll defeat even before polling: Adityanath

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lakhimpur Kheri, Oct 31: Responding to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's accusation that the Yogi government in Uttar Pradesh is sending all Yadav police personnel on forced leave to influence the November 3 bypoll, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday termed the allegation as an indication that the SP has conceded defeat even before polling.

Addressing an election meeting here, Adityanath said, "Earlier they used to blame the EVMs. Now they are accusing us of winning elections forcibly. Elections are not won with force, but with people's support."

The by-election to Gola Gokaran Nath Assembly constituency in Lakhimpur Kheri district, which fell vacant following the demise of BJP MLA Arvind Giri, is due November 3.

While the BJP has fielded Arvind Giri's son Aman Giri in the bypoll,



the SP candidate is former MLA Vinay Tiwari. The BSP and Congress are not contesting the bypoll. The Chief Minister further asserted that the BJP governments at the Centre and the state are working like a "double engine" government to ensure fast-paced development in the state.

Adityanath also questioned the efficacy of the previous SP regime which got the opportunity to govern the state on four occasions.

He said the state government has initiated construction of a new medical college in the district which would prove to be of immense help to the people seeking immediate medical treatment.

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Oct 31: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday said his government is considering withdrawing AFSPA from two more locations in the state. The Armed Forces (Special

Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) was extended for six months from October 1 with the continuation of the 'Disturbed Area' tag for Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts along with Lakhipur sub-division of Cachar in the Barak valley.

The government had withdrawn the controversial law from West Karbi Anglong district as the situation "considerably improved" there.

The Armed Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant besides giv-



ing immunity from arrest and prosecution to the security forces if

they shoot someone dead.

"Peace has returned to Assam and Northeast. Today, AFSPA is withdrawn from 65 per cent areas of the state. In the future, we are considering to withdraw it from Lakhipur of Cachar and the en-

tire Karbi Anglong district,"

Sarma said.
Following the withdrawal of two
more areas from the ambit of the
AFSPA, only six districts in Upper
Assam will remain under the law's
purview, he added.

Speaking at a function to offer financial support to surrendered Peace has returned to Assam and Northeast. Today, AFSPA is withdrawn from 65 per

cent areas of the state. In the future, we are considering to withdraw it from Lakhipur of Cachar and the entire Karbi Anglong district

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA CHIEF MINISTER

militants for their rehabilitation, Sarma stated that the 'Disturbed Area' tag under the AFSPA has also been removed from different areas of Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur.

"Assam has seen a lot of bloodshed. It is our duty to stop it and develop our state. We are planning to launch a big scheme to offer employment opportunities to the unemployed youths of the

state," he added.

The chief minister handed over demand drafts to 318 former mili-

the past, in presence of the state DGP and other senior officials of Assam Police, Army and paramilitary forces. A one-time grant of Rs 1.5 lakh

tants, who had laid down arms in

each was offered to the surrendered cadres of United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent), United Gorkha People's Organisation (UGPO), Tiwa Liberation Army (TLA), Kuki Liberation Front (KLF), Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA) and Kuki National Liberation Army (KNLA).

"In the last one-and-half years of our government, all militant organisations, except the ULFA(I), in Assam have returned to the mainstream. I again appeal to the ULFA(I) chief Paresh Barua to take the society forward by peace and not by bloodshed." Sarma said.

He told the gathering that over 6,780 cadres of various groups have laid down their arms since he assumed charge in May last year.

Social media posts lead to jail terms for young Assamese

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 31: Barshashree Buragohain (19), a college student in Assam, can probably explain better than anybody else how a social media post can turn out to be a nightmare.

Barshashree is pursuing her B.Sc. from Devi Charan Baruah Girls' College in Jorhat.

Like many other boys and girls of her age, Barshashree was also an ardent lover of Facebook. She loved posting and commenting on many things without being aware that one day a social media post could bring darkness in her life.

could bring darkness in her life. May 18 this year was such a dark day for Barshashree.

A few days prior to that, she had posted a poem on Facebook in Assamese: "One more step towards the sun of freedom. Once again, I will commit treason."

Though the poem written by

Barshashree had no direct reference to any terror outfit, the FIR against her mentioned that the poem was an implicit endorsement of banned militant organisation United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I), and pointed towards a larger "criminal conspiracy" and "intent to wage war against the Indian government".

Buragohain was arrested on May 18 and later sent to judicial custody. The teenager was booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

After her arrest, people from different parts of Assam voiced their support for the college student, demanding her release, while her family maintained that the poem was not at all provocative.

Yet, the police were not impressed with such narratives.

Special DGP G.P. Singh defended the arrest and went on to say that when someone publicly professes

support for a banned organisation and declares the intent of waging war against the Indian state, the police are legally bound to prosecute that person.

But criticism started to pour in against the state government and the police, which forced Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to step in in Barshashree's case.

Defending the police action, Sarma had said at that time, "The girl has been given protection from destroying her life. One must remember that 42 people have been given death sentence in ULFA-I camp a few days ago, which the outfit's leader Paresh Baruah may not even know."

Sarma added, "The girl was repenting for her action while her family members also assured that they will take care so that she does not indulge in such activi-

ties in the future."
After Chief Minister's inter-



vention, the police did not oppose the bail plea and the 19-year-old was released on bail.

However, it took almost two months and Barshashree had to spend more than 60 days in jail. Upon her release from jail, Barshashree said that she has learnt many things and she may not use social media anymore in her lifetime. Interestingly, Barshashree was not the only one who faced a hard time due to social media activities.

A 22-year-old youth from Amguri town in Sivsagar district was also in jail for more than three months for allegedly posting a Facebook comment in support of ULFA-I.

Bitupan Changmai had commented on Barshashree's poem that sparked the major controversy.

Changmai was arrested from his house on May 19 and produced before the Sivasagar district court the next day. He was booked under Sections 120B/121/121A of the IPC and the harsh Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was also slapped on him. He had been lodged in the Sivsagar district jail after the magistrate sent him

to judicial custody.

As he was in jail, Changmai missed some job interviews he had applied for. His family members desperately urged the state government for his release so that he could lead a payment life.

could lead a normal life.

After more than three months,

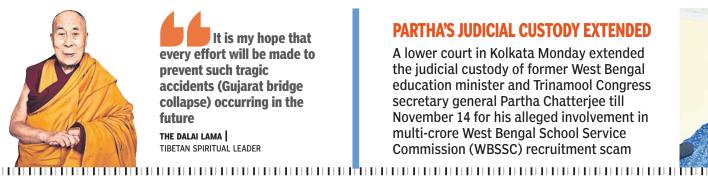
Changmai was granted bail by a district court in Savasagar.

Maina Chutia, 23, was also arrested for allegedly commenting on a Facebook post, written in favour of ULFA-I.

Maina is a talented young wushu player and boxer from the Moranhat area. Maina, who represented Assam in a few tournaments, spent more than one-and-a-half months in jail. Her comment on Facebook came under the scanner of the cyber cell of the police and a team from the Moranhat police station went to the athlete's house and arrested her June 17.

After walking out of jail, Maina said: "It was tough spending so many days in jail, but I learnt a few good things there." Recently, a youth from Silchar was detained by the police for posting an emoji on a Facebook post of a BJP MLA. The list of such cases has been growing in Assam in recent times.





It is my hope that every effort will be made to prevent such tragic accidents (Gujarat bridge collapse) occurring in the

ΤΗΕ ΠΑΙΑΙΙΑΜΑ Ι TIBETAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

PARTHA'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED

A lower court in Kolkata Monday extended the judicial custody of former West Bengal education minister and Trinamool Congress secretary general Partha Chatterjee till November 14 for his alleged involvement in multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment scam









RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

I solemnly pledge that I dedicate myself to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is our 'jaan' (life). Sardar Patel ji had a huge role in getting

bringing the Tricolour to this land. That is why we never forget Sardar

G KISHAN REDDY UNION TOURISM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Ch'garh: 2 Maoists killed in encounter

Kanker: Two Maoists, including a "high value target" carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh on his head and wanted in 39 cases of violence, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district Monday, a senior police official said. The other cadre was also wanted in connection with a number of Maoist incidents and carried a bounty of Rs 5 lakh, he said. The gunfight took place at

Infant mauled by dogs in UP

Bhadohi: A pack of stray dogs mauled an infant to death in Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi district. According to reports, the baby had been put in the bushes by an unidentified person, near a canal in Dehati village of Gyanpur area late Sunday. Alerted by the cries of the baby the local people rushed to the spot but the infant was already dead by then. Police officials said that the body has been sent for post-mortem and an investigation is underway.

Cops search houses of The Wire editors

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Monday searched the houses of The Wire's founding editor Siddharth Varadarajan and deputy editor M K Venu in connection with a now retracted story related to BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya, officials said. A senior police officer said electronic devices belonging to the two senior editors of the news portal will be examined.

GUJARAT BRIDGE COLLAPSE

World leaders express grief over loss of lives

Minister Narendra

Modi, Sri Lankan

President Ranil

Wickremesinghe said

he is "shocked and sad-

dened" by the tragic

bridge collapse incident,

according to a press release

issued by the president's office.

Nepalese Prime Minister Sher

Bahadur Deuba said he is deeply

saddened by the tragic incident. The

Foreign Affairs Ministry of Saudi

Arabia issued a statement on the

Responding to a question on the

bridge collapse incident, Chinese

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao

Lijian in a media briefing in Beijing

said, "We have taken note of what

happened and mourn for the loss

of lives and extend sympathies to

the bereaved families and those

who are injured in the accident."

Underlining that Gujarat "has a

special place in Polish-Indian re-

lations", Polish foreign minister

Zbigniew Rau in a tweet extended

"deep and sincere condolences to

the Nation of India for the tragedy".

has announced an ex-gratia of Rs

2 lakh from the Prime Minister's

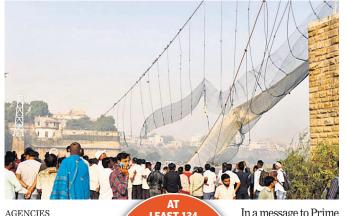
National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

for the next of kin of each of the

deceased and Rs 50,000 to each of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Morbi tragedy.



Moscow/Jerusalem, **SO FAR AFTER THE** Oct 31: World leaders, including Russian **COLLAPSED INTO TH** MACHCHHU RIVER IN President Vladimir

Minister Yair Lapid, Monday extended their condolences to the families of the people who lost their lives in a tragic bridge collapse in Gujarat's Morbi city.

Putin and Israeli Prime

In a message to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi which was published on the Kremlin website, Putin said, "Dear Ms President, dear Mr Prime Minister, please accept my heartfelt condolences over the tragic bridge collapse in the state of Gujarat.

Putin also conveyed his words of sympathy and support to the families and friends of the victims, and wished all those injured a speedy recovery, state-run TASS news agency reported.

In his condolence message, Israeli Prime Minister Lapid said that the thoughts and prayers of all Israelis are with the people of India following yesterday's devastating bridge collapse in Gujarat.

"I send my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, and my wishes for a swift recovery to the wounded," he

DEADLIEST MISHAPS IN THE LAST DECADE

APRIL 2012: At least 103 people drowned after an overloaded ferry carrying about 300 people sank at night in

APRIL 2013: Some 72 people were killed after an illegal and half-constructed building in western India's Thane, near the financial capital Mumbai, collapsed OCT 2013: Devotees crossing a long, concrete bridge towards a temple in the central state of Madhya Pradesh panicked when some railings broke,

JULY 2014: An 11-storey building under construction in southern Tamil Nadu state came down following heavy rains, leaving at least 47 people dead. SEPT 2015: Illegally stored explosives that were accidentally detonated in the centre of a town in central Madhya Pradesh state killed at least 88 people. APRIL 2016: A fire and explosions during a fireworks display killed 100 people and injured more than 380 at a temple in the southern state of Kerala. NOV 2016: Some 146 people were killed and more than 200 injured when an express train derailed in the northern

state of Uttar Pradesh. OCT 2018: A commuter train ran through a crowd gathered on the tracks for a festival in northern India's Amritsar city, killing at least 59 people

DECEMBER 2019: Forty three people died in New Delhi when a blaze engulfed a four-storey building in a residential part of the capital where more than 100 workers were sleeping. FEB 2021: Some 50 people were killed in central Madhya Pradesh state when a bus fell off a bridge into a canal and





NATIONAL UNITY DAY: Security personnel march during Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at Kevadia in Narmada district, Gujarat

'Order putting sedition law on hold to continue'

New Delhi, Oct 31: An interim order putting on hold the contentious sedition law and the consequential registration of FIRs will continue as the Supreme Court granted additional time to the Centre Monday to take "appropriate steps" with regard to the reviewing of the colonial-era

provision. A bench of Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi was told by Attorney General Venkataramani that

some more time be granted to the Centre as "something may happen in the

winter session of Parliament". The topmost law officer said the issue has been under consideration of the authorities concerned and moreover, there was "no reason to worry" in view of the May 11 interim order, which had put the use

of the provision on hold. "Mr R Venkataramani, the at-

terms of the directions issued by this court in order dated May 11. 2022, the matter is still engaging the attention of the relevant authorities. He submits that some additional time be granted so that appropriate steps can be taken by the government.'

"In view of the interim directions issued by this court...Dated May 11, 2022, every inter-

est and concern stand protected and as such there would be no **OF CERTAIN OTHER PETITIONS ON THE** prejudice to anyone. **MATTER AND ISSUED** At his request, we ad-NOTICES TO THE CENTRE journ the matter to SEEKING ITS REPLY IN the second week of January, 2023," the bench said.

> It also took note of certain other petitions on the matter and issued notices to the Centre,

> seeking its reply in six weeks' time. In the landmark order passed May 11, the court had put the contentious law on hold till the Centre completed its promised review of the colonial relic and also asked the Union and state governments not to register any fresh case invoking the offence.

BJP suspends 5 rebel leaders including state **VP in Himachal**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Shimla, Oct 31: Days ahead of Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh, the ruling BJP Monday suspended five of its rebel leaders from the primary membership of the party for contesting the election as Independents.

Those suspended include former MLAs -- Tejwant Singh Negi (Kinnaur), Kishori Lal (Anni), Manohar Dhiman (Indora), K L Thakur (Nalagarh) -- and the BJP's Himachal unit vice-president Kripal Parmar.

All these leaders are contesting the polls as Independents from their respective constituencies after the BJP denied ticket to them.

Parmar, a former Rajya Sabha MP, is contesting as an Independent from Fatehpur constituency.

"BJP's state unit president Suresh Kashyap has suspended the workers from the primary membership of the party for six years for contesting the elections as Independents against the party's official candidate,' the statement reads.

Earlier, more than a dozen BJP leaders had announced that they would be contesting as Independents in the Assembly elections scheduled to be held November 12.

However, after the intervention of BJP's top brass, some of the leaders, including former MP Maheshwar Singh, Yuvraj Kapoor and Dharamshala block president Anil Chaudhary, withdrew their nominations.

In its first list of candidates, the BJP had denied tickets to its-11 sitting MLAs and shifted the constituencies of two ministers.

SC to hear pleas against CAA Dec 6

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme Court Monday scheduled, for December 6, the hearing on over 200 petitions challenging the validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019.

A bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M. Trivedi said: "List the matters before the appropriate bench December 6, 2022.

The bench granted time to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to file response on behalf of Tripura and Assam in the matter. It also nominated two advocates Pallavi Pratap, representing one of the petitioners, and Kanu Agrawal, representing the Centre, to make a common compilation of docu-



ing in the matters arising out of more than 230 petitions.

A battery of senior advocates AM Singhvi, Sidharth Luthra, Kapil Sibal, P Wilson and Indira Jaising and others appeared on behalf of the petitioners. The top court said all counsel should share written submissions not exceeding three pages. "Nodal counsel can designate one or two other

matters as lead matters," it added. In its written response, the Centre has defended the validity of the 2019 Act, saying "CAA is a benign piece of legislation which seeks to provide a relaxation, in the

in the said countries," it said.

nature of an amnesty, to specific communities from the specified countries with a clear cut-off date". "It is submitted that the CAA is a specific amendment which seeks to tackle a specific problem prevalent in the specified countries i.e.

persecution on the ground of religion in light of the undisputable theocratic constitutional position in the specified countries, the systematic functioning of such States and the perception of fear that may be prevalent amongst minorities as per the de facto situation

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS AHEAD

rime Minister Narendra Modi is in the midst of a three day visit of hectic engagements, his fourth one to Guiarat in just over a month- and the buzz here is that elections can be declared any-

time thereafter. In the midst of it, a bridge collapse in Morbi town of Saurashtra region Sunday with very high human fatalities has come as a bolt from the blue that is making competing political entities re-calibrate their election campaign strategy. Already, the Prime Minister has cancelled his road shows and the Congress has postponed the numerous yatras to be taken out in various parts of the

On the eve of the PM's arrival October 29, the outgoing Bhupendra Patel-led BJP government decided to set up a high level committee headed by a retired high court or Supreme Court judge to study the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and prepare a draft for it. This may well be the last Cabinet

meeting before the Code of Conduct kicks in. Soon after Chief Minister Patel took to social media to announce the decision.

Thereafter, Union Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Purshottam Rupala joined state home minister Harsh Sanghvi at the state party headquarters 'kamalam' to detail on the decision to the media. Sanghvi said that the Chief Minister has been authorised to appoint the panel and that it would be done before the elections are announced and a decision on the recommendations will be taken by the new government

Waxing eloquent the dairy minister said that Ram Janmabhoomi, Article 370 and the UCC were a priority for the BJP. He had nothing to say on the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) ravaging milch cattle, principally cows, that had affected 16.42 lakh cattle in 197 districts of the country including in Gujarat and killed 75,000 cattle between July and September 11, 2022, according to data maintained by his



own department.

Rupala denied that the cabinet decision had anything to do with the ensuing state Assembly elections in Gujarat. However, this act of an outgoing government in a state on the verge of elections sets the tone that cleaving remains an intrinsic part of the ruling party's campaign mechanism. With the state government dependent on Delhi for all key decisions, it is common knowledge that this strategic poll-time move has been crafted there as well.

While Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor may be in the line of fire for voter baiting with 'revdis', it is the government which has gone overboard with blandishments big

and small. If the small ones entailed the state government giving a oneweek blanket exemption for minor traffic offences between October 21 to October 27 as a Diwali bonanza, the big one pertained to regularising illegal constructions statewide. Wedged in between were bushelfuls of incentives to draw investments in electronics manufacturing Minister of state for home, Harsh

Sanghvi said in Surat October 21 that the government has 'directed' its police not to fine traffic rules violations, "This does not mean that the public should not follow rules. but if you make a mistake, you will not be fined for it. You will be greeted with a flower," Sanghvi said. With the cops handing out red roses to those driving without helmet or indulging in sundry traffic violations, there were amusing scenes on the road during festival time when even otherwise traffic violations peak. It was plainly a poll-time gimmick which bordered on the farcical and made mockery of the law. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi in a comment on Twitter termed it a 'revdi bonanza' by the BJP government in a state which saw 15,200 road traffic accidents in which 7457 people had lost their lives in 2021. The Gujarat Regularisation of

Unauthorised Development Ordinance (GRUDO) 2022 came into effect October 17 and regularises property constructed illegally up to September 30 for a fee. The first such regularisation was done by the Keshubhai Patel led-BJP government in 2000. It had given a binding to the High Court that it would be a one-time exception but this never happened. Then Chief Minister Narendra Modi got the Assembly to pass the Gujarat Regularisation of Unauthorised Development Act, 2011. Though the Act was challenged the extension of deadlines for the paid regularisation continued to be extended till well after Modi left for Delhi. The Act was passed with the 2012 Gujarat Assembly elections in mind. In 2011, there were 25 lakh illegal constructions in Gujarat, the figure today should be anybody's guess.

Again, as elections loomed in 2017, the Vijay Rupani government got the Gujarat Land Revenue (amendment) bill 2017 passed. According to then minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama's own admission, this was done to regularise 7 lakh properties built on agricultural land on payment of prevalent fees.

With Gujarat billed as the home state of Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the two are leaving no stone unturned to retain the state. Both have virtually one leg in the poll-bound state. By the time the Prime Minister completes what is being seen as his last official trip November 1 before elections are declared, he will have announced, laid the foundation stone or inaugurated projects worth approximately Rs 2 lakh crore during the last six months in Gujarat.

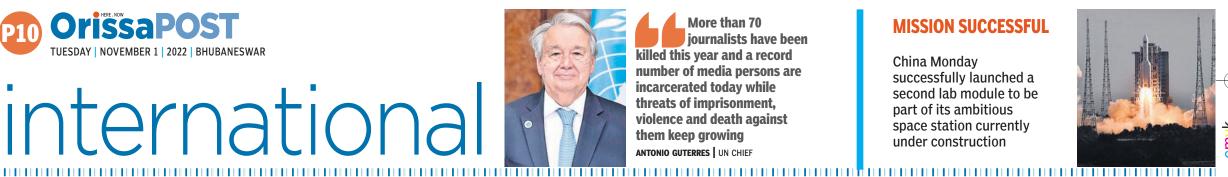
international



More than 70 journalists have been killed this year and a record number of media persons are incarcerated today while threats of imprisonment, violence and death against them keep growing ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN CHIEF

MISSION SUCCESSFUL

China Monday successfully launched a second lab module to be part of its ambitious space station currently under construction



While some of the Tamils of Hill Country origin had integrated successfully into the Sri Lankan society, some have failed and

measures would be taken to assist them to do so

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

I feel really honoured and deeply touched and it's very heartwarming to know that I am one of the first leaders from the world visiting my brotherly and friendly country China. That shows and reflects the depth of our friendship and strength of our

understanding and our bond

SHEHBAZ SHARIF PAKISTAN PM







SHORT **TAKES** Sharif to visit China

Beijing: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will arrive here Tuesday on his maiden two-day visit to China to felicitate President Xi Jinping on his re-election, amid turmoil at home and Beijing's increasing concerns over recurring attacks against the Chinese workers in the country. Sharif will be the first head of the government to felicitate 69year-old Xi in person for securing an unprecedented

Congress, becoming the first leader after party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after 10-year tenure.

third five-year term at the recently held Communist Party

■ Netanyahu eyes comeback in polls **Jerusalem:** Flection-weary

Israelis will go to the polls Tuesday, the fifth in less than four years, in which former prime minister Beniamin Netanyahu will try to stage a comeback, amidst indications that the outcome this time too is too close to call. The prospect of the next government hinges around two factors - the level of rightwing polarisation, not necessarily in favour of veteran politician Netanyahu but for him to lead the coalition, and the extent of voter apathy, surprisingly, in the Arab sector.

■ Halloween crush: **Probe begins**

Seoul: South Korean police are investigating what caused a crowd surge that killed more than 150 people including 26 foreigners during Halloween festivities in Seoul last weekend in the country's worst disaster in years, as President Yoon Suk Yeol and tens of thousands of others paid respects to the dead at special mourning sites. Police said they've launched a 475member task force to investigate the crush.

Lula makes stunning comeback Russia intensifies

This was the country's tightest election since its return to democracy in 1985, and the first time that a sitting President failed to win re-election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, Oct 31: Brazilians de-

livered a very tight victory to Luiz

Inácio Lula da Silva in a bitter

presidential election, giving the

leftist former president another

shot at power in a rejection of in-

cumbent Jair Bolsonaro's far-right

politics. Da Silva received 50.9 per

cent of the vote and Bolsonaro 49.1

per cent, according to the coun-

try's election authority. Yet hours

after the results were in -- and con-

gratulations poured in from world

leaders -- Bolsonaro had yet to pub-

licly concede or react in any way.

repeated — unproven — claims of possible electoral manipulation

before the vote, raising fears that,

if he lost, he would not accept de-

feat and try to challenge the re-

sults. For da Silva, the high-stakes

election was a stunning comeback.

His imprisonment for corruption

sidelined him from the 2018 election

won by Bolsonaro, who has used the

presidency to promote conservative

social values while also deliver-

ing incendiary speeches and test-

ing democratic institutions.

Indian shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in Uganda: Report

Johannesburg, Oct 31: A 24-year-

old Indian businessman has been

shot dead allegedly by a police con-

stable in Kisoro town of Uganda,

The deceased was identified as

Kuntaj Patel. Police constable Elioda

Gumizamu, 21, from the Field Force

Unit (FFU) has been charged with

murder after he was apprehended

and handed over to the police on

October 27 while he was trying to

flee the scene of the crime on the

main street, The Daily Monitor

The accused policeman along

with other persons, who are yet to

be tracked, walked into an Indian

shop dealing in hardware and shot

the Indian businessman in the

chest at around 2pm on Thursday,

Elly Maate, the regional police

spokesperson, was quoted as say-

The policeman was intercepted

and arrested. He's currently de-

tained at Kisoro police station for

interrogation to establish the mo-

tive."The victim was taken to St

Francis hospital in Mutolere in

Kisoro District in critical condi-

the gunshot wound, police said.

One of the eyewitnesses, Gilbert

Mwiseneza, a casual worker at

Kuntai's shop said he and his boss

were attending to a client when

the armed officer walked in and

aimed the gun at his boss before fir-

ing a bullet that hit him in the

"After the shooting, he (police-

man) tried to run away but he was

intercepted by people who gave a

chase," Mwiseneza said. The Kisoro

Resident District Commissioner

Shaffique Sekandi condemned PC

Gumizamu's action saying he had

The incident came after two

Indians were reportedly killed

in Kenya months after they were

been in the Force for four years.

Hours later, Patel succumbed to

newspaper reported.

ing by the newspaper.

tion." Maate said.

chest

according to a media report.

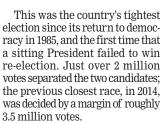
Bolsonaro's campaign had made

Da Silva's win extended a wave of recent leftist triumphs across the region, including Chile, Colombia and

A mong world leaders offering congratulations was US President Joe Biden, who in a statement highlighted the country's free, fair, and credible elections

Da Silva's win extended a wave of recent leftist triumphs across the region, including Chile, Colombia and Argentina. The president-elect will inherit a nation straining against itself after he is inaugurated on January 1, said Thomas Traumann, an independent political analyst who compared Sunday's results to Biden's 2020 victory.

"The huge challenge that Lula has identities and opinions are.



will be to pacify the country," he said. "People are not only polarized on political matters, but also have different values, identity and opinions. What's more, they don't care what the other side's values, Among world leaders offering congratulations on Sunday night was US President Joe Biden, who in a statement highlighted the country's "free, fair, and credible elections.

attack on Ukraine



The Mayor of Ukraine's capital said that 80 per cent of consumers in Kyiv were left without water supplies "due to the damage to a power facility near" the city from Russian military strikes on Monday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Oct 31: A massive barrage of Russian strikes on Monday morning hit critical infrastructure in Kyiv, Kharkiv and other cities, knocking out water and power supplies in apparent retaliation for what Moscow alleged was a Ukrainian attack on its Black Sea Fleet over the weekend.

The mayor of Ukraine's capital said that 80 per cent of consumers in Kyiv were left without water supplies "due to the damage to a power facility near" the city from Russian military strikes on Monday. Local authorities were working on restoring the supplies as soon as possible, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said, telling Kyiv residents in the meantime to "stock up on water from the nearest pump rooms and points of sale.'

In a separate Telegram post, Klitschko added that water supplies in some areas of Kviv will be restored in "three to four hours," and power had already been restored in one of the city's districts. Loud explosions were heard across the Ukrainian capital in the early morning as residents prepared to go to work. Many received text messages from the emergency services about the threat of a missile attack, and air raid sirens wailed for three straight hours.

The attacks occurred just before Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala and many top members of his government, including the for-

persed gatherings with live am-

munition and tear gas over the

weeks of sustained protests. At

least 270 people have been killed and

eign, defence and interior ministers, arrived in Kyiv in the latest show of support from European leaders for Ukraine.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said there was no iustification for Russia launching missiles meant to inflict so much suffering on civilians."Don't justify these attacks by calling them a 'response'. Russia does this because it still has the missiles and the will to kill Ukrainians," he tweeted.

There was a heavy military presence north of Kyiv. Smoke was rising from the left bank of the Dnieper River, either from a missile strike or where it was shot down by Ukrainian forces. A resident of the area said he heard four loud explosions that rocked the area.

"At first I thought I heard a jet going by, but then I realised it was a missile," said Serhii, who refused to give his full name. "The explosions were so loud! I consider myself experienced and prepared for attacks like this. But it was way too close and loud. I was frightened, really frightened.'

In the outlying region, authorities warned people to be prepared for a long power outage because of the emergency cuts. Kyiv region Gov. Oleksii Kuleba also said that one person was wounded and a number of houses were damaged as a result of the morning attack.

In the eastern city of Kharkiy two strikes hit critical infrastructure facilities, according to authorities, and the subway ceased operating.

Imran to file ₹10 bn lawsuit against EC chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 31: Imran Khan Monday targeted the chief of the Election Commission (EC) of Pakistan and announced that he will file a Rs 10 billion defamation suit against him for destroying his reputation by disqualifying him, as the ousted premier addressed his supporters at the start of the fourth



Khan has announced that his objective was to gain Haqeeqi Azadi (real freedom) through the march to Islamabad which in his words was possible if free and fair elections are held immediately. Khan, 70, was earlier this month disqualified from membership of the current National Assembly by a five-member panel of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which was headed by its chief Sikandar Sultan Raja.

"Sikandar Sultan, I will take you to court ... so that in the future, you do not destroy anyone's reputation on someone else's instructions," Khan said while addressing PTI supporters at Kamonki at the start of the fourth day of his long

He alleged that the ECP's decisions against him in Toshakhana and prohibited funding cases weregiven on the instructions of the incumbent "imported government".



"Today the only winner is the Brazilian people," da Silva said in a speech on Sunday evening at a hotel in downtown Sao Paulo."It's the victory of a democratic movement that formed above political parties, personal interests and ideologies so that democracy came out victorious.

Da Silva is promising to govern beyond his party. He says he wants to bring in centrists and even some leaning to the right, and to restore the kind of prosperity the country enjoyed when he last served as president from 2003-2010. Yet he faces headwinds in a politically polarised society.

Bolsonaro's four years in office have been marked by proclaimed conservatism and defense of traditional Christian values. He claimed that his rival's return to power would usher in communism, legalized drugs, abortion and the persecution of churches - things that didn't happen during da Silva's earlier eight years in office.



A pet owner dressed as The Mandalorian takes a picture with her dog in a Grogu Baby Yoda costume during a Halloween pet costume competition, in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Iran charges 1,000 over unrest in Tehran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai. Oct 31: Iranian authorities announced Monday they will hold public trials for 1,000 people in the capital, Tehran, over the protests that have convulsed the country. The mass indictments mark the government's first major legal action aimed at quashing dissent since unrest erupted over six weeks ago.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted judicial officials as saying that a thousand people who had a central role in the protests would be brought to trial in Tehran alone over their "subversive actions," including assaulting security guards, setting fire to public property and other accusations.

The nationwide protests first erupted over the Sept 16 death of 22year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police. She was detained for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress code



women. Although the protests first focused on Iran's mandatory headscarf, or hijab, they have since transformed into one of the greatest challenges to the ruling clerics since the chaotic years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Those who intend to confront and subvert the regime are dependent on foreigners and will be punished according to legal stanThose who intend to

confront and subvert the regime are dependent on foreigners and will be punished according to legal standards

GHOLAM-HOSSEIN MOHSENI EJEI I IRAN'S JUDICIARY CHIEF

dards," said Iran's judiciary chief, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Eiei, indicating that some protesters would be charged with collaborating with foreign governments. Tehran officials have repeated unsupported claims that Iran's foreign enemies

have fomented the unrest. 'Without a doubt, our judges will deal with the cases of the recent riots with accuracy and speed,' he said. Security forces have dis14,000 arrested, according to the group Human Rights Activists in Iran. Demonstrations have continued — even as the feared paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has warned young Iranians to stop. Ejei claimed that prosecutors sought to differentiate between

angry Iranians who merely sought to vent their grievances on the streets and those who wanted to take down the theocracy." Even among the agitators, it should be clarified who had the attention of confronting the system and overthrowing it," he said. Judicial authorities have announced charges against hundreds of people in other Iranian provinces. Some have been accused of "corruption on earth" and "war against God", offences that carry the death penalty.

Shanghai Disney visitors trapped after lockdown

THE RESORT HAD SATURDAY SAID THAT IT HAD STARTED OPERATING WITH A REDUCED WORKFORCE TO COMPLY WITH COVID MEASURES

REUTERS

Shanghai, Oct 31: Shanghai's Disney Resort abruptly suspended operations Monday to comply with COVID-19 prevention measures, with all visitors at the time of the announcement directed to stay in the park until they return a nega-

time (03:39 GMT) it would immediately shut the main theme park

and surrounding areas including its shopping street until further notice to comply with virus curbs.

The Shanghai government said on its official WeChat account the park was barring people from en-



Monday, social media users reported. A Shanghai Disney Resort spokesperson said the resort was

still operating "limited offerings" and that they were following measures in line with guidelines from Chinese health authorities.

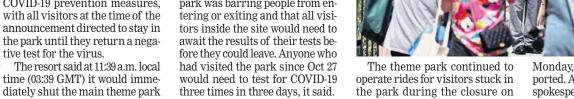
The resort had Saturday said that it had started operating with a reduced workforce to comply with COVID measures. Shanghai reported 10 locally transmitted cases for Oct. 30, all of which it said were people without symptoms.

The closure marks the latest disruption for the Shanghai Disney Resort, which was shut for over three months during Shanghai's lockdown earlier this year.

The park was also closed for two days in November last year with more than 30,000 visitors stuck inside, after authorities ordered all of them to be tested in a contact tracing exercise. Videos circulating on China's Weibo platform on Monday showed people rushing to the park's gates, which were already locked. The Shanghai Disney Resort

did not respond when asked about on how many visitors were inside. Local authorities across China have continued to impose abrupt and extreme measures to cut any possibility of virus transmission once cases arise, in line with the country's ultra-strict zero-tolerance approach towards COVID-19.

The Universal Resort in the country's capital of Beijing reopened on Monday after a five day closure, which was also prompted by virus measures.



business



India is expected to clock better growth than IMF's projections next year aided by enhanced capital formation V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN

FROM MOSCOW TO GOA

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot Monday said it is set to launch its flight services to Goa from Moscow, starting November 2. The airline currently operates its air services on the Moscow-Delhi-Moscow route twice-aweek with an Airbus A330 aircraft





High oil prices in and of have a dampening effect because if a recession comes, the demand will fall

HARDEEP SINGH PURI OIL MINISTER

To make Maharashtra into an electronics hub, we have approved an Electronics

Cluster project in Ranjangaon, Pune. The total investment of the government will be about ₹500 crore

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

The Indian automotive industry is showing signs of revival and our customers are also ramping up

production. This has resulted in onetime costs, which should be mitigated in the coming quarters VIVEK CHAAND SEHGAL

CHAIRMAN, MSWIL

2ND QUARTER **RESULTS**

Airtel Q2 profit **jumps 89% in Q2**

New Delhi: India's second largest telecom operator Bharti Airtel Monday posted an 89 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit for second quarter ended September 2022 to ₹2,145 crore, amid improved average realisation per subscriber. The total revenue rose 22 per cent year on year to ₹34,527 crore during the just-ended quarter, according to a statement. Airtel CEO Gopal Vittal said the company is now rolling out 5G and exuded confidence that Airtel 5G Plus will deliver the best experience in India.

Tata Steel Q2 net profit plunges 90%

New Delhi: Domestic steel giant Tata Steel Monday reported a nearly 90 per cent drop in consolidated net profit to ₹1,297 crore for the July-September quarter of 2023-23, dragged by higher expenses. The company's net profit stood at ₹12,547.70 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year, Tata Steel said in a BSE filing. Its total income during July-September 2022 stood at ₹60,206.78 crore as against ₹60,657.98 crore in the year-ago period. The firm's total expenses rose to ₹57,684.09 crore from ₹47,239.63 crore earlier.

Saregama Q2 net profit rises 36%

New Delhi: Music label Saregama India Ltd Monday reported a 36.42 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹46.11 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2022. It had posted a net profit of ₹33.80 crore in the July-September quarter last fiscal, Saregama said in a regulatory filing. Saregama's total income was up 30.37 per cent to ₹189.16 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹145.09 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

L&T Q2 PAT jumps 26% to ₹2,819cr

New Delhi: Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Monday reported a 26 per cent rise in consolidated net Profit After Tax (PAT) at ₹2,819.20 crore for the quarter ended September on the back of higher revenue from operations. The company had posted a consolidated net PAT of ₹2,231.33 crore in the yearago period, L&T said in a filing to BSE. The consolidated revenue from operations increased by 22.9 per cent to ₹42,762.61 crore from ₹34,772.90 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, the filing added.

Inflation at new record in Europe, slowing growth

A survey of forecasts by the European Central Bank showed expectations for inflation next year rose to 5.8% from 3.6% predicted three months ago

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 31: Inflation hit a new record in the 19 countries that use the euro currency, fuelled by outof-control prices for natural gas and electricity due to Russia's war

Economic growth also slowed ahead of what economists fear is

Rupee's losses have been

deeper in the past two

months, with market

participants reckoning

that the RBI let the

currency slide after having

helped hold it at the 79-80

levels for a long time

Mumbai, Oct 31: The Indian

rupee has declined in each of the

ten months this year to notch its

biggest losing streak in almost

four decades as the US Federal

Reserve's hawkish stance on mon-

etary policy catapulted the dol-

year, having scaled 114.8-levels last

month to trade near its 2002 peak.

Its ascent has pressured curren-

cies globally, especially ones in

the dollar in October, taking its

Russia-Ukraine conflict and weak-

ness in the Chinese yuan have

only piled on more pressure on

the rupee and helped send it to a

record low of 83.29 per dollar ear-

deeper in the past two months,

with market participants reckon-

ing that the Reserve Bank of India

let the currency slide after having

helped hold it at the 79-80 levels

The rupee's losses have been

lier this month.

slide for the year to nearly 11%.

The Indian rupee fell 1.8% against

Surging oil prices due to the

The dollar index is up 16% this

lar to two-decade highs

emerging Asian markets

REUTERS

a looming recession, largely as a result of those higher prices sapping Europeans' ability to spend.

Annual inflation reached 10.7 per cent in October, the European Union's statistics agency, Eurostat, reported Monday. That is up from 9.9 per cent in September and the highest since statistics began to be compiled for the eurozone in 1997.

Natural gas prices skyrocketed in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine as Russia throttled back pipeline supplies to a trickle of what they were before the war. Europe has had to resort to expensive shipments of liquefied gas that come by ship from the US and Qatar to keep generating electricity and heating homes.

BLEEDING CURRENCY

₹ marks biggest monthly

losing streak since 1985



Sending price increases to near 40-year highs in the US as well

Prices for food, alcohol and tobacco have increasingly joined energy prices as a major contributor, rising 13.1%, while energy prices rose an astronomical 41.9%

While liquid gas succeeded in filling Europe's storage for the winter, the higher prices have made some

industrial products such as steel or fertilizer expensive or simply unprofitable to make.

Consumer spending power has been drained at shops and elsewhere as more income goes to pay for fuel and utility bills.

Natural gas prices for shortterm purchases have eased recently but remain high on markets for coming months, suggesting that costly energy may be a persistent drag on the economy.

The economy, which had been rebounding from the Covid-19 pandemic, showed growth of 0.2 per cent in the July-September quarter, slowing from 0.8 per cent in the second quarter.

Economists say a major reason

is higher prices, and many are predicting the economy will shrink over the last months of this year and the first part of next year.

Higher inflation has sent a chain of tremors through the economy. It has led the European Central Bank to raise interest rates at the fastest pace in its history with two three-quarter point increases at its October 27 and September 8 meetings. That has sent market borrowing costs higher for companies and governments and raised concerns that the war on inflation will hurt growth

Meanwhile, higher bond market costs for governments remain a concern for heavily indebted eurozone countries such as Italy

Core sector output grows 7.9% in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Production of eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 7.9 per cent in September -- the highest in three months -- on account of better show by coal, fertiliser, cement and electricity segments, according to official data released Monday.

In September last year, the growth rate stood at 5.4 per cent. It was 4.1 per cent in August. The previous high was in June when the output expanded by 13.1 per cent.

The production growth of eight infrastructure sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - was 9.6 per cent during April-September this fiscal, compared to 16.9 per cent a year ago.

Output of coal, fertiliser, cement and electricity in September rose by 12 per cent, 11.8 per cent, 12.1 per cent, and 11 per cent, respectively. Refinery products output to rose

6.6 per cent as against 6 per cent in the same month last year. However, crude oil and natural gas production contracted by 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted: "A reason why India is being called a global bright spot is the strength of its core industries. Output of 8 core industries in September grew 7.9 per cent."

The IIP data for September is expected to be released by the government in the second week of November. The eight core industries contribute 40.27 per cent in the IIP.

Sensex reclaims 60k, Nifty tops 18k-mark

A depreciating rupee and concerns over the US Federal Reserve hiking rates later this week failed to quell investors' appetite for stocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 31: The Sensex finished above the psychologically key 60,000-mark while the Nifty surged past the 18,000-level Monday on across-the-board buying amid a mixed trend overseas.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 786.74 points or 1.31 per cent to settle at 60,746.59. During the day, it jumped 826.85 points or 1.37 per cent to 60,786.70. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 225.40 points or 1.27 per cent to end at 18,012.20.

UltraTech Cement topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 4.18 per cent, followed by HDFC, Sun Pharma, M&M, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance. Only three counters closed in the red - Dr Reddy's, NTPC and IndusInd Bank, slipping up to 0.66 per cent.

BSE Sensex

59,959.85

midcap gauge jumped 1.24 per cent and the smallcap index climbed 0.45 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices ended higher, with auto advancing 1.57 per cent, followed by teck (1.45 per cent), industrials (1.43 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.37 per cent), telecommunication (1.35 per cent) and commodities (1.12 per cent). Elsewhere in Asia, markets in

Seoul and Tokyo ended higher, while

Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in

the red. Stock exchanges in Europe

In the broader market, the BSE

were trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals. Wall Street had ended significantly higher Friday. International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.31 per cent lower at \$95.47 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers Monday as they bought shares worth a net Rs 4,178.61 crore, as per exchange data.

TOP GAINERS

2.89 HDFC

2.70 M&M

2.75 Sun Pharma

2.60 HDFC Bank

4.18 UltraTechCement

Retail inflation for factory workers rises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Retail inflation for industrial workers rose to 6.49 per cent in September from 5.85 per cent in August 2022 mainly due to higher prices of certain food items, according to the government data released Monday.

"Year-on-year inflation for the month (of September 2022) stood at 6.49 per cent compared to 5.85 per cent for the previous month (August, 2022) and 4.40 per cent during the corresponding month (September 2021) a year before," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated that the food inflation stood at 7.76 per cent against 6.46 per cent of the previous month and 2.26 per cent during the corresponding month a year ago.

The All-India CPI-IW (Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers) for September, 2022 increased by 1.1 points and stood at 131.3 points. It was 130.2 points in

expenditure was Rs 18.23 lakh

crore or 46.2 per cent of the BE 2022-

23. It was 46.7 per cent of BE 2021-

22. For 2022-23, the fiscal deficit

of the government is estimated

to be Rs 16.61 lakh crore or 6.4 per

According to the data, capital



Indian rupee has declined every month this year

RUPEE DROPS NEARLY 11% THIS YEAR

Broadly, 81.80 to 82.00 seems a strong support zone for the USD/INR pair. As long as it trades above this convincingly, one can expect a U-turn towards

82.80 to 83.00 levels AMIT PABARI | MD, CR FOREX ADVISORS

for a long time.

Almost all traders and economists expect there will be no letup in the pressure on the rupee for the rest of the year as the Fed stays on its aggressive rate-hike path after making fighting inflation its priority.

'This week, the Fed's upcoming meeting would be crucial for the rupee outlook. It could come under pressure in case Fed indicates aggressive tightening path in the fu-

₹ slides 34 paise to 82.81 against \$

he rupee pared its initial gains and settled 34 paise lower at 82.81 against the US dollar Monday, tracking the strength of the American currency in the overseas market At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.35 and witnessed a high of 82.32 and a low of 82.82. It finally settled at 82.81 against the American currency, registering a fall of 34 paise over its last close of 82.47. Moreover. inflows by foreign investors levels. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.28 per cent to 111.05.

TOP LOSERS -0.66 Dr Reddys Labs -0.60 NTPC -0.43 IndusInd Bank ture," HDFC Bank economists wrote in a note.

BIZ BUZZ

Mega CSP meet by SBI

Bhubaneswar: A mega CSP meet was organised by State Bank of India, Local Head Office at Rail Kunj Auditorium, Bhubaneswar October 30. The meeting was attended by 1,280 CSP (Customer Service Points) operators from all districts of Odisha and 29 National



level BCs (Business Correspondents). Inaugurating the meeting, Chander Shekhar Sharma, Chief General Manager, Bhubaneswar Circle highlighted the important role and responsibility of BC-CSP model in financial inclusion. He solicited the wholehearted cooperation of all CSPs in providing banking services at remote places, ensuring social security coverage to the people and spreading financial literacy to each nook and corner of the state. The BCs and CSPs who had shown outstanding performance in the national level 'Monsoon Campaign' launched in August 2022 for enrolment under Social Security Schemes of the Government of India were felicitated in the meeting. Manmohan Swain, DGM (FI) responded to the problems raised by the CSPs in the meeting. Dhruba Charan Bal, DGM (Agri) was also present in the meeting. The AGMs and other officials of FI department of SBI helped in conducting the programme.

Fiscal deficit in H1 of FY23 at 37.3% of full-year aim

TAX REVENUE STOOD AT ABOUT ₹10.11 LAKH CRORE OR 52.3% OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET ESTIMATES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The central government's fiscal deficit in the first half of the current financial year works out to be 37.3 per cent of the full-year target, according to official data released Monday.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit -- the difference between expenditure and revenue -- was Rs 6,19,849 crore during the April-September period of 2022-23. It was 35 per cent of Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period last fiscal.

As per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the government's total receipts, including taxes, stood at Rs



During the year-ago period,

the collection was 55.6 per cent of

Tiscal deficit was ₹6,19,849 crore during the April-September period of 2022-23; was 35% of BE in same period last

entre's total **✓** expenditure was Rs 18.23 lakh crore or 46.2% of the BE 2022-23: was 46.7% of BE last yr

expenditure was 45.7 per cent of the full-year budget target in the current fiscal, compared to 41.4 per cent in the corresponding period last year, as per the monthly account of the union government up to September.

cent of the GDP.

Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 4.36 lakh crore was on account of interest payments and Rs 1.98 lakh crore on account of major subsidies.

India e-logistics space to touch \$9bn with e-commerce boom

BE for 2022-23

THE E-COMMERCE LOGISTICS SPHERE HAS **CONTRIBUTED TO THE OVERALL GROWTH OF** INDIA'S LOGISTICS SECTOR AND ENABLED THE **E-RETAIL BOOM IN THE COUNTRY**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: India's e-logistics sector has become one of the largest and fastest growing logistics markets globally and is all set to reach the \$9 billion industry, with a compound annual growth rate of 35 per cent, a report showed Monday.

The number of e-commerce logistics shipments is expected to grow by four times in the next five years.

'Thanks to new-age tech enabled players who have entered India's logistics arena, it is now easier for small- and medium-sized businesses to transport goods, and there is a drastic increase in the



speed and efficiency in which parcels are delivered," says the report by Bangalore-based Redseer Strategy Consultants.

Among such players, Delhivery is well positioned at the cross-section of the various logistics sector growth drivers including infrastructure, offline commerce, digital consumption, and adoption of technology and data sciences.

at about Rs 10.11 lakh crore or 52.3

The central government's total

per cent of this year's BE.

Proliferation of smartphones and localisation of the internet in non-English languages is drawing in new consumers from non-metro locations into the internet economy and creating new demand for online commerce, thus paying the need for disruption in logistics.

According to the report, the

availability of multiple payment options such as UPI, no-cost EMI, BNPL (buy now, pay later) etc. are further driving the adoption of digital commerce by more consumers, thereby creating a need for ecommerce logistics.

"Multiple segments in the India logistics market are addressable by full-stack-tech-enabled logistics service providers. There seems to be great headroom for growth as tech-enabled logistics players venture into adjacent segments such as hyperlocaldelivery, express delivery, trucking, and more," the report mentioned.











Arshdeep credits Bhuvi spell Virat's privacy breached

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Perth, Oct 31: A flabbergasted and "paranoid" Virat Kohli on Monday denounced the "absolute invasion" of his privacy by a fan, who shot a video of his hotel room and put that in public domain.

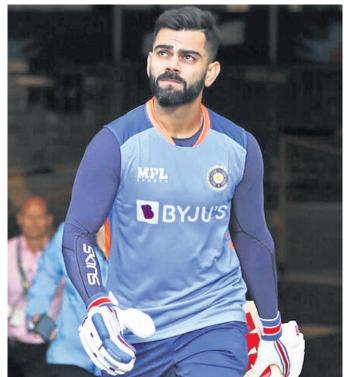
Kohli re-shared the video, that went viral on social media, on his Instagram account along with a message, saying he is not okay with such kind of "fanaticism".

"I understand that fans get happy and excited seeing their favourite players and get excited to meet them and I've always appreciated that. But this video here is appalling and it's made me feel very paranoid about my privacy," Kohli, who has regained his touch during the ongoing T20 World Cup, wrote.

"If I cannot have privacy in my own hotel room, then where can really expect any personal space at all?? I'm NOT okay with this kind of fanaticism and absolute invasion of privacy. Please respect people's privacy and not treat them as a commodity for entertainment," he wrote further.

The Indian team was staying in 'Crown Resorts' and the hotel later fired the individuals involved in the incident and also issued an apology.

"We are incredibly disappointed this incident has occurred. We unreservedly apologise to the guest involved and will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure this remains an isolated incident," the



We have zero tolerance for this behaviour, and it falls well below the standards we set for our team members and contractors. Crown took immediate steps to rectify the issue, including launching an investigation, standing down the individuals involved and removing them from the Crown account. The original video was also swiftly removed

In the video, titled 'King Kohli's Hotel Room', a man is seen walking around the room showing Kohli's personal belongings such as health supplements, collection of shoes, his opened suitcase that contained India jerseys, caps and a pair of glasses on his table.

It appears that more than one person, possibly members of hotel

Adelaide, Oct 31: The ongoing

T20 World Cup in Australia, in all

likelihood, will be Dinesh Karthik

and R Ashwin's last appearance in

the format as the Chetan Sharma-

led selection committee started

the transition phase in the short-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

staff, were inside the room when the video was shot.

Members of the Indian team Monday left Perth for Adelaide where they play Bangladesh Wednesday. India suffered their first defeat in the ongoing T20 World Cup when they lost to South Africa by five wickets at Optus Stadium Sunday.

Australian opener David Warner too expressed anger at the incident. "This is ridiculous, totally unacceptable. Was this @crownperth?" Warner commented on Kohli's post.

Kohli's wife and Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma, expectedly, lashed out at people who disrespect people's privacy. "Have experienced few incidents, where fans have shown no compassion or grace in the past but this really is the worst thing. An absolute disgrace and violation of a human being and anyone who sees this and thinks 'celebrity ho! Toh deal karna padega should know that you are also part of the problem'," fumed Anushka in her Instagram story.

"Exercising some self control helps everyone. Also, if this is happening in your bedroom then where is the line," she wrote.

Virat and Anushka had requested the media to abstain from publishing the pictures of their daughter, Vamika, in January this year after the images of the infant were shown by the broadcaster during India's tour of South Africa.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Perth, Oct 31: Arshdeep Singh credits his success in the ongoing T20 World Cup to senior pace bowling partner Bhuvneshwar Kumar who, he feels, has been creating relentless pressure in Powerplay overs which has made it easier for him to get wickets.

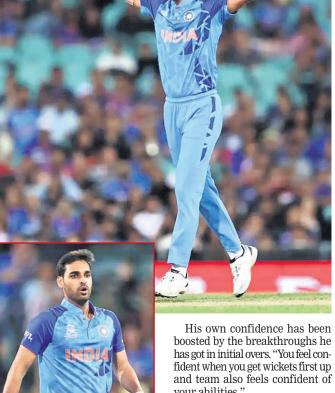
Arshdeep had struck vital blows in both his opening overs against Pakistan and South Africa, removing top batters like Babar Azam and Quinton de Kock respectively.

While Arshdeep has taken seven wickets in three games at an economy rate of 7.83, Bhuvneshwar, despite three wickets in as many games, has been phenomenal with an economy rate of 4.87 in the 10.4 overs that he has bowled.

"We study the batters' weaknesses and myself and Bhuvi bhai try to get some swing first up and beat the batter at start. I'm able to attack the batter because Bhuvi bhai is bowling so economically that the batter is already under pressure," Arshdeep told reporters after India's five wicket defeat to South Africa on Sunday.

Bhuvneshwar's effectiveness might not reflect in the wickets' column but he has got appreciable movement in all the three games to keep batters under check.

"Credit for my success goes to him. The batters aren't taking chances against him (Bhuvneshwar) and are doing that with me. So we have forged a good partnership. A bowling partner-



ship is as important as batting partnership," Arshdeep added.

vour abilities.'

Arshdeep found the Perth track the paciest in his short but eventful international career. "It was great track to bowl on. It was a dream wicket for any fast bowler and perhaps the spiciest of the tracks I have bowled so far in my career," he said.

However, there is no ideal length applicable to all the bowlers in these kind of tracks. "Ideal length will change for every bowler on this track. The day ball swings around a bit, you would like to bowl that fullish length and when there is no purchase from the track, then you bowl normal hard lengths. Both teams used the wicket pretty well and used the hard lengths to execute their plans.'

Arshdeep sidestepped the question on why senior spinner R Ashwin was given the 18th over. Could 145 have been a defendable target on this track? "That's a case of ifs and buts. May be 133 would have been good enough and at times even 160 seems less. So unless you score 145, you wouldn't be knowing,' Arshdeep signed off.

est version of the game keeping the 2024 edition in the West Indies and Hardik Pandya was Monday named T20I captain for the short three-match series in New Zealand, starting November 18 (four days

after T20WC final). A look at the

team gives ample indication that

the Gen Next is ready to take over after the T20 World Cup.

End of road for DK, Ashwin as India's T20 transition starts

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma had both asked for rest and KL Rahul might have been given a break due to personal reasons. They might well play the shortest format for India, but a change in stance can't be ignored.

But Karthik, who played 27 T20Is in 2022 till the South Africa game, has been ignored for the three games against New Zealand. Nor does Ashwin, who on insistence of skipper Rohit, was brought back into T20 scheme of things after

"The World Cup is going to fin-

ish in some days and so we need to decide whom to rest or not. He (Karthik) has been performing and he is available to us. But this time we just thought of trying a different set of players after the World Cup," chairman of selectors Sharma told reporters in a virtual interaction after announcing an unprecedented four squads for

two separate away series. While Sharma refused to divulge details on Karthik's injury, he also didn't want to discuss why the veteran stumper needed workload management having played only 27 T20s for India over the last four months.

cricket is finally ready to move beyond Karthik. In 2019, World Cup ended his 50 over career and 2022 might just witness his international T20 swansong. It is understood that with

But it is understood that Indian

Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson and skipper Hardik already in the squad, the trio will be groomed as designated finishers.

Shubman Gill's entry could well mean that Rahul, not the best T20 opener going around, could be phased out of the shortest format in a systematic manner in near future. The new approach would require fresh faces with no apparent baggage.

FIFA, AFC want to 'focus on India, the host'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Oct 31: Delighted with India's ability to host marquee events, including the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman Al Khalifa said both the world and the continental body of the sport want the country to hold more tournaments.

The FIFA U-17 World Cup was held across three cities -Bhubaneswar, Goa, and Navi Mumbai – with the AFC President

attending the summit clash between Colombia and Spain at the DY Patil Stadium here Sunday.

Speaking to the 'aiff.com', the AFC President said, "FIFA and AFC want to focus on India to host more future events, and over the last few years since I've taken over at the AFC. I think India has played a big role in Asian football.

"You have hosted two World Cups and the Senior Women's AFC Asian Cup here. India is a major country in Asia and hopefully it can take its position at the same level in football, in the coming years."



Mumbai Friday evening, along with AFC General Secretary Datuk Windsor John, Deputy General Secretary Vahid Kardany and met AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey, Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran, Treasurer Kipa Ajay and the Executive and Technical Committee members.

Shaikh Salman extended the AFC's full support towards the growth of Indian football. "I've met the new management here, and I will always give all the support I can for India to succeed as a footballing nation. India's success will be our success in Asia," said Shaikh Salman.

The AFC President feels that India has a greater chance for success in the future. "India has taken great strides in recent times, but the pace could be even faster. Of course the COVID pandemic has not helped in the last two years, and that was not just in India.

There will always be challenges, be it COVID or other things, but I think the determination is there from all stakeholders to progress.

SERIES IN NEW ZEALAND

Hardik to lead India in T20Is, Dhawan in ODIs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Oct 31: All-rounder Hardik Pandya was Monday named India's captain for the three-match T20I series in New Zealand, starting November 18, while opener KL Rahul and keeper-batter Dinesh Karthik were rested as part of "workload management of players".

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma star batter Virat Kohli and offspinner R Ashwin have also been rested for the New Zealand tour. where veteran Shikhar Dhawan will lead the side in the threematch ODI series

The T20 series will begin four days after the conclusion of the ongoing T20 World Cup November 18 in Wellington. The second match will be played November 20 in Mount Maunganui, while the series will conclude November 22 in Napier.

The ODI series will kick off November 25 (Auckland), followed by matches November 27 (Hamilton) and November 30 (Christchurch).

Selection Committee Chairman Chetan Sharma also announced squads for the Bangladesh tour, where the team will play three ODIs and two Tests. This is the first time that the BCCI has announced four squads at the same time. Rohit Sharma will lead the side in Bangladesh, where Kohli and Ashwin will also play.



THE SQUADS

NZ T20Is: Hardik Pandya (C), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson (wk), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar & Umran Malik.

NZ ODIs: Shikhar Dhawan (C), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Shahbaz Ahmed, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahar, Kuldeep Sen & Umran Malik.

Bangladesh ODIs: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Shreyas Iyer, Rahul Tripathi, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Deepak Chahar & Yash Dayal

Bangladesh Tests: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), KS Bharat (wk), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yaday, Shardul Thakur; Mohammed Shami, — Mohammed Siraj & Umesh Yadav.

Harsha remains in top spot at Asian chess meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Indian Grandmaster Harsha Bharathakoti held top-seeded compatriot and GM R Praggnanandhaa to a draw in the sixth round of the Open section to remain in sole lead with five points in the Asian Continental Chess championship here Sunday. The Harsha-Praggnanandhaa

match ended in 33 moves with the two players agreeing to a draw. It halted the four-match winning run of Bharathakoti. A group of 11 players, includ-

ing the No.1 seed Praggnanandhaa, Leon Luke Mendonca, Karthikeyan Murali, Kousatav Chatterjee, SL Narayanan, B Adhiban, S P Sethuraman and Aravindh Chithambaram (all from India) were half-a-point behind the leader.

The others with 4.5 points are Saparmyat Atabeyev and Maksat Atabayev (both Turkmenistan) and Shamsiddhin Vokhidov (Uzbekistan).

In other key results, Mendonca drew against Sethuraman, Karthikeyan Murali and Adhiban shared honours, while Vokhidov split the point with Maksat Atabayev.

There were wins for Narayanan and Chithambaram over Sandipan Chanda and Ayush Sharma respectively which allowed them to climb to 4.5 points. Saparmyat Atabayev registered an important win, beating Rinat Jumabayev in



round five to improve to 4.5 points. In the women's event, India's WGM PV Nandhidhaa wore down compatriot Priyan Nuttaki in 61 moves to move to 5.5 points and into the sole lead after six rounds. Nuttaki and Padmini Rout, who beat Nilufar Yakubbaeva (Uzbekistan), are in second place

with 4.5 points. Nine players share the third place with 4 points. They include Indians Rakshitta Ravi, Soumya Swaminathan, Nisha Mohota, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal and

Mary Ann Gomes among others. In important sixth round results, Agrawal scored over C Sahajasri and Mohotoa beat Xeniya Balabayeva, while Deshmukh was held to a draw by Soumya

Swaminathan. Top-seeded Indian Tania Sachdev could not break through the defences of young WIM Saina Salonika and was forced to share the point. Sachdev has 3.5 points and

is placed 18th.



Manchester, Oct 31: Pep Guardiola says he can sense the coming tide. The Manchester City manager will be even more convinced of the new

threats to his team's dominance

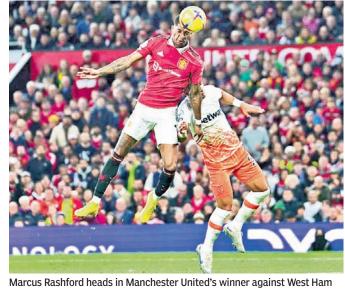
after the latest round of Premier League games. Manchester United are "finally" on their way back under Erik ten Hag, Guardiola declared Friday. Newcastle are "already there," while Arsenal, in his opinion, have

been the best of the lot On a weekend when City briefly moved to the top of the table, Guardiola once again finds himself looking up to Mikel Arteta's Arsenal — who won 5-0 against Nottingham Forest Sunday to retake first place — and over his shoulder to the rising forces of Newcastle and Man United.

Arsenal provided the latest evidence of their growing belief, responding to last week's disappointing draw with Southampton to complete a rout of bottom-place Forest.

United demonstrated the character that is developing under Ten Hag when surviving an onslaught from West Ham to win 1-0 at Old Trafford, with Marcus Rashford scoring his 100th goal for the club. "I thought I like it' what I see from United just now," Guardiola said

United's victory against West Ham was not as easy on the eye as some other recent performances but it showed another side to Ten Hag's team — a resilience to see out a win when under pressure.



Ten Hag underlined his own ambitions when responding to Guardiola's comments and United's continued progress. "It's a nice compliment, but I also see still a lot of room for improvement in our game and we have to, if we want to compete for the top four positions, im-

prove," Ten Hag said after the match. It required three outstanding saves from David de Gea to deny West Ham an equaliser they probably deserved. United moved up to fifth after extending its unbeaten run to eight games in all competitions since losing 6-3 to City at the start of the month.

Newcastle sit one place and one point above United after its 4-0 win against Aston Villa Saturday, while Spurs are third. Meanwhile, City's fiercest rival in recent years, Liverpool, continue to look short of confidence and consistency after losing to Leeds Saturday.

Arsenal are undoubtedly the surprise package and bounced back impressively after a difficult week raised doubts about their ability to maintain their fine start to the season. The draw with Southampton was followed by a loss to PSV Eindhoven in the Europa League.

But against a Forest team that shocked Liverpool a week earlier, Arsenal provided a resounding response to lead City by two points. No one will be more convinced of that than Guardiola

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159