HERE. NOW Orssall (1988)

SANON COMES CLEAN

Actor Kriti Sanon reveals the reason she rejected Karan Johar's segment in Netflix's Hindilanguage anthology film

LEISURE P2



SHOW OF STRENGTH

Air raid sirens blare in a South Korean island after North Korea fires more than 20 missiles towards it Wednesday

INTERNATIONAL P10



SWIATEK SHINES

World No.1 Iga Swiatek opens her bid for a first WTA Finals title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Daria Kasatkina

SPORTS P1

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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | 2022

No exit poll during **Dhamnagar bypoll**

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Tight security arrangements have been put in place for the Dhamnagar constituency where bypoll will be conducted Thursday, chief electoral officer (CEO) SK Lohani said Wednesday. He also informed that a ban has been imposed on the broadcast of exit or opinion polls during voting November 3. Over 2.38 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise.

A total of 1,000 police personnel and four companies of central paramilitary forces have been deployed and the entry and exit points of Dhamnagar constituency have been sealed. Lohani informed. Of the total 252 polling booths, 110 have been declared sensitive. Bhadrak DSP Charan Singh visited sensitive booths Wednesday and has reviewed security arrange ments personally, added Lohani.

There are five candidates in fray for the bypoll. Among them are BJD's Abanti Das BJP's Suryabanshi Suraj, Congress's Baba Harekrushna Sethi and rebel BJD leader Rajendra Kumar Das who is contesting as an Independent candidate.

Canvassing for votes within a distance of 100 metres from the polling booths has also been prohibited, Lohani said. He added that there will be 15 model booths and five pink booths, which will have women security personnel.



You are also a legislator but not make hate speeches



WEATI	HER		
	BHUB	СТК	
■ MAX	32.4℃	32.2°(
Ë MIN	21.5°C	22.0°(= Forecast
Humidity	78%	74%	Dry
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	weather likely

PREZ TO VISIT ODISHA NOVEMBER 10

Bhubaneswar: President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to undertake a two-day visit to Odisha beginning November 10, Raj Bhavan sources said here Wednesday. This will be Murmu's first visit to Odisha after being sworn in July 25 as President. She will stay at the Raj Bhavan upon her arrival, before visiting the Jagannath Temple in Puri the next day. The President's Secretariat has informed the office of the Odisha Governor in this regard, sources said. Murmu is currently on a two-day trip to Nagaland where she will visit the World War II cemetery and visit Kigwema, one of the oldest villages that the Angami tribe resides in.





TUSKER TALES: A wild elephant entered Bhubaneswar in the wee hours of Wednesday creating panic among the residents living near Lingaraj Temple (R), before it was tranquilised by Forest department officials. The elephant was later released in Chandaka forest range

ED BEGINS PROBE IN ARCHANA CASE

Bhubaneswar: The Enforcement Directorate has registered a case against Archana Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand and two others and has started a probe into the allegations of blackmailing and extortion, sources said Wednesday. They added that all those having links and financial transactions with Archana would be served notice and the bank statements of all the accused will be verified. This development comes a day after Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's announcement at a poll rally in Dhamnagar that the Archana case would be probed by central agencies. Commisionerate Police had arrested Archana October 6 and her husband October 22 on charges of honey trapping bigwigs and extorting huge amounts of

Plus II student electrocuted in Kendrapara dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 2: A Class XI student of Plus-II science stream was electrocuted to death after coming in contact with an 11-kv hightension wire at a residential coaching centre at Luna Square in Marshaghai locality of Kendrapara district, late Tuesday night. The deceased Debi Prasad Das, 17 was a native of Gopinathpur village under Mahakalapara block. Five other inmates also sustained burn injuries while trying to rescue Das.

The incident occurred when the deceased accidentally came in contact with the live wire which was hanging precariously close to the balcony and died on the spot.

The deceased's family members have lodged an FIR against the authorities of the coaching centre alleging negligence. Marshaghai police arrested Wednesday the manager of the study centre, Chittaranjan Rath.

Petrol with 20% ethanol in 2023 Woman gang-raped

With the government seeking to end its dependency on imports for meeting its oil needs, the 20:80 mix of ethanol and petrol will start in select outlets all across India within a couple of months

New Delhi, Nov 2: The government Wednesday hiked the price of ethanol used for blending in petrol as it looked to raise the doping quantity to cut India's reliance on imported oil. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by PM Narendra Modi, raised the price of ethanol for all the varieties, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told reporters here.

The price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane juice was increased to ₹65.61 per litre, from the current ₹63.45 per litre for the supply year beginning December 2022 while the rate for ethanol from the C-heavy molasses variety has been increased to ₹49.41 per litre from ₹46.66, informed Puri.

At present, 10 per cent ethanol is blended in petrol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) and the government is looking to double the quantity by 2024-25.

"We have saved about ₹40,000 crore in forex outgo from 10 per cent blending besides benefiting the farmers," Puri said. He added a

pilot to start E-20 (petrol with 20 per cent ethanol) will start from April 2023 at select petrol pumps.

The use of ethanol, extracted from sugarcane as well as broken rice and other agri produce, will help the world's third-largest oil consumer and importing country cut its reliance on overseas shipments. India currently is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs.

A total of 452 crore litre of ethanol was blended with petrol

India has saved foreign exchange worth ₹40,000 crore by using petrol with 10% ethanol in select number of outlets

Experts have pointed out that use of petrol with more than 10% ethanol may harm engine components

during the supply year ending November 30, 2022. For the next year, 540 crore litres procurement

is being targetted with an eye to start

It should be stated here that Brazil and the three states of Missouri. Minnesota and Hawaii in the US use gasoline motor fuel blended with ethanol. So if from next year, India starts selling petrol mixed with 20% ethanol, it will be the third country to do so. The US and Brazil are the two largest sugarcane producing countries in the world and it is but natural that they will use ethanol-based motor fuel.

Puri also cited the example of Brazil where flexi-fuel vehicles are available and the consumer can take ethanol or petrol as per choice. He asserted that this will be the ultimate goal of the government.

It had been earlier said that adding ethanol to petrol does not have any effect on vehicles currently being used and produced in India. On the other hand, some experts have pointed out that as ethanol contains oxygen, it helps in more complete combustion of the fuel and reduces emissions and makes ethanol-based petrol a bet-

'Doomsday Vault' awaits doomsday as mercury rises

ter fuel for the environment. **Continued on P4**

in City; two arrested

from Cuttack was allegedly gangraped by two persons in Kharvelnagar area here, police said, Wednesday.

According to officials of Kharvelnagar police, the alleged incident took place when the woman, a resident of Mangalabag area in the Silver City, had come here for some work Sunday.

Unable to return home due to odd hours, the woman was sitting at an isolated place near Ram Mandir here when Purna Chandra Mallick, who works as a security guard at a nearby ATM kiosk, approached and offered to help her, said a police official, quoting the victim's complaint.

"Finding the woman alone, Mallick approached her saying that she can take rest near the ATM. Without sensing danger, the lady went with him to a room nearby where he raped her. Later, Mallick called Basanta Kumar Sahu to the room, where the two took turns to force themselves on

her," added the official The official said that Mallick and Sahu unsuccessfully tried to settle the matter by offering her fused to compromise and insisted on filing a complaint.

"The next day, October 31, the woman approached the Kharvelnagar police and narrated her ordeal. On the basis of her complaint, police registered a case (377/2022) under Section 376(D) of the Indian Penal Code and launched a probe," said the official. The police official also added that the woman has been medically examined and her statement has been

recorded under Section 161 of CrPC. Mallick, 48, a resident of Turtiapada under Airfield police limits and Sahu, 40, a resident of Jharpada under Laxmisagar police limits here have been taken into custody, the official said. He added that police had been probing the matter for the past two days since the filing of the complaint.

Police also said that the two accused have confessed to their crime. They added that medical examinations of the two accused have also been conducted and both were produced in court

DHABALESWAR SERVITORS NOT TO FOLLOW CURBS rituals inside the original temple,'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: The servitors of the Dhabaleswar temple in Athagarh block of Cuttack district said Wednesday that they will not follow the order of virtual darshan of the deity during Panchuka as issued by the administration.

Earlier in the day officials of the district administration had issued orders for installation of a temporary idol of Lord Dhabaleswar near the suspension bridge connecting the temple. It was also decided that virtual darshan of the deity will be done on LED screen near the hanging bridge.

"We do not want to perform rituals near a temporary idol instead of the temple. We will carry out the

some of the servitors said. "Hence we will not cooperate with the administration," they asserted.

It should be stated here that keeping in mind the Morbi bridge disaster a few days back in Gujarat, the Odisha government has asked devotees not to visit the temple till further orders while the safety of the suspension bridge is verified. This year's 'Dhabaleswar Jatra' has also been cancelled in view of the imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC at the temple. The restrictions have come ahead of the Bada Osha and Kartika Purnima festivals. The suspension bridge was constructed in 2006 for devotees. Prior to that visitors had to reach the temple on boats.

■ *The seed bank was built to* protect future generations against global catastrophes, but now its very existence is threatened due to increase in global warming

AGENCIES

Svalbard (Norway), Nov 2: It is called the 'Doomsday Vault', but very few really know about it, other than scientists and researchers working on climate changes. Even though, 'Doomsday Vault' appears threatening, it is meant to protect the world from global catastrophes like a nuclear war.

The 'Doomsday Vault' houses the 'Svalbard Global Seed Bank, a storage place for more than 9,00,000 seed samples originating from almost every country in the world, from everyday staples including wheat and rice, to rare species such as the critically endangered Bermuda bean. It has been built in case future generations need to 'overcome the challenges of climate change and population growth'. But according to recent news, one of the very scenarios the vault is intended to safeguard against, could destroy it.

Temperatures in the Norwegian archipelago Svalbard, which is the home of the seed vault, could rise by up to 10°Celsius (50° Fahrenheit) before the end of the century, according to a report published by a section of the Norwegian media. It means that the change in con-



ditions will increase the likelihood of floods, avalanches and landslides in the next few decades of this century which may well affect utility of the vault.

The editor of the report is Inger Hanssen-Bauer, senior researcher at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute. In the report she has said that climate in Svalbard's capital

Longyearbyen is probably warming faster than in any other town on Earth. "The findings are very dramatic," Hanssen-Bauer was quoted as saying by 'Norwegian Broadcasting' (NRK). "We're facing enormously large changes. I'm afraid we'll also get more sur-

prises," she added. The annual mean temperature in Longybearbyen in 1900 was -7.8°C (18°F) and since then, it has risen by 3.7°C (39°F) – more than three times the global average of about 1°C (33.8°F), Hanssen-Bauer was quoted as saying by the 'CNN'. Scientists have said that in a worst case scenario, Svalbard could become 18 degrees Fahrenheit (10°Celsius) warmer by the year —

Continued on P4



leisure



SHAKIRA HELPING ILL DAD WITH PHYSIOTHERAPY IN HOSPITAL

Pop singer Shakira, 45, posted a video of herself assisting her father William Mebarak Chadid with physiotherapy after she announced last week the 91year-old had been admitted to the Teknon-Quiron clinic in Barcelona. Details about his health condition are confidential, so the family asks for respect at this time.

GLEE ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

American writer Ryan Murphy has revealed the character of Mr. Schue, which was played by Matthew Morrison, on Glee was originally written with Justin Timberlake in mind. He and co-creator Ian Brennan had a much darker depiction in mind for Timberlake, Murphy said.

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon is undoubt-

edly one of the most sought-after tal-

ents of contemporary Hindi cin-

ema. The actress, who hails

from a Delhi-based Punjabi

family, made it big in the

Hindi film industry with

sheer passion and hard

work. In a recently aired

Koffee With Karan 7 episode,

the Mimi actress revealed

about the reason she re-

jected Karan Johar's seg-

ment in Netflix's Lust Stories.

ect as her mother asked her

Recently, Kriti's mom Geeta

upcoming

Sanon was trolled on social

media for liking the

Thumkeshwari song from the

to do so, Kriti said.

She opted out of the proj-



film Bhediya. The recent chart-

buster features Kriti, along with

Varun Dhawan and Shraddha

Kapoor. The trolls pointed out how

Geeta approved of her daughter

performing for such sensuous songs,

while she was not happy about

Kriti doing Lust Stories, because

Geeta earlier revealed, "I thought

we would not be comfortable seeing

her doing such a scene at the be-

ginning of her career. It's about or-

Defending her mom, Kriti said,

"I think her problem was more that it was a short film and not a full-

fledged film, so my mother said it

was a 20-minute thing about only

a female orgasm. If you are doing

a 20-minute thing in a full-fledged

film, that would make sense. I don't

think there's anything wrong.

Maybe as Karan said, if he had

talked to my mother, it

would have been all

of its explicit scenes.

gasm, only."

FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

Today, you want to do something for the environment. Ganesha says plant a tree, clean up your neighbourhood, ask for a paper bag. You wish to lead the world into a better place? Do it by all means, but one step at a time

TAURUS

Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says Ganesha. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner.

You will tend to be religiously inclined today, feels Ganesha. For this purpose, you may spend some time visiting a temple, mosque or church. You are also likely to go shopping, and chances are that this too is for a religious purpose. May God bless you, says Ganesha

CANCER

Ganesha predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline, be it about completing an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesha

LEO

Today may not be the best time to mess with you, considering the aura of invincibility that you possess. Be it a game, a competition, or an argument, you will have the edge over others in every sphere, says Ganesha. Also, you may come across people with whom you will have personal differences, and those who will try to change your fortunes.

VIRGO Ganesha feels that today

may be an important turning point in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today. You may also feel the need for spirituality, so try your hand at meditation and yoga

Today is an important day for you, and you will learn a Even on the work front, business partners will extend their best possible cooperation to you. Your chances of winning in cut-throat competitions are very bright today, predicts Ganesha.

SCORPIO

You are likely to get overboard with your ambitions and be loud-mouthed, says Ganesha. But do not to be too forceful or severe lest you end up tarnishing your image. It is best to stay clear of conflicts in the larger scheme of things, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

The wait for some good news may have been too long, but it will surely find its way to you today, says Ganesha. Your focus will remain fixed on work, and you may feel like you are finally starting to like your job. This, in turn, will lead you to take some well-informed decisions about your future. And if the good news comes at the right time, you will probably be saved the effort of finding a new job.

AOUARIUS

You may find your schedules running haywire today! Your workload may be daunting, especially if you're an administrator. However, Ganesha says your diligence and commitment will tide you through. And you are still ready to party in the evening. What energy!

PISCES

Your business associates will marvel at your business acumen, and will respect the insights you provide for them to work with. Meanwhile, you will be busy spending quality time with your family and showing them how much they mean to you today, says Ganesha.

Odia film Adieu Godard bags top honour at UK film fest

The award at CIFF only reassures that the language of cinema can survive even if it is stripped off its ornamental glamour, says director Amartya Bhattacharyya

Bhubaneswar: Yet another prestigious award for Odia film Adieu Godard. The Amartya Bhattacharyya directorial was adjudged as the Best Feature Film, the seventh international honour, at the recently concluded Cardiff International Film Festival (CIFF)-2002. Nearly 100 films from across the globe were

part of the festival lineup. Made under Swastik Art House banner, the movie, which is now a part of ongoing 10th Asian Film Festival of Barcelona, has been traveling to several festivals across the world since its world premiere at the 43rd Moscow International Film Festival last year.



A screengrab from the movie

Earlier, the film, an Indo-French production, had its theatrical run across Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Kolkata, New Delhi, and Bangalore followed by special shows held in Jaipur and Mumbai.

Reacting to the news, Amartya said, "When a film as grounded as this competes with the best of the world and wins big at an international festival like CIFF, it only reassures that cinema is not just about glitter and gloss. The language of cinema can survive even if it is stripped off its ornamental glamour. In today's world, since there is a heavy imposition of technological grandeur, it is even more important that films like

Mumbai:

venture movie, Brahmastra, has

shared that the film is very special

Most importantly, it gave her the

with the frontrunners of Hindi

Elaborating on the same,

she said: "Brahmastra will al-

ways be very special. Because of its ambition and then of course, because it gave me the opportunity to

> work with such an incredible

chance to collaborate and work

to her for many reasons.

Actress Mouni Roy,

who is currently await-

ing digital premiere of

her mythological ad-

these get the due attention".

Actor and producer Swastik Choudhury, who plays the muchtalked-about character of Jatin in the film, says - "Over the years Cardiff has become an important international film festival. The top honour for Adieu Godard puts Odia cinema right on the global stage and is something everyone back home will be proud of".

The film has Choudhury Bikas Das, Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Sudharsri Madhusmita, Swastik Choudhury, Choudhury Jayaprakash Das, Shankar Basu Mallick, and Abhishek Giri playing key roles.

cast and these legends - which has made it an experience I will treasure for a lifetime." She further mentioned that

experience the film proved to be a learning curve for her: "It was a privilege to share that screen of a lifetime time with them - and apart from the discipline and passion that they still work with everyday, I learnt many things from each of

> The Indian spectacle is headlined by actors such as Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Telugu megastar Nagarjuna Akkineni.

The film, directed by Ayan Mukerji and produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, is dropping on OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar November 4.



57 Wednesday, cinema chain

PVR screened his iconic film

Kolkata, Chandigarh

among others. Shah

Rukh says: "DDLJ

has been an ex-

tremely special

film for me.

Dilwale Dilwale Dulhania Le Dulhania Le Jaayenge (DDLJ) to celebrate the moment. Jaayenge' is the longest The movie was screened running film in the across 28 cinemas in 18 cities

New Delhi: As Shah Rukh Khan turned

namely Mumbai, Delhi NCR, history of Indian cinema Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, which has shaped Chennai, Hyderabad,

modern pop culture

grateful for all the love I have been receiving over the years for the film. Bringing it back on my birthday just makes it more

Kriti reveals reason behind

rejecting KJo's Lust Stories

special. Thank you!" Released October 20, 1995, the film shares a legacy with PVR as its legacy property. PVR Priya in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi screened the movie for the first time in 1995. Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, Joint Managing Director, PVR Ltd. said, "Shah Rukh Khan is one of the very few names in the Hindi film

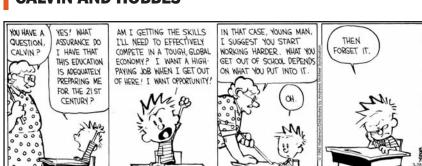
industry, who has become synonymous with the genre of romance." Rohan Malhotra, Vice President Distribution, Yash Raj Films said, fDDLJ is the longest running film in the history of Indian cinema which has shaped pop culture as we know today. It

is our biggest IP and it is symbolic to the deep bond that Shah Rukh Khan and Aditya Chopra's YRF

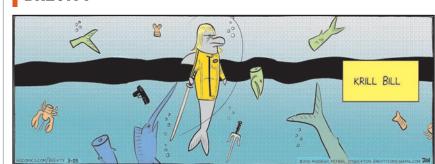
PEANUTS



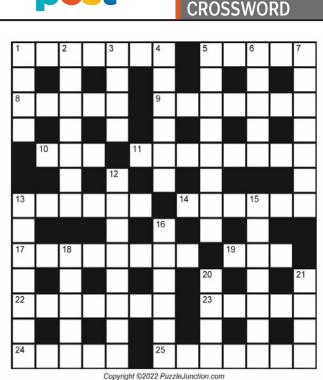
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



POST



Across

- 1 Improve, medically
- 5 Bleakness 8 Private road
- 9 Elsa of 'Born Free' 10 Small cask or
- barrel
- 11 Insanity
- 13 Do a slow burn
- 14 Prophet

19 Favorite

- 17 Type of jacket
- 1 Ill-mannered
- <u>Down</u>

25 Altar boy

22 Opening

24 Opus

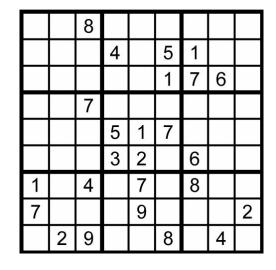
23 Fable finale

- 2 Type of
- restaurant or
- checkers
- 3 Perspective
- 4 Curler
- 5 Pure mathematics

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

- 6 For all to see 7 E-mail, e.g.
- 12 Crumbly cheese
- 13 Part of a heartbeat
- 15 Distinctly
- 16 Movie house
- 18 Gallic goodbye
- 20 Bullets, briefly
- 21 The colour of
- blood, maybe?

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

VICUNAS CROSSWORD ISOTOPI 1 4 7

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

downtown



CAPTIVATING AUDIENCE

Members of Uttarayani Club of Jatni presented Odia play Mankada Hatare Shalagram at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday on the 2nd day of Natyadhara

223	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	63,61,44,512	61,56,13,660	65,96,100
	India	4,46,55,828	4,41,09,133	5,30,452
	Odisha	13,36,195	13,26,728	9,203
	11111111	: 	: 	:

5-year plan for infra

missing intra-connecting links for

creating a road network in these

areas. The departments were asked

to work out the plan in about a

Highlighting the need for seam-

less communication between fast

moving urban centres with peri-

urban areas. Mahapatra said.

"Rapidly growing urban centres

provide employment and liveli-

hood opportunities to the people

from cross sections of society.

People from the surrounding areas

mostly commute to the urban cen-

tres on a daily basis for attending

offices, availing different services

COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DE
World	63,61,44,512	61,56,13,660	65,96
		INFECTED	

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld/	63,61,44,512	61,56,13,660	65,96,100
ıdia	4,46,55,828	4,41,09,133	5,30,452
disha	13,36,195	13,26,728	9,203

CROP LOSS FEAR: Standing paddy crops in around 2,000 ha farmlands in Begunia block of Khurda district may wilt as irrigation facilities have gone haywire. Though government reports claim that around 20 per cent farmlands in the block are irrigated, an unofficial estimate claims it to be a meagre 7 per cent

Subhrakant new FICCI prez-elect



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Wednesday announced Subhrakant Panda as its president-elect.

Panda is currently the Senior Vice President of FICCI. He shall succeed Sanjiv Mehta as President of the apex chamber at the conclusion of the 95th Annual General Meeting to be held from December 16 to 17, 2022. "It's a privilege to get the opportunity to helm this great institution at a crucial juncture. I will do my best to strengthen FICCI and contribute to the growth story of India," he said. Panda is the managing director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys (Imfa) Ltd.

302 cybercrime plaints in Oct

Bhubaneswar: The Cybercrime Help Desk of the Commissionerate Police has received 302 complaints in October, an official said. Wednesday. Of the 302 complaints, 272 were from the Capital city while remaining 30 were from other parts of the state, said the official.

SC to hear plea on lawyers' stir Nov 14

The HC Registrar

submitted that

of Bar Associations has

judicial work in the

subordinate courts

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to hear an application filed by Registrar of Orissa High

Court on the issue of abstention of work by members Associations in several districts of the state.

Counsel for Orissa High Court, advocate Sibo Sankar Mishra mentioned the matter before the bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and sought early listing of the case. The Chief Justice directed the apex court registry to list the matter abstention by members November 14.

The Registrar of Orissa HC stated that seriously hampered the members of the Bar Associations not only of the Western Odisha but also the members of Bar Associations of

other districts of the state have not iudicial work participated in regular court proceedings on different occasions. It was stated that the reasons for abstention of work are establishment of permanent bench of Orissa HC in western Odisha and establishment of courts among others.

"It may be appropriate to mention here that the members of Bar Association of the districts of

Sambalpur have attended only urgent work September 26, 27 and 30, observed September 28 as protest day. The members of Ganjam Bar Associations are observing

'Satyagrah/Dharna' during the last four days of the every month, the members of the District Bar Association, Jeypore in Koraput district are not participating in the last two working days of every month and the members of Bhubaneswar Bar Association are observing one day

month," the petition The Registrar submitted that such abstention by the members of the Bar Associations has se-

cease work on the last

Friday of every

riously hampered the in all the subordinate courts of the state. "To be precise, the statistics for the period from January 1 to September 30 show that during this period the loss of cumulative judicial working hours in subordinate courts is 2, 14, 176 hours. Loss of such working hours in subordinate courts despite the order of the Supreme Court amounts to clear breach of the order,

the petition reads.

Study bins morning exercise idea for blood sugar control

Neither the amount of sedentary time nor the number of breaks in sedentary behaviour was found to have any favourable association with liver fat content or insulin resistance

orning physical activity offers no advantages in reduclacksquare Ling insulin resistance while afternoon or evening physical activity has now been associated with better blood sugar control to avoid diabetes risk in people, according to a signifi-

cant research It has long been argued that the timing of physical activity throughout the day may be a factor in metabolic health. However, the timing of physical activity is a relatively unexplored field in human biology and the mechanisms underlying the potential benefits of timing of physical activity remain unclear.

A new study published in Diabetologia has now discovered that afternoon or evening physical activity is associated with better blood sugar control.

The study was led by Dr Jeroen van der Velde and colleagues at Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands

"The results suggest that timing of physical activity throughout the day is relevant for the beneficial effects of physical activity on insulin sensitivity. Further studies should assess whether timing of physical ac-



tivity is indeed important for the occurrence of type 2 diabetes," they mentioned. For the study, the researchers used data from the Netherlands Epidemiology of Obesity

(NEO) study. Participants underwent a physical examination during which blood sam-

ples were taken to measure fasting

and after-meal blood glucose and insulin levels, while demographic, lifestyle and clinical information were obtained via questionnaire.

They were also screened for suitability for an MRI scan, and roughly 35 per cent of those able to undergo the procedure were randomly selected to have their liver fat content measured using this technique.

"There was no significant difference in insulin resistance between morning activity and activity spread

evenly over the day," the results showed. Neither the amount of sedentary time nor the number of breaks in sedentary behaviour was found to have any favourable association with liver fat content or insulin resistance.

"It could be that in our study, the intensity of the activity during the breaks was too light to cause metabolic responses. Most daily activities are of light intensity and because we did not observe an association between LPA and insulin resistance, this may also explain the lack of an association between breaks and insulin resistance,' the researchers noted.

"Further studies should assess whether timing of physical activity is indeed important for the occurrence of type 2 diabetes," they added. IANS

DRDO conducts flight-test of **BMD** interceptor

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Wednesday successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile, with large kill altitude bracket, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

The flight-test was carried out with participation of all BMD weapon system elements located at different geographical locations. The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endoatmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.

It is propelled by a twostage solid motor and equipped with indigenously-developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithm to guide the vehicle.

During the flight-test, all the sub-systems performed as per expectations and were validated by the data captured by a number of range sensors including Radar, Telemetry and **Electro Optical Tracking** stations deployed to capture the flight data, said Ministry of Defence.

Terming it as a unique type of interceptor with advanced technologies available with a very few nations in the world, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and other teams associated with flight trial of AD-1.

POST NEWS NETWORK The depts were asked Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Chief to make a detailed Secretary Suresh Chandra survey of the roads Mahapatra Wednesday directed the department officials concerned connecting major ULBs to prepare a comprehensive fiveand growth centres, year perspective plan for development of basic infrastructure in and prioritise those on peri-urban areas surrounding all the basis of traffic load major urban local bodies (ULBs).

Presiding over a high-level meeting here, Mahapatra asked the officials to improve the road communication and basic service infrastructure in the suburban areas.

The officials of Works, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Water Resources, and Housing & Urban Development departments have been asked to prepare an action plan for development of such basic infrastructure.

The departments were asked to make a detailed survey of the roads connecting major ULBs and growth centres and prioritise those on the basis of traffic load.

He also directed to identify the

revamp in suburbs like education, clinical care, land registration, court work among

> This apart, many people also commute to cities for vending, trade and commerce, he added.

Development of good road communication in suburban areas would help ease the traffic flow of inbound and outbound vehicles. Provisions of quality water supply, power supply, market place and basic services would help better quality of life in these areas. Similarly, decreasing the burden of housing in ULBs would add to ease of living and enhance the satisfaction level of the people, the Chief Secretary maintained.

Issues related to road cutting for laying of water pipes, sewer lines, underground cablings in important urban centres, and timely shifting of utilities from the roads taken up for widening were also discussed and resolved in the meeting.

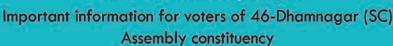
Moreover, issues like shifting of utility poles and substations for development of major junctions namely Rasulgarh Square, Kalpana Square, Ravi Talkies Square, Beherasahi Chhak and others under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) were discussed in details and resolved.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena directed that road cutting for laying cables and pipes would be the responsibility of the road owning authorities concerned. The agency or the department executing the work should restore the road immediately after the work in one portion of the road



Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha





Date of Poll: 3rd November, 2022 (Thursday) Time of Poll: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM



Please wear mask while coming to Polling Station

Please bring Voter Identity Card or any one of the following identification documents mentioned below to exercise your franchise.



Aadhaar Card



MNREGA Job Card



Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office



Health Insurance Smart Card issued



under the scheme of Ministry of Labour



Driving License





Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR

Pension document with Photograph



Indian Passport



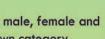
Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./ PSUs/Public Limited Companies



Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs



Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India



Please stand in the three respective queues of male, female and PwD/Senior citizen voters according to your own category

Maintain Social Distance in Booth

Enter the Polling Station one by one

Don't gather in front of the polling official

Download Voter Helpline App or Log onto www.nvsp.in to know about your details in Voter List or call Toll Free No. 1950

Your one VOTE matters, Pl. do VOTE & Strengthen Democracy



DSPL - 259

₹1,191cr benefit to 5.45L people under BSKY 5% growth in gross GST

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The state government has provided healthcare services worth Rs 1191 crore to 5.45.339 beneficiaries under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) after the launch of BSKY Smart Health Card September 1, 2021.

This was revealed in a review meeting presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Wednesday. He expressed satisfaction on the functioning of the health benefit scheme

The Chief Minister mentioned that the beneficiaries of this scheme have given good feedback on the Mo Sarkar platform. He said that the BSKY is an important social security scheme of the government which provides quality health care at free of cost to the patients.

The state government has borne the entire cost of healthcare (Rs 1191 crore) provided by empanelled private hospitals. Out of these, 23,119 beneficiaries availed services worth Rs. 64.25 crore in empanelled hospitals outside the state.

Of the total 5,45,339 patients benefitted, 2.5 lakh have availed health-



Presently, the scheme is benefiting about 73,000 patients each month in empanelled private hospitals alone, for which the government bears a cost of ₹165 crores monthly

patients have availed healthcare beyond Rs 5 lakh with 27 women patients getting healthcare of Rs 10 lakh each, officials said.

Presently, the scheme is benefiting about 73,000 patients each month in empanelled private hospitals alone, for which the government bears a cost of Rs.165 crores monthly, they said

been given to 96.5 lakh families covering over 3.3 crore people of Odisha. BSKY beneficiaries are provided healthcare in empanelled private hospitals for annual health coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family and additional Rs 5 lakh for the women members of the family after exhaustion of the initial limit.

At present, there are a total of 500

side the state which are empanelled under BSKY. Out of these, 500 private hospitals, 98 hospitals are outside the state, which include hospitals of national repute like Tata Memorial hospitals, CMC Vellore, Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital Bangalore, Narayan Hrudalaya hospitals, Fortis Healthcare hospitals, Apollo hospitals etc.

Empanelled hospitals outside the state now cover 17 states of the country and are providing healthcare to all BSKY card hold ers throughout India. More than 76 beneficiaries availed the treat ment in CMC Vellore and 979 no of beneficiaries availed the treatment in Tata memorial Hospital

The officials further informed that 100 per cent callback is done to all BSKY beneficiaries undergoing treatment at empanelled private hospitals and presently the patient satisfaction level w.r.t services provided under BSKY is 97 per cent. At the empanelled hospitals, Swasthya Mitras have been deployed to help the patients for admission and other services, they added.

collection in October

DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR (UPTO OCTOBER), 28,234 NEW TAXPAYERS HAVE **BEEN BROUGHT UNDER GST FOLD**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Odisha has recorded a growth of 5 per cent in collection of gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) during the month of October 2022 against the collection of October last year.

According to official data released by the department of Finance Wednesday, the state has collected a total GST revenue of Rs 3,769 crore during last month while it collected Rs 3,593 crore in the same month, last year.

The state has recorded 16.76 per cent growth in progressive GST collection upto October of current

financial year 2022-23 in comparison to the same period of previous financial vear.

GST %

The progressive collection of gross GST till October '22 is Rs. 27,901 crore against Rs. 23,897 crore collected upto October of 2021-22.

Similarly, the progressive collection of OGST (Odisha GST) till October 2022 is Rs. 8,264 crore against Rs. 6,819 crore last year, registering a growth rate of 21.18 per cent.

The collection from CGST, IGST and Cess has recorded a growth of 18.91 per cent, 8.13 per cent and 21.10 per cent, respectively, upto October of this financial year

The total collection of VAT (petrol and liquor) stood at Rs. 877 crore during last month as against Rs.726 crore during October last year, with growth rate of 20.73 per cent.

Out of the above, the collection from petroleum products and liquor has recorded growth of 17.94 per cent and 30.41 per cent respectively during the last month as against collection during the corresponding period of last year.

During the current financial year (upto October), 28,234 new taxpayers have been brought under

SC dismisses Panda's plea for early disposal of cases

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by Maoist leader Sabyasachi Panda seeking directions for early disposal of as many as 64 cases pending against him in Odisha

A two-judge bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy ter and dismissed the petition.

'We do not think that we should interfere in this matter under Article 32 of the Constitution. The writ petition will stand dismissed However, we make it clear that this will be without prejudice to all rights available to the petitioner in law so that the cases are disposed



During the hearing, the bench said that it is not possible to fast track 64 cases registered against the petitioner. It said that the petitioner can approach the Orissa

Significantly, Panda, who is in jail, had filed the petition under Article 32 of the Constitution seeking a against him pending in different courts of the State. Panda was arrested in July 2014 from a house under the Badabazar police station limits of Berhampur. Police had also seized a revolver, cash worth Rs 2,11,000 and 800 gm of gold ornaments from his possession. He was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Additional District Judge court in Berhampur in May 2019.

Panda was involved in a number of major cases of Maoist attack in the state, such as an attack on R Udaygiri town in Gajapati district, the Nayagarh armoury loot, the murder of VHP leader Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati and his four associates in Kandhamal district, and abduction of two



IN MEMORIAM: Dignitaries, including School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranian Dash, unveil a booklet during the state-level birth anniversary celebration of Saheed Jayee Rajguru by Information and Public Relations department and Saheed Jayee Rajguru Smruti Parishad at Soochana Bhawan in

Milk Chilling Centre launched by WODC chairman at Saintala

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: During their visit to Bolangir District, Development Council (WODC) Asit Tripathy and Tukuni Sahu, minister of Commerce. Transport and Water Resources. jointly inaugurated a newly constructed Milk Chilling Centre at Saintala Wednesday. The chilling centre, with a cost amounting to some Rs 153.76 lakhs, was constructed out of the WODC Fund.

The bulk milk cooler was made functional with the targeted 2000

liters of milk on the 1st day itself. Insulated raw milk tanker was also flagged off to carry the milk to BKN at Bhawanipatna. With the funding of WODC, as many as 22 milk societies have formed with participation of 650 milk producing farmers and the chilling centre is targeted to increase collection of milk upto 5000 liters by the next year. Steel milk canes were distributed to the WSHG milk farmers.

Speaking on this occasion, Tripathy asked the farmers not to confine themselves to traditional paddy crops only. He told them to enhance their earnings

with assured income by way of diary development, poultry, banana cultivation, pisiculture, and vegetable cultivation.

Tripathy also laid found: stone for WODC Safe City and Traffic Control Project with the estimated cost of Rs 130 lakhs. Chairman of Odisha State Housing Board, Collector and SP of Bolangir, and CEO of WODC were present on this occasion. Addressing the gathering Tripathy said that this model project will assist Bolangir District Administration in overall surveillance of crime control and traffic management.

ECoR holds meeting with stakeholders

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: East Coast Railway (ECoR) organised a seminar on 'Corruption free India for a developed Nation' and also held stakeholders, contractors and suppliers to raise issues and suggestions to bring out better customers relations and transparency at its headquarters, Rail Sadan Wednesday. Bijay Kumar Patnaik, former Chief Secretary of government of Odisha addressed the gathering on the importance of integrity and honesty in daily lives. He elucidated on the definitions of self reliance with integrity, and its implications in daily life.

'100% water connection in 85 cities'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Odisha is the only state in the entire country to achieve 100 percent household water supply connections in 85 out of 114 cities, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said here Wednesday.

Inaugurating the capacity building programme for Jal Sathis here, Patnaik said Drink from Tap Mission providing directly drinkable water round the clock adhering to international quality standards has been nationally and internationally acclaimed for replication.

"Odisha's Drink from Tap and Jal Sathi has become national priorities and are now included as part of AMRUT 2.0 for implementation in all the states," he said.

Today, urban Odisha along with Jaga Mission and Drink from Tap Mission has become a success story and this success could not have been possible but for the achievements made in community partnership initiatives such as Jal Sathi, said the Chief Minister.

"Decentralisation and community partnership are the two eyes of Odisha model of urban governance and our Jal Sathis represent both. I am happy that Jal Sathi- a 5T Initiative launched 3 years ago on pilot basis- is today managing urban water supply to consumers in the entire state of Odisha," he said.

He further said that the Jal Sathies act as a bridge between water supply authorities and the people.

Continued from P1

'Doomsday Vault' ...

Unseasonably high temperatures in recent years have caused the permanently frozen ground the vault is built on, called 'permafrost', to melt, sending water into the access tunnel. It has prompted the people in charge of the vault to boost its defences against flood, installing new waterproof walls in the tunnel and

drainage ditches outside. This has been done so that the temperature level to store the seeds can be maintained at -18° C (-0.4° F). However, doubts have arisen whether this temperature can be maintained in the decades to come.

Because Svalbard is north of mainland Norway, scientists say climate change has a greater impact there. The decrease in glaciers and permafrost will increase the amount of erosion and endangered species. The reason, according to Hanssen-Bauer, is that as temperatures rise, snow and ice gets reduced, leading to less reflection of sunlight. This also means more solar energy is absorbed by darker surfaces that have been uncovered leading to rise in temperatures.

Covid-19 disrupts normal mix of gut bacteria: Study

nfection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, can reduce the number of bacterial species in a patient's gut, with the lesser diversity creating space for dangerous microbes to thrive, a new study has found. According to the study results

showed that the majority of patients had low gut microbiome diversity, with a full quarter dominated by a single type of bacteria. At the same time, populations of several microbes known to include antibiotic-resistant species increased, possible due to widespread antibiotic use early in the pandemic, the study said. Further, the antibiotic-resistant

bacteria found in the gut were observed to have migrated into the bloodstream in 20 per cent of the patients. Led by researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, the investigation involved 96 men and women hospitalized with COVID-19 in 2020 in New York City and in New Haven, Conn.

"Our findings suggest that coronavirus infection directly interferes with the healthy balance of microbes in the gut, further endangering patients in the process," study co-senior author Ken Cadwell said. "Now that we have uncovered

the source of this bacterial imbalance, physicians can better identify those coronavirus patients most at risk of a secondary bloodstream infection," adds Cadwell. The study is published in the

journal Nature Communications. According to Cadwell, the new study is the first to show that the coronavirus infection alone damages the gut microbiome, and not



the initial use of antibiotics to treat the disease as others experts had thought. He adds that the study also provided the first evidence that the very same bacteria in the gut were also entering the blood stream of patients, causing dangerous infections.

The study built on the realization that widespread use of antibiotics to fight infections with diseasecausing bacteria in recent decades has left in place more species that are resistant to antibiotics. In ad-

"Our findings suggest that coronavirus infection directly interferes with the healthy balance of microbes in the gut, further endangering patients in the process," study co-senior author Ken Cadwell said

■ The study built on the realization that widespread use of antibiotics to fight infections with disease-causing bacteria in recent decades has left in place more species that are resistant to antibiotics

■"The results highlight how the gut microbiome and different parts of the body's immune system are closely interconnected, says study senior author Jonas Schluter

> dition, disruptions in gut bacterial ratios have previously been linked to more severe COVID-19.

However, researchers say, it has remained unclear until now which came first, the coronavirus infection disrupting the gut microbiome or

an already weakened gut making the body more vulnerable to the virus.

The new study appears to favour the former explanation. The new investigation, which revealed that antibiotic-resistant species can escape into the bloodstream, put patients at greater risk for life-threatening secondary infections, the study said. The study authors note that further research is needed to uncover why this group was at a higher risk for a secondary infection

while others remained protected. For the investigation, researchers first infected dozens of mice with the coronavirus and analyzed the makeup of bacterial species in their stool samples. This step allowed them to untangle whether the coronavirus could directly disrupt the microbiome independently of hospitalization and treatment. PTI

Petrol with 20% ...

There are however, many skeptical vehicle owners who are against the use of ethanol-based fuel. Some experts have also said that a five per cent mix of ethanol may not affect the engine of a vehicle, but a mix of 10% or more can decrease its life span. The increase in the amount of ethanol can result in damages to plastic, rubber and aluminum components in a vehicle, but then everything is in an exploratory stage.

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HANGING BRIDGE OVER NAGAVALI RIVER

Disaster lurks as visitors throw curbs to the winds



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 2: State's second hanging bridge, after the one at Cuttack's Dhabaleswar shrine, is over the Nagavali river near Chekaguda in Rayagada dis-

It was built in 2011 at a cost of ₹1.20 crore. The 151-meter-long bridge connecting the Chekaguda area of Rayagada town with Mariguda village is suspended at a height of over 33 metres above Nagavali through cantilever technology. It was opened for the public in 2012. However, the bridge has been mishapprone for lack of proper protective, security and crowd management measures for the bridge. It was learnt that as many

as 25 persons have lost their lives in mishaps near or over the bridge while taking selfies or due to lack of precaution in the last five years.

In August, a six-year-old boy from Andhra Pradesh who had visited the site along with his family was swept away by the river. Thereafter, the district administration has completely closed the way to the hanging bridge.

However, people and visitors have thrown the restrictions to the winds and are often seen roaming on the bridge. The iron fencing has been uprooted while the iron pillars and fencing are gathering rust.

The district administration had decided to close the bridge for the public in September for its renovation. Later. the administration revoked its decision to close the bridge and imposed some curbs as it connects more than 30 villages in the district.

In view of the recent collapse of the hanging bridge on the Machhu river in Gujarat's Morbi which took as many as 135 lives, locals have flagged concerns over the overloading on the bridge which is crying for repair and renovation. They have demanded strict enforcement of the restrictions in place to avoid any untoward situation in the days to come.

It was alleged that repair of the bridge is not being taken up and surprisingly, there is no clarity as to who is looking after its maintenance.

Rayagada Municipality authorities said that ITDA should look after the maintenance of the bridge as it has built the bridge.

When ITDA authorities are asked about its maintenance, they shift the responsibility onto the municipality and the block authorities.

Locals have alleged that despite restrictions, visitors still roam on the bridge. They have drawn the attention of the local tehsildar towards the breach of restrictions. The tehsildar said that walls will be raised on both sides along with deployment of police. However, no such measure has been taken so far, it was alleged.

Contacted, Rayagada Collector Swadhadev Singh said that a joint technical team has been assigned to assess the condition of the bridge and renovation work will be undertaken following the report.





e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIBBS

2022113 Dtd.: 28.10.2022

Name of work: TALCHER-BIMALAGARH NEW B.G. RAIL LINK PROJECT: FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND FIXING OF H-BEAM SLEEPERS INCLUDING FIXING OF

GUARD RAILS ON BRIDGE NO. 55 (1X24.4M PLATE GIRDER AT CHAINAGE 24485M), ON BRIDGE NO.59 (1X30.5M

+2X45.7M+1X30.5M STEEL THROUGH GIRDER AT CHAINAGE 26731 M) AND

FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND FIXING OF

STEEL CHANNEL SLEEPERS INCLUDING

FIXING OF GUARD RAILS PARTLY ON BRIDGE NO. 57 (1X18.3M+ 15X45.7M+ 1X18.3M STEEL THROUGH GIRDER AT

CHAINAGE 25350M) AND INCLUDING OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION

WITH TALCHER-BIMALAGARH NEW B.G

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 274.82 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,87,400/-, Completion period of the

Tender closing date & time : at 1200 hrs. of

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax of

in person shall be accepted against such

Complete information including e-tender

n website http://www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the

website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes

tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digita Signature Certificate and must be registered

on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer pidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to

the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check

lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-Lof chapter 2

Annexure-B duly verified and signed by

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)

work: 03 Months

PERMANENT HC BENCH IN WESTERN ODISHA

awyers call for Sambalpur bandh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 2: Lawyers have resumed their agitation over their demand for the establishment of a permanent bench of the Orissa High Court in Western Odisha. The District Lawyers' Association Wednesday observed a Sambalpur bandh over the long standing demand

All government offices and courts remained closed during the bandh aimed at pressuring the government and concerned authorities to yield to their demand.

The judge of Sambalpur court could not enter the court premises and had to return home after the lawyers closed the court for the day. The association members held picketing at Kacheri Chhak and stayed away from the court work. They were backed by

a number of social organisations and associations. However, all offices of the Central government, banks and insurance companies, schools and colleges were open. Moreover, all shops and business establishments as well as vehicular movement remained unaffected despite the bandh.

Locals and lawyers have long been demanding a permanent bench of Orissa High Court at Sambalpur in Western Odisha.

The lawyers alleged that the Centre had sought a complete proposal for the establishment of the permanent HC bench, but the Odisha government is not taking any step in this regard. Sureswar Mishra, president of District Lawyers' Association said, "The state government has reneged on its promise. No action has been taken till date. Hence, we are bound to sit in the protest.



Elephant dies after falling into well in Mayurbhanj



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bisoi/Baripada, Nov 2: elephant died Wednesday after falling into a deep well in Mayurbhanj. The incident came to the

fore after animal's carcass was found inside a well near Daleidihi village in Baripada. Sources said that some people of Daleidihi area spotted an elephant's body in the well near their village. They informed the officials of the Bisoi Forest range about it. The forest officials rushed to the spot and pulled out the elephant's carcass from the well using the lifting logistics.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, Prabhat Kumar Ghadai, S/o- Purnachandra Ghadai, Resident of Titlagarh(Block Pada), P.O./P.S./- Titlagarh, Dist. - Balangir has sworn an affidavit on dt. 10.10.2022 and has reported to OIC, Titlagarh on 10.10.2022 egarding loss of original link Regd. Sale Deed No. 385/96 dt 4.02.1996 of Registering Officer, Titlagarh.

Prakash Chandra Ghadai and Prabhat Kumar Ghadai both Sons f Purnachandra Ghadai have applied to the LIC HOUSING FI-NANCE LTD., Sambalpur to avail loan on the above property by nortgaging the said property documents.

All concerned therefore, having any claim over the property pur-chased under the said document Regd. Sale Deed No. 385/96 dt 14.02.1996 of Registering Officer, Titlagarh is required to file their laim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice failling which it will be presumed that, ne property having link with the said document/s is/are free from ncumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the appliation as a mortgager and the company as the mortgagee shall e void and ineffective after the lapse of 15(Fifteen)days of pubication of this notice.

Sd/- A.K. Debta, Advocate,
Sambalpur,
LIC Housing Finance Ltd, At/P.O. - Modipara,
Dt. 12.10.2022 Sambalpur, Odisha, Mobile No. 9437158519.

Bank of India

Bank of India Zonal Office: Star House, 1/1D, Javadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Baramunda Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Baramunda Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

BARAMUNDA BRANCH/		
Name & Address of Borrowers	,	
Borrowers: 1) Mr. Sarbeswar Sahoo,	₹	
2) Mrs. Ramarani Sahoo, 3) Mr.		
Hrushikesh Sahoo, At: Plot No.: 1007, IRC	e	
Village, PO./P.S.: Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar	Ta	

Liabilities due as per Notice 35,13,532.15 xpenses thereon

Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession 29.08.2022 31.10.2022

Description of the Immovable Property

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 1007, Khata No.: 453/264, Thana No.: 33 Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahara Unit-16 Jayadev Vihar, ahasil: Bhubaneswar, P.O/P.S.: Nayapalli, Dist.: Khordha, Area: Ac.0.068 Dec i.e.

2962.08 Sqft, Kissam: Homestead, standing in the name of Mrs. Ramarani Sahoo, W/o.: Mr. Hrushikesh Sahoo, Bounded by North Sarojini Sahoo, South: Plot No.: 1008 & 1009, East: Road, West: Plot No.: 1006

Place: Bhubaneswa **Authorised Officer** Date: 03.11.2022 Bank of India

Tender-fixing alleged in computer purchase

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 2: Fixing of tenders for procuring computers for 'Smart Schools' in Jajpur district has become very evident. The district administration floated tenders for computer supply to Smart schools through e-marketing (GEM). Sources added that some BDOs struck a deal with dealers to supply substandard computers to schools in their respective blocks at a 'fixed' rate. Some of the officials were accused of making ₹10,000 – ₹20,000 per computer. Each Smart school in district

SMART SCHOOLS

has got four computers. Sources pointed out that despite allegations of supply of sub-standard materials, neither the district information officer, e-governance manager nor any official of OCAC verified the standard of the computers before buying

Meanwhile, the unsuccessful bidders have written to the district collector, Panchyatiraj department and the 5T Secretary. However, their pleas have not been addressed. The matter came to the fore after complaints

were filed before Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore about purchase of sub-standard computers by Dharmasala and Binjharpur BDOs. Rathore then held a review meeting and directed all BDOs to purchase computers within the price range of ₹35,000 to ₹40,000 each. Barchana and Rasulpur BDOs defied the order and bought computers at exorbitant rates. The BDOs are allegedly backed

by a 'very influential' person. Barchana BDO was keen to purchase computers from the same dealer who had allegedly supplied computers Smart

schools in Binjharpur block. Similarly, the Rasulpur BDO asked three dealers, who had supplied sub-standard material in Dharmasala block, to supply computers for schools under

his jurisdiction. Ater the transfer order of Barchana BDO was issued, he directed a dealer in Cuttack to supply computers to the Smart schools with back-dated bills so that he could continue obtaining

Contacted, Rathore ruled out tender fixing and said that he is vet to receive any official complaint from any dealer.

Amount Due

₹ 4,29,034/- as on

his 'cut money.

युनियन बैंक [[] Union Bank

MANIKHAMB, OT ROAD, POLICE LINE, BHASKARGANJ, DIST.: BALASORE, PIN-756001, Email: cb8832recovery@unionbankofindia.bank, Mob.: 8249176744

REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES

(E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable mmovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical possession of which ha been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" and "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 18.11.2022, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

JAJPUR ROAD BRANCH-2, Dist.: Jajpur,	
Ph. No.: 8601714666, Email: ubin0802751@unionbankofindia.bank	
Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Borrower / Co-obligant:	Amount Due
Borrower: Mr. Abhay Parida, S/o: Nrusingha Parida, At/P.O.: Barundei, P.S.: Korei, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-	₹ 17,41,452/-
755025, Co-Borrower: Mrs. Bikasini Parida, W/o: Abhay Parida, At/P.O.: Barundei, P.S.: Korei, Dist.:	as on 31.03.2021
Jajpur, PIN-755025 / Co-obligant: Mr. Keshaba Chandra Sahoo, S/o: Bhagaban Sahoo, At: Tarakote,	with further interest,
G.P./Town: Barundei, P.S.: Korei, Dist.: Jaipur, PIN-755025	Cost and expenses

Property No.1: Residential Land and Building belonging to Mr. Abhay Parida (Owner of the Property) situated at Khata No.: 31 Plot No.: 580/1164, Area: Ac.0.064Dec., Corresponding to Khata No.: 59, Plot No.: 106(P), Area: Ac.0.03.6Links, Khata No.: 6, Plot No.: 105(P), Area: Ac.0.006Links, Khata No.: 59, Plot No.: 106(P), Area: Ac.0.02.8Links, Total Area: Ac.0.07Dec., Mouza: Dolipur P.S.: Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jaipur. Odisha

Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹71,45,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹7,14,500/-

Borrowers: 1) Badajena Iron and Steel Industries Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by it's Director: Ranjit Kumar Badaiena. 2) Ranjit Kumar Badajena, S/o: Prafulla Kumar Jena, 3) Aiswarika Badajena, W/o: Ranjit Kumar Badajena, All are at Plot No.: HIG-165, Kanan Vihar, Phase-1, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda Property No.2: Land and Building - Residential belonging to Ranjit Kumar Badajena (Owner of the Property), situated at Sem

Urban Residential Land & Building, Area: Ac.1.63dec. at Mouza: Mangarajpur, P.S.: Byasanagar, Dist.: Jajpur, Khata No.: 199. 69, Plot No.: 18, Area: Ac.0.140Dec., Plot No.: 34/975, Area: Ac.0.030Dec. & Plot No.: 33/974, Area: Ac.0.130Dec., Khata No. 113, Plot No.: 11, Area: Ac.0.080Dec., Plot No.: 14, Area: Ac.0.040Dec., Plot No.: 25, Area: Ac.0.040Dec., Plot No.: 29, Area Ac.0.060Dec., Plot No.: 30, Area: Ac.0.490Dec., Plot No.: 38, Area: Ac.0.080Dec. & Plot No.: 42, Area: Ac.0.300Dec., Khata No. 199/72, Plot No.: 10, Area: Ac.0.060Dec., Plot No.: 15, Area: Ac.0.030Dec. & Plot No.:32, Area: Ac.0.060Dec., Khata No.: 160 Plot No.: 31, Area: Ac.0.090Dec. and Bounded by East: NH-215, West: Self, Ranjit Badajena, Pabitra Rout & Govt. Land, North Bhaskar Mallick, Tilottma Mallick, Raghu Mallick, Sara Mallick, Krushna Chandra Swain, Pond Embankment, South: Sankarshar Behera, Bhaskar Mallick

Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹2,39,89,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹23,98,900/-KEONJHAR BRANCH-2, Near Thana Chowk, Keonjhar, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001,

Ph.: 7567438448, Email: ubin0812994@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-applicant/Guarantor: Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 / Co-applicant/Guarantor: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Giri, S/o: Kamalakant

Borrower: Chitta Ranjan Giri, S/o: Pradeep Kumar Giri, At: Dhanurjaypur, Old Town, Keonjhar, ₹ 21,62,168/- as on 26.10.2021 Giri, At: Dhanurjaypur, Old Town, Keonjhar, Dist.: Keonjhar-758001

Property No.3: All that part and parcel of the Residential Land and Building in the name of Chitta Ranjan Giri, S/o: Pradeep Kuma Giri, At/P.O.: Dhanurjaypur, Unit No.: 4, P.S.: Keonjhar Sadar, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN-758001, Khata No.: 313/240, Plot No.: 492 1452, Total Area: Ac.0.050 Dec., Bounded by North: Pond Embankment, South: Private Road, East: Property of Rabindra Das West: Property of Debendra Mohanty

Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹40,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,00,000/-

KEONJHAR BRANCH-1

Dist.: Keonjhar, Ph. No.: 8569947676, Email: ubin0553808@unionbankofindia.bank Name & Address of Borrower / Co-applicant / Guarantor: **Amount Due** Borrower: Mr. Sunil Kumar Padhi, S/o: Mr. Chaitanya Padhi, At: Magurgadia, P.O.: Keonjhar ₹ 23.07.270/ Dist.: Keonjhar-758001 **/ Co-applicant/Guarantor: Mr. Rabin Chandra Rana,** S/o: Mr. Rama Chandra Rana, At/P.O.: Nelung, P.S.: Keonjhar Town, Dist.: Keonjhar-758002 as on 30.06.2018 with further

Property No. 4: All that part and parcel of the Land and the Building situated at Plot No.: 168/2041, 180/2233, 180/2234 & 168 Khata No.: 276/245 at Mouza: Nelung, Dist.: Keonjhar, in the name of Mr. Sunil Kumar Padhi, Area: Ac.1.22 dec., Plot No.: 168/ 2041 is Bounded by North: S. Patra, South: P. Naik, Plot No.: 180/2233 is Bounded by North: Jungle, South: P. Bani Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹44,50,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,45,000/-

Name & Address of Borrower / Co-applicant / Guarantor: Amount Due Borrower: Anil Kumar Padhi, S/o 49.62.185/-

Dist.: Keonjhar, Odisha-758001 / Co-Applicant/Guarantor: Sunil Kumar Padhi, At: Kashipur, P.O.: Keonjhar, P.S.: Town, Dist.: Keonjhar, Odisha-758001 as on 28.02.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses Property No. 5: All that part and parcel of the Open Land in the name of Anil Kumar Padhi, Plot No.: 180, 181, 181/2240, Khata

No.: 276/244, Area: Ac.1.22 Dec. at Mouza: Nelung, SRO: Keonjhar Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹48,80,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,88,000/-

SATHIPUR BRANCH, P.O.: Dulakhpatna, Via: Barundai, Dist.: Jajpur-755025, Ph. No.: 9368855121, Email: ubin0810045@unionbankofindia.bank

Name & Address of Borrower / Co-obligants / Mortgagors: Borrower: Manasi Khandai, D/o: Gobinda Charan Khandai, At: Rumaposi, P.O.: Rudhia, Dist.: Jajpur / Co-Obligants/Mortgagors: 1) Bimala Khandai, W/o: Gobinda Charan Khandai, 2) Gobinda Charan Khandai, 3) Maheswar Mahapatra, S/o: Iswar Mahapatra, All are At: Rumaposi, P.O.:

27.10.2011 with further interest, Cost and expenses Rudhia, Dist.: Jajpur Property No. 6: All that part and parcel of the Land and Building - Residential Land in the name of Bimala Khandai situated at

Mouza: Sathipur, Thana No.: 2, Khata No.: M.S. 207, Plot No.: 1431, Area: Ac.0.05 Dec., Bounded by East: Road, West: Gopal Chandra Khandai, North: Kanhu Chandra Khandei, South: Tenu Sahoo Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹5,30,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹53,000/-

KEONJHAR BRANCH - 3,

Dist.: Keonjhar, Ph. No.: 7978738752, Email: ubin0929701@unionbankofindia.bank Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor: **Amount Due** Borrower: M/s. Star Enterprises, Prop.: Mr. Biswajeet Bej, At/P.O.: Jail Road, Nuasahi ₹ 35,18,663/- as on Keonjhar, PIN-758001 **/ Guarantor: Chandrakala Bej,** At/P.O.: Jail Road, Nuasahi, Keonjhar, 31.03.2021 with further PIN-758001 interest, Cost and expenses

Property No. 7: All that part of the property consisting Residential Land belonging to Chandrakala Bej, situated over Khata No.: 73/81, Plot No.: 222/407, Area: Ac.0.050dec., Mouza: Mochigaon, Taluk: Keonjhar Sadar, Bounded by North: Radha Sahoo South: Road, East: Srikanta Sahoo & others, West: Srikanta Sahoo& others

Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹52,60,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹5,26,000/-

BHADRAK BRANCH - 1, BHADRAK,
Dist.: BHADRAK, Ph No.: 7381782969, Email: ubin0538591@unionbankofindia.bank Name & Address of Borrowe Amount Due Borrower: M/s. Dharitri Trading Agency, Prop.: Mr. Pawan Kumar Bagaria, At: AK-163, Saltlake City, Near Tank No. 08, Sector-2, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, West Bengal, Partners: Mr. Pawan ₹ 1,44,90,000/as on 31.05.2021 **Kumar Bagaria,** S/o: Late Nandlal Bagaria, **Mrs.Gayatri Devi Bagaria,** Ӂ/o: Late Nandlal Bagaria, with further interest. Cost and expenses

Both are At: Chandan Bazar, PS.: Puruna Bazar, PO/Dist: Bhadrak-756100, Odisha. Property No. 8: Existing EM of freehold homestead land in the name of Mr. Pawan Kumar Bagaria & 848 sq.ft RCC building, Khata No.: 660/16 and Plot No.: 960 & 961 of Area: 4.3 dec at Mouza: Muruna, Dist: Balasore. Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹3,16,00,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹31,60,000/-

JAJPUR ROAD BRANCH-3, Plot No.: 1394/2632, Sethi Complex, Bank Street , P.O.: Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha, Ph No.: 8860700230, Email : ubin0914347@unionbankofindia.bank Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor / Co-obligant: Borrower: M/s. Sahoo Variety Store, Prop.: Mr. Sanatan Sahoo, Sahoo Market, Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur ₹ 10.26.032/-Odisha, PIN-755019**, Prop.: Mr. Sanatan Sahoo,** S/o: Late Laxmidhar Sahoo, At: Radhanagar Patna,P.O.: Sankhachila, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha, PIN-755015 / **Guarantor / Co-obligant: Mr. Banamali Sahoo**, S/o: Late Laxmidhar Sahoo, At:Radhanagar Patna, P.O.: Sankhachila, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha, PIN-755015 with further interest Cost and expenses Property No.9: Residential Land and Building belonging to Mr. Sanatan Sahoo, S/o: Late Laxmidhar Sahoo & Mr. Banamali Sahoo, S/o: Late Laxmidhar Sahoo, situated at Mouza: Unit No.: 11, Biramanipur, Thana No.: 16, Tahasil: Vyasanagar, Jajpur Road, SRO: Dolipur, Jajpur Road, P.S.: Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur under Vyasanagar Municipality, Khata

No.: 121, Plot No.: 54, Area: Ac.0.07Dec.(3045 Sq.ft), Bounded by North: Plot No.:53, South: Plot No.: 55, East: Plot No.: 52 & 48, West: Plot No.:19 and Road

Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹65,36,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹6,53,600/-BID INCREMENT AMOUNT FOR EACH PROPERTY : ₹10,000/-

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 18.11.2022 between 01:00 P.M. to 05:00 P.M. (with 10 minutes unlimited auto extention), e-Auction Website: www.mstcecommerce.com LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD: On or before the commencement of E-Auction

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit:

https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/tendelviewallauction.aspx

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

Place: Balasore, Date: 02.11.2022



The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive.

THE MOTHER



Cusp of a New Era?

There are some decades when only a year's worth of change happens, and some years when a decade's worth of change happens. The past three years - marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and a full-blown cost-of-living crisis, all playing out against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tensions - certainly feels like the latter. Indeed, it feels all too similar to the years surrounding the early 1970s oil shock. after which it took about 20 years for stability to return. Can we write a new narrative of progress more quickly this time?

We have been through clusters of challenging events before. The three that $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1$ stand out are the immediate aftermath of World War II (1944-46), the 1971-73 oil crisis, and the breakup of the Soviet empire (1989-92). Like an earthquake, each changed the global landscape with the sudden release of powerful underlying forces that had been building up around a fault line. Each also changed the rules governing key features of our world, ushering in a new era. But, through it all, progress has continued.

So, are we now on the cusp of a new era? To answer that question, a new McKinsey Global Institute paper considers five major dimensions of today's world: global order (the institutions, frameworks, and rules that shape international affairs); technology (the platforms and applied sciences en-

abling development and innovation); demographics (important trends and socioeconomic contours across populations); resources and energy (the systems for transporting and converting energy and materials for use); and capitalisation (the drivers of global supply and demand, and the overall trajectories of finance

All these dimensions are viewed with the history of past epochal shifts in mind. After the earthquake of WWII came an economic boom that lasted roughly until 1971. The United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions were established, and the US dollar became the de facto global reserve currency, pegged to gold. Economies and societies shifted from wartime mobilisation to peacetime reconstruction. At the 1945 Potsdam Conference, the United States officially ended its isolationist policies and assumed its hegemonic mantle. Joseph Stalin negotiated the division of Europe and raced to develop the Soviet Union's nuclear



Chris Bradley

We don't yet know what will emerge from the new turbulence

capabilities. The foundations for the first era, the Postwar Boom, were set. But then came what we call the Era of Contention, which ran from around 1971 to 1989. The expensive and difficult war in Vietnam divided the US and revealed the limits of its power. In 1971, US President Richard Nixon suddenly suspended the dollar's convertibility into gold, and the era of fiat money began. In 1973, an oil shock – caused by OPEC members seeking to leverage their assets – contributed to deep recessions and 15 years of heightened energy costs. Momentum shifted toward the East: Japan's GDP overtook Germany's. Nixon visited China, breaking a 25-year diplomatic freeze

Then, starting in the late 1980s, underlying stresses unleashed another earthquake, inaugurating another new era. The Berlin Wall fell, the Soviet Union collapsed, and Europe's geopolitical deck was reshuffled. Pro-democracy movements swept across Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992, signaling a leap forward in Europe's economic and political integration. China, after halting progress, fully recommitted to its market reforms with Deng Xiaoping's Southern Tour of 1992. Meanwhile, the Gulf War became a showcase of US military power.

The World Wide Web also was born in 1989, creating the scaffold for a digital revolution. China and India went on to join the global economy, unlocking the single largest reduction in poverty that humanity had ever seen. We dub this period the Era of Markets.

That brings us to our own age of remarkable progress in health, wealth, education, and the deepening of global interconnections. Overall, people have become much better off. Three decades ago, around 35% of the world's population lived in extreme poverty; today, that share has dropped to less than 9%. The cumulative effect has been astonishing, and the rules governing it all quite stable – at least until now.

We don't vet know what will emerge from the new turbulence. Though we can discern directions of travel, complex questions in each of the five domains remain unresolved. In terms of global order, there seems to be a tendency toward multipolarity, but we don't yet know what that would look like in practice. Will the economy remain global in nature, and will we find new workable mechanisms for non-economic cooperation? Could years of relative moderation in international politics give way to more polarisation?

With respect to technology, while the key drivers of digitisation and connectivity appear to be approaching saturation, a new wave of technologies, including artificial intelligence and biotech, may create another surge of innovation. What impact might this have on work and the social order, and how

will technology, institutions, and geopolitics interact? On demographic issues, a young world is evolving into an aging, urban one in which noncommunicable diseases become the main health concern. Moreover, inequality within countries may increasingly challenge the social fabric. Will we "age gracefully," or will capital and institutions fail to respond appropriately to inequality?

On resources and energy, there is a strong desire to shift investment toward lower-carbon sources, but total investment in all forms of energy appears to be struggling to keep pace with needs. Can the world find an affordable, resilient, and feasible path to climate stability? What dynamics will play out between those who have critical resources and those who do not?

Finally, economic growth rates appear to be normalising, and growing leverage and credit may evolve into balance-sheet stress. The OECD century will continue to give way to the Asian century.

If we are indeed in the early throes of a seismic shift – as seems likely – leaders must both prepare for the possibility of a new era and position themselves to shape it. The current vantage point may invite pessimism. Yet through all the previous ups and downs, progress has marched on. Our times demand action, but history offers great hope.

The writer is a director of the McKinsey Global Institute.

WISDOM CORNER

I am at peace with God. My conflict is with Man.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

It is more difficult to rule yourself than to rule a city.

Courageous people do not fear forgiving, for the sake of peace.

NELSON MANDELA

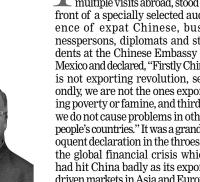
WORDS**WORTH**

■ Cloud nine

he phrase to be on cloud nine, meaning that one is blissfully happy, started life in the United States and has been widely known there since the 1950s. The expression is often said to have been popularised by the Johnny Dollar radio show of the early 1950s, in which every time the hero was knocked unconscious he was transported to cloud nine. Cloud nine and its variations have always had close associations with the euphoria that is induced by certain chemicals, as you can tell from the quotations - alcohol in its earlier days but more recently cannabis and crack cocaine. The cloud here is an obvious reference to some drug-induced dreamy floating sensation.

FOCUS CHINA

MAO RESURRECTED



Malay Mishra

IN THEIR BID TO PLAY REALPOLITIK BOTH INDIA AND CHINA HAVE TO FOLLOW DENG'S DICTUM OF BIDING THEIR TIME WHILE BEING ACTIVE IN THE GLOBAL **MULTI-POLAR ORDER**

n February 2009, Xi Jinping, then Vice President of China profiling for a global role with multiple visits abroad, stood in front of a specially selected audience of expat Chinese, businesspersons, diplomats and students at the Chinese Embassy in Mexico and declared, "Firstly China is not exporting revolution, secondly, we are not the ones exporting poverty or famine, and thirdly, we do not cause problems in other people's countries." It was a grandiloquent declaration in the throes of the global financial crisis which had hit China badly as its exportdriven markets in Asia and Europe had shrunk

Xi was still to be the anointed the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) four years thence in the 18th Congress and succeed Hu Xintao as the next President and Secretary General. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the brainchild of Xi, which would see China penetrate into developing economies with its chequebook diplomacy, had still not happened. It would come 5 years later.

Fast forward to the 20th Congress of the CCP (Oct 16-22, 2022) where Xi strode the stage of the Great Hall of the People and was proclaimed the 'core leader' and a worthy successor to Mao, as his unprecedented 3rd term as Secretary General in 30 years (and perhaps for life, with a life-term Presidency already under his belt since 2018) was about to begin. What had been projected as "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era" in the previous Congress (2017) was now enshrined as "Xi Jinping Thought" and inscribed in textbooks, party manuals, media literature and the like. Never since Mao, not even his worthy successor Deng Xiao Ping, had anybody in the CCP the gumption to crown himself the successor of Mao.

At the 20th Congress, his address was precise. He had to go against corruption and insurgency with an iron hand while calling for 'peaceful reunification' with Taiwan though not ceding the right to renounce force if needed, to acquire the renegade island. He had his position clear in taking on the mighty corporates and reiterating his zero-COVID policy. Above all, Xi called for carving out a global role for China in its contestation with the US.

A remarkable turnaround from his 2009 address, Xi was addressing the nearly 2300 delegates rep-



China watchers feel that Xi has brought the era of pragmatic state-sponsored socialism to a halt and stamped in its place his own ideology

resenting the 96 million strong party, the largest in the world. His voice was restrained, loud and clear. More was to follow when in a dramatic gesture on the last day of the Congress, while introducing the 6-mermber PBSC (plus him) who entered the stage of the Great Hall of the People in descending order, to the assembled media and specially invited guests, his predecessor Hu Jintao was ushered out of the stage while a benumbed and shaken Hu did not realise what had hit him. Even the papers of the deliberations were snatched out of his hand. Perhaps a fitting retribution, Xi style, to those elements in the Party who could have been fomenting a counter-coup while the official version given was that Hu was not feeling well. Remember Xi rushing back to Beijing from Samarkand even before the SCO Summit was over, Sept 16?

Marxism-Leninism being the guiding credo of Communist China since its formation in 1949, it is no surprise that Xi, in usurping state power completely should use ideology to dictate politics and guide the huge military machine in which he has personally invested his aggrandising stakes. China watchers feel that Xi has brought the era of pragmatic state-sponsored socialism to a halt and stamped in its place his own ideology. As former Australian PM Kevin Rudd says, "Xi has pushed politics to the Leninist left, economics to the Marxist left, and foreign policy to the nationalist right." He has reasserted the influence of CCP on key levers of governance while resorting to an increasingly assertive and aggressive foreign policy (wolf warrior policy) in an effort to find an alternative paradigm to the "international rules-based order"

propagated by the US and in its place promoted an alternative world-view to the Global South through financial pressure tactics and other means. With an ailing economy waiting to be rejuvenated in his quest for "national rejuvenation", Xi has his task cut out in his next quinquennial reign over the Party. No wonder state-owned company shares crashed on Xi's selection of his own hand-picked coterie to rule the new China.

It needs to be pointed out that Xi has managed to have his name inscribed in the party constitution, putting himself on the same level as Mao. Under the "Xi Jinping Thought" following an amendment in tparty constitution in the 19th Congress, Xi had asserted himself as an unrivalled leader leading China down a path of twostage development (growth of domestic economy along with development of its foreign economic profile) to become "a great modern socialist economy," in order to achieve a "prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious nation" as Xi had triumphantly announced in 2017. Such triumphalism was missing this time, replaced by an ideological revanchist mindset which had its leitmotif to garb territories, be it Taiwan or a slice of Ladakh.

How then does such policy redound to China's advantage in the evolving of Sino-Indian relations under Xi's neo-authoritarian rule? The showing of a clip of the June 2020 Galwan clashes at the 20th Congress along with elevation in rank of local commanders who had fought in Galwan would have given a clue to what is to come. Notwithstanding India's growing affection for Russia all through the Ukraine war to the point of

abstaining on all anti-Russia res olutions in the UN, China has not shown the slightest regard for India's concerns and continues to see India through the prism of the latter's pro-American stance, Quad being a principal ruse.

In his latest book The Last War eminent defence and security expert Pravin Sawhney draws a fright ening scenario of a Sino-Indian war based on AI which India could stand to lose within ten days while China could take Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh with a minimum loss of life. The war would incorporate the use of AI, emerging technologies, multi-domain operations and robotics on which China has now gained unchallenged supremacy, all under Xi's remit. Sawhney adds, while India is honing its skills and strengths to fight a conventional war in three domains of air, land and sea, the People's Liberation Army would be engaged in seven domains - air, land, sea, outer space, cyberspace, electro-magnetic radiation and near space (hypersonics). The primary battleground will not be on land but in cyberspace and electromagnetic spectrum where there would be large-scale hacking and jamming of electronic devices in key military installations of India.

In his well-argued book India Versus China international affairs expert Kanti Bajpai delineates four areas which will come in the way of an India-China friendship; divergence in their perceptions about each other, changing partnerships with America and Russia, and growing power asymmetry between them where China refuses to acknowledge India as an equal power. The Indian leadership would thus do well to make a frank assessment of the current and emerging scenarios and draw up its military muscle and democratic credentials without much publicity.

Soon after the 20th Congress, Xi led his newly-appointed team to the PBSC on a visit to Yan'an, a site intimately linked with Communist China's founder. The itinerary included visits to Mao's former residence and the hall marking the CCP meeting in 1945 where Mao was confirmed as Chairman. China's ubernationalism has come full circle. In their bid to play realpolitik both India and China have to follow Deng's dictum of biding their time while being active in the global multi-polar order.

The writer is a retired diplomat. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

The need for digital fasting



Bijavani Mishra

A STUDY REVEALS THAT EXCESSIVE **USE OF INTERNET IS ASSOCIATED** WITH HIGHER **LEVELS OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY AMONG YOUNGSTERS**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

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TO THE EDITOR

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(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

ave you ever imagined your life without a smartphone? And what about if your phone does not have cellular data? Definitely life without data is pretty hard to fathom. Because these days, it is the cell phone data that keeps us virtually active, informative and productive. We even can imagine our survival without food and fellowship but not without phones. The use of digital devices is allpervasive. We practically wake-up with social media notifications and ostensibly switch-off the alarm.

After Philippines and Nigeria, Indians secured the third rank for devoting maximum hours to social media platforms (approximately 2 hours 36 minutes daily), a study reveals. In classrooms youths are totally engrossed with their digital devices before, after and sometimes in between lectures. They know it is again the social media which is going to enlighten them about their conceptual queries not the teachers.

Many of us complain about our sleep cycles or fail to give time to

friends and family members post work as we have made our priorities like that. Gone are the days when we used to sit and discuss with our family members about how we spent our day. These days it is the cellphone that serves the same purpose. A paper titled "A Study On The Prevalence Of Internet Addiction And Its Association With Psychopathology In Indian Adolescents" (2013) reveals that excessive use of internet is associated with higher levels of depression and anxiety among youngsters.

Another paper titled "Google Effects on Memory: Cognitive Consequences of Having Information at Our Fingertips" (2011) suggests that due to digital enslavement memory is getting adversely affected. For most of us, the internet has become the primary form of external memory and people have stopped making any efforts to remember things as they know.

Digital detox is known by other terms such as; digital Sabbath and digital unplugging. The very idea

behind this exercise is to deliberately and intentionally stop using all the devices - computers, laptops, tabs, cell phones that plug you to the connectivity of data for a certain prespecified amount of time. The abstention could be for a few hours at first and subsequently can be increased to a day long. Indian Psychological Society prescribed that similar to the food fast, these digital fasts are going to be more effective for mental and physical health both in weaning oneself away from screen addiction and in helping to regain self-control.

A village in Sangli district of Maharashtra, Mohityanche Vadagaon has taken a wonderful way out by generating awareness amongst the residents about digital fasting. They are instructed to keep all the devices away for 1.5 hours when the siren goes off at 7pm every evening. The Pradhan of the village opines: "This initiative is a one-off experiment to curb screen addiction." This practice has been made mandatory for all villagers and

as a result of this between 7pm to 8.30 pm people keep all their digital devices aside focusing on conversations, reading and writing. There were some interesting findings such as -- interpersonal relationships got improved, familial conflicts got resolved, broken relationships were repaired and cases of mental health issues were also addressed.

Obviously, we cannot ignore the very impact of digital devices in our everyday lives but digital unplugging is not about proving a point. When you 'intentionally' take a decision to being cut-off from your digital devices you would be in a position to make your thought process more concrete, and far from the decisions and influences of others. Anything that is going to bring change must be carried out persistently and consistently over a longer period. Are you ready to incorporate digital fasting in your daily routine?

The writer is Assistant Professor, Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi.

Musk's Twitter

Sir, This refers to the editorial "Bird Freed," Orissa Post, Oct 31. Elon Musk has – finally – bought Twitter. A bid that began in April had more drama than an average potboiler, peppered with Musk's threats. It has left Musk with a large debt, a business model heavily reliant on advertising and facing regulatory constraints that are at odds with his self-professed philosophy of free speech 'absolutism'. However, reports suggest racial slurs were posted rampantly overnight, in the hours immediately after Musk's takeover. The bad actors are testing the limits on the micro-blogging site. Notably, the uptick in racist slurs comes one day after Musk appealed to Twitter's advertisers, saying that he didn't want to turn the platform into a "free-for-all hellscape where anything can be said with no consequences." But the increase in hate speech has further fueled concerns that Twitter's years-long effort to clean up its platforms could be reversed under Musk. The danger here is that in the name of 'free speech,' Musk will turn back the clock and make Twitter a more potent engine of hatred, divisiveness, and misinformation about elections, public health policy, and international affairs. This isn't going to be pretty.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

CBI's slide

Sir, That Telangana became the ninth state to withdraw general consent to the CBI to operate within the state limits did not cause ripples. The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1941, under which the CBI was setup, has defined general consent and specific consent that can be accorded by the states to the CBI to function in their territories. Only the Supreme Court and the High Courts can order a CBI investigation in any state without the state's nod. That being said, the CBI can operate in any state after involving the local court. In other words, the agency should go to the court like the police do, and proceed after its consent. The CBI's slide began the day it started dancing to the tune of the government in power at the Centre. "Hound your enemy through the handy tool called CBI," became the mantra of the powers that be. In 2013, the top court had said the CBI was a "caged parrot" following the orders of its "master," the government. Many past directors of the agency have admitted, some in private, that the institution cannot be freed from political interference.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

national



in the Naga society

FARM FIRES' SHARE IN DELHI'S POLLUTION 12 PC

Punjab Wednesday reported 3,634 farm fires, the highest this season so far, though their share in Delhi PM2.5 pollution stood at just 12 percent due to unfavourable transport-level wind speed, government agencies said



There had been no strike or man-days lost in the last

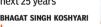


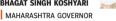
FIRHAD HAKIM WB URBAN DEVELOPMEN











SHORT TAKES

Lifeguards save 15 from drowning

Panaji: At least 15 people were saved from drowning in the sea at various beaches in Goa during the last four days while six missing children were reunited with their families, officials said Wednesday. Goa, a famous tourist destination, has been seeing a huge rush of tourists due to Diwali vacations. Drishti Marines, the agency tasked by the state government to man seafronts, said maximum incidents were reported at Baga, one of the busiest beaches in the state.

5 killed after truck hits SUV

Morena: Five members of a family were killed and three others seriously injured wher a speeding dumper truck hit their sports utility vehicle (SUV) in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. The accident took place at around 2 am on Gwalior-Morena Road, about 15 km from the district headquarters, Nurabad Police

Station in-charge Shailendra Govil said. The eight persons were returning in the SUV to Bittholi village in Morena from relative when the dumper truck hit their vehicle from behind, he said.

Assam: 35 cattle heads rescued

heads were rescued by the police in Golaghat district of Assam, officials said Wednesday. A police officer night, the cattle heads were rescued in the Bokakhat area of the district. The rescue operation happened while police were doing a routine carrying the cattle heads driver of the truck was

Mumbai: Displaying alertness and bravery, a Railway Protection Force jawan saved a woman and her toddler from being run over by a local train in Mumbai, Central Railway officials said Wednesday. The incident occurred around 12.04 p.m. on Tuesday when the woman. with her one-year-old child in her arms, was attempting to board a heavily-crowded local train at Mankhurd which was bound for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus.

Saharanpur (UP): A 19-yearold man died after allegedly being thrashed on suspicion of entering a woman's house and molesting her here, an official said on Wednesday, Upon receiving the news of his death, the 18-year-old woman allegedly hanged herself, the police added



Literacy rate among women in Nagaland is the highest in the country and the state is the safest place in the country for women. This demonstrates the high respect accorded to women

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Cyber fraudsters target pensioners, authorities issue alert



New Delhi, Nov 2: Cyber fraudsters have found a new way to target innocent people and cheat them of their hard-earned money.

"It has come to notice of this office that the cyber malefactors have been calling to pensioners to update their Life certificate by getting their data from somewhere as date of appointment, date of retirement, PPO number, Aadhaar number, e-mail, address, monthly pension, nominee etc," said a recently issued office memorandum.

sters call pensioners with sioners' account to a fraud their data to convince The account. them that they are "In this re-**Central Pension** calling from gard, all the **Accounting office has noted** pensioners Department that cyber fraudsters have been are cauand ask the tioned to calling to pensioners to update pensioners beware of to share their Life certificate by getting these

types of OTP for uptheir data, and has alerted dating their fraud calls Life Certificate. pensioners to beware of and inti-Once they get mated that no fraud calls OTP from pensionperson on behalf ers, the fraudsters get diof CPAO calls to penrect access to their bank accounts

sioners to ask any detail or share OTP. Therefore, all the pensioners

other details etc. for any updation for pension to avoid such frauds,' said the letter.

While police and other enforcement agencies keep taking action against such cyber fraudsters, it has been found that they come up with newer ways to target gullible people. Like, in the last couple of months, many users have been receiving messages through SMS from unknown numbers which claim that the user's electricity, telephone or other connections will be disconnected unless they con-

'Rusted ropes not replaced, only repainted' Pooja Bhatt joins

Morbi (Gujarat), Nov 2: Public Prosecutor here Harsendu Panchal Wednesday made some startling revelations in the Morbi bridge collapse case. Citing the FSL's preliminary report, he has said the cables were not changed by the contractor, rusted ropes were only painted and the flooring was changed.

Panchal filed a detailed report of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in a sealed cover

The Tuesday late evening before the First contractors who Class Judicial carried out repairs of the Magistrate here.

Giving some ill-fated suspension bridge at details from the Morbi in Gujarat were not FSL finding, Panchal told the qualified to carry out such local media on jobs, the prosecution Wednesday, "The FSL report has retold a court will be held Wednesday. vealed that the cables

were not replaced. The contract was given to the company's manager and not to the Oreva company. He had given the repair and renovation work to unqualified workers. There was no discussion about

GUJARAT MOURNS LOSS OF LIVES

Ahmedabad: Civic bodies in Ahmedabad and Surat held condolence meetings as Gujarat observed state-wide mourning Wednesday to pay homage to the victims of the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was present at the condolence meet organised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. Flags were flown at half-mast at the state secretariat in Gandhinagar and other Gujarat government offices. All official and entertainment programmes were cancelled. Similar prayer meetings were also held in other parts of the state. CM Bhupendra Patel had in a tweet said no official function

Oreva company's owner Jaysukh Patel and investigation was going on. The FSL report was submitted in a sealed cover to the court." Morbi Collector GT Pandya told

the mediapersons that the rescue operation was continuing and one person was still. "A person from Punjab was missing and his family were being informed about the

WON'T REPRESENT ACCUSED: LAWYERS' BODY

and transfer the amount from pen-

Morbi: The Morbi Bar Association Wednesday said its members won't represent the accused in the suspension bridge collapse. Members of the association on Wednesday held a protest march, a day after passing a resolution to not fight cases for the accused in the bridge collapse tragedy.

incident. Search operation will continue till the body is found."

Pandya took over as the Collector ten days ago. On October 30, a suspension bridge collapsed in which 141 persons lost their lives. The police registered a complaint against the contractor, agency and workers. A total of nine persons -- two managers of the Oreva Company limited, two booking clerks, three security guards, and two workers were arrested October 31.

The First Class Judicial Magistrate November 1 granted four-day remand of two managers and two workers to the police.



Bharat Jodo Yatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 2: Actor-filmmaker Pooja Bhatt joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra here on Wednesday and walked with Rahul Gandhi.

Bhatt, the first noted Bollywood celebrity to have joined the Yatra, was seen walking with Gandhi while having a discussion with him.

People cheered as she walked for some distance at a brisk pace with

The actor-director-producer has een vocal about various issues on

social media. She made her debut as an actor

with the 1989 film "Daddy".

Daughter of veteran filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, the actor delivered critically-acclaimed performances in movies such as "Dil Hai Ki

court had delivered the verdict,

was arraigned as the sixth accused

in the case essentially for the alleged

failure to report the commission of

offence under the POCSO Act in

compliance with the legal obliga-

tion under the provision

The bench also noted that dur-

ing the investigation, it was found

that 17 minor girls were allegedly

of the law.

Manta Nahin", "Sadak", "Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayee", "Sir" and "Zakhm", before venturing into production and direction with "Tammana", "Sur", "Paap" and "Holiday".

The Yatra resumed from MGB Bajaj showroom, Balanagar Main Road, Hyderabad City, with Rahul Gandhi along with other Bharat Yatris continuing their walk on the 56th day of the Yatra.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra commenced on September 7 from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

Gandhi has completed the marathon walk in Tamil Nadu. Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, before beginning the Telangana leg of the yatra last week.

The Telangana state Congress has formed 10 special committees to coordinate the yatra.

Gwalior after visiting an ailing

Guwahati: At least 35 cattle

informed that late on Tuesday check in that area and a truck illegally was intercepted. The

RPF jawan saves toddler, woman

Man beaten to death

Modi inaugurates 3,024 flats for slum dwellers in Delhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday inaugurated 3,024 flats in Delhi's Kalkaji area for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and asserted that while the poor's welfare was ignored for decades, they are at the centre of the policies of his "garibon ki sarkar'

Modi cited the central government's measures to boost the capital's development and took a veiled swipe at the AAP dispensation, accused by the BJP of spending huge money on publicity while doing little on the ground, wondering how much money the Centre should have spent on advertising its work for Delhi.

He said his government's goal is to make Delhi a grand city equipped with all the facilities as expected of the capital of the country.

In his address after the inauguration and handing over keys of the new flats to some of the owners from the Economically Weaker Sections who earlier lived in slums, he said poverty was long considered an issue for the poor to deal with but they are now at the centre of his government's policies as his is a "garibon ki sarkar" (poor people's government).

He cited the boost to the Metro service, the length of which has increased to nearly 400 km from 190 km in the national capital region since his government came to power. He also mentioned the work on highways around the capital city and other infrastructure meas-

ures besides pro-poor decisions. Though the Prime Minister did not refer to the Aam Aadmi Party, which runs the city government, the BJP has often slammed it for its allegedly massive expenditure on publicity.

Pilot says PM 'praised' Gehlot

Pilot's remarks signalled the resumption of hostilities in the party's Rajasthan unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 2: Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot raised evebrows Wednesday over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "praise" for CM Ashok Gehlot and also nudged his party to end the "state of indecision" on

the Chief Minister's post.

Pilot pushed for action by the party against Rajasthan leaders involved in a show of strength for Gehlot in September, boycotting a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting that might have paved the way for his own appointment as CM

He also indicated that he expected the Congress leadership now to call another CLP meeting. Hours later, Gehlot urged party leaders to "maintain discipline" and refrain from making "statements". Answering questions from a reporter, he said the focus should be on winning the next assembly polls.

Congress Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi said Gehlot doesn't need anyone's certificate to prove his loyalty to the party. But BJP state president Satish Poonia tweeted in Hindi "Where there's smoke, there's fire..."

Pilot, who led a rebellion in 2020 against the CM, targeted the veteran leader by referring to Tuesday's event at Mangarh Dham in Banswara district, where Gehlot shared the dais with Modi.

No way state can prohibit inter-faith marriages: Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Delhi High Court Wednesday observed that there is no way that the state can prohibit an interfaith couple to marry while dealing with a plea of two inter-faith foreign nationals seeking registration of their marriage under Indian law. Justice Yashwant Varma was

ple seeking to solemnise and register their marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 as they want to retain their faith.

hearing the plea moved by the cou-



zen and Hindu by religion while the man is an American citizen and Christian.

As advocate Rishabh Kapur, representing the couple, submitted that only under the Special Marriage Act that a foreign interfaith couple can seek solemnisation and registration of their marriage to retain their faith, expressing his apprehension that other domestic laws prohibit their marriage, Justice Varma orally remarked: "There is no way thatthe State can prohibit an interfaith couple to marry."

THE TOP COURT SET ASIDE THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT'S JUDGEMENT OF APRIL LAST and were residing in its girls' hostel. It noted that the medical practitioner, on whose plea the high

YEAR QUASHING AN FIR AND THE CHARGESHEET REGARDING A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER WHO ALLEGEDLY DID NOT INFORM THE AUTHORITY ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT AGAINST SEVERAL MINOR GIRLS AT A HOSTEL DESPITE HAVING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IT

SC: Non-reporting of sexual assault despite knowledge a serious crime

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The non-reporting of sexual assault against a minor despite knowledge is a "serious crime" and an attempt to shield the offenders, the Supreme Court said Wednesday.

The apex court said prompt and proper reporting of commission of offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act is of utmost importance and the failure to do so would defeat the very purpose and object of the law. The top court set aside the

Bombay High Court's judgement of April last year quashing an FIR and the charge sheet regarding a medical practitioner who allegedly did not inform the authority about sexual assault against several minor girls at a hostel despite having knowledge about it. A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and CT Ravikumar observed it is

other accused in the case. "But then, non-reporting of sexual assault against a minor child despite knowledge is a serious crime and more often than not, it is an at-

true that the FIR and the charge

sheet still remain in respect of



tempt to shield the offenders of the crime of sexual assault," the bench said in its 28-page judgement.

The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the state of Maharashtra, through the police. against the high court judgement. The bench, while referring to a

previous verdict delivered by the top court, noted it was observed in the judgement that "this is an unfortunate case where the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 are rendered simply a pious hope of the Parliament and a teasing illusion for the appellant."

"Even while, borrowing those words, we may say, we are not peeved, but certainly pained, as a legitimate prosecution under another Act viz, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, has been throttled at the threshold by the exercise of power under section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC). without permitting the materials in support to it to see the light of the day in respect of misprision of sexual assault against minor tribal girls in a girls' hostel," the bench said. Section 482 of the CrPC deals with inherent powers of the high court. The apex court observed that FIR in the matter came to be registered on the accusation of commission of sexual offences against minor tribal girls, who were students of a school in Rajura

abused and the medical practitioner was appointed for treatment of girls admitted to the hostel. It said the case of the police is that some among the 17 victims have given statements that the medical practitioner was informed of the sexual assault on them. The top court observed that exercise of power under section 482 of the CrPC is an exception and not the rule and it is to be exercised to do real and substantial justice for

the administration of which alone courts exist. The bench said provisions of the POCSO Act would reveal that it also aims to ensure that such offenders are not spared and should

be properly booked.

Cannabis cultivation on ballot in Himachal

A section of growers have been asking the political parties that cannabis and poppy cultivation need to be legalised and promoted to supplement their income and overcome rising unemployment

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Nov 2: With many lawmakers less vocal about legalising cannabis cultivation, it is once again an election issue in Himachal Pradesh as the outgoing BJP government deliberated, but failed, to legalise it that will benefit nearly 30,000 farming families belonging to the lower-income group.

A section of growers in Kullu, Mandi, Chamba and Shimla dis tricts have been asking the political parties -- mainly the Congress and the BJP -- that cannabis and poppy cultivation need to be legalised and promoted to supplement their income and overcome rising unemployment.

With NDPS cases registered in the state considerably more compared with the rest of the country, the outgoing BJP government has recently mulled to legalise hemp to mobilise its resources as the state has been banking heavily on borrowings through market loans with the debt crossing over Rs 62,000 crore and little funds available for development.

Of late, illegal settlement in in-

accessible hamlets and the changing trends in drug trafficking and addiction amongst the youth is a stark reminder of the deepening nexus between the local peddlers and the international drug mafia with the tacit support of some powerful people, including politicians, admit officials.

This is the first time that courts have sentenced convictions in the NDPS Act cases in such high numbers in a week's time. The progress of the NDPS Act cases is reviewed by the Director General of Police on a weekly basis, the DGP's office said last month.

Be it the Lok Sabha, or the Assembly and even the panchayat polls, politicians do come knocking on our doors with a promise that they will ensure legalising cannabis cultivation, said apple grower Ajay Thakur whose orchard is located on the outskirts of Manikaran, famous for a Sikh shrine in Kullu dis-

As the income from apples is declining owing to weather vagaries, the farmers need to look for alternatives of growing remunerative crops, he said.

According to him, selective poppy cultivation is the best option for the

growers to compensate for losses. Another farmer KC Dhiman said allowing poppy growing would also help check its illegal cultivation in the region.

The involvement of foreigners, including those from African countries, the UK. Russia and Israel in the murky drug trade in the picturesque Kullu Valley is an open secret.

Police say that the involvement of youths in possessing and trafficking of drugs in Kullu district

the Shahpur constituency where the

polling party has to walk seven

Another remote district, Lahaul-

In Kullu district, the Manali con-

stituency has Chichonga polling sta-

tion with 1,305 voters, while Banjar's

polling station Tilga has the least

number of 89 voters. For the Shakti

polling station in Banjar AC, polling

Mandi, the second largest district

having 10 assembly seats, has the

highest 1,403 voters in the Chaugan

polling station under the

Sundernagar constituency, while

the lowest 95 voters at the Jarathu

polling station. Manjhagan is the

remote polling station in the district

where the polling party has to walk

the Barsar constituency has the

lowest number of 105 voters at

Balh Dhatwalian polling station.

number of 1,423 voters are in

Devinagar of the Paonta Sahib

constituency, while ANagli polling

station has only 112 voters. Bobri

under the Shillai constituency is the

remote polling station, where the

polling party has to walk five km

Comprising eight assembly con-

stituencies, Shimla district has

maximum 1,298 voters in the

Charoli polling station in Chopal

assembly, while only the

Summerhill polling station under

the Shimla (Urban) constituency

has the minimum of 33 voters. The

polling party has to cover a dis-

tance of 7 km to reach Pandar, a re-

mote polling booth in the Rohru con-

A total of 55,92,828 electors, which

includes 67,559 service electors and

22 NRIs, are eligible to exercise

their franchise on the November 12

Assembly polls. The ballots will be

counted December 8.

to reach there.

In Sirmaur district, a maximum

The Hamirpur constituency has the highest number of 1.283 voters

10 km to reach there.

parties have to trudge 10 km.

Spiti, has 811 voters in Kaza, while

Lingar has only 38 voters.



Cannabis and opium are grown illegally in vast tracts of Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Chamba

districts, causing a serious

problem of drug cultivation,

The involvement of foreigners, including those from African countries, the UK, Russia and Israel in the murky drug trade in the picturesque Kullu Valley is an open secret

trafficking and addiction A REVENUE OF AROUND RS 900 CRORE FOR THE STATE, BESIDES **PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO NEARLY 50,000 PEOPLE**

alone is nearly 80 per cent, with the sharpest increase witnessed among those in their twenties

According to officials, over 60 per cent of the poppy and cannabis produced in Himachal is smuggled to countries like Israel, Italy, Holland and other European countries. The rest finds its way to Nepal or other Indian states like Goa, Punjab, and Delhi.

Even the Himachal Pradesh High Court has time and again rapped the state authorities over their response, or lack of it, to the growing drug menace in the state.

However, politicians see an eco-

Cop breastfeeds infant

nomic boom in legalising cannabis cultivation as thousands of families depend on it. They are, however, against cannabis derivatives.

The Magic Valley in the upper reaches of Malana, some 50 km from Kullu town, is known for cultivating Malana Cream, a prized hashish that is a purified resinous extract of cannabis, in the West.

Police records show that there are 50,000 acres of cannabis under cultivation in the Kullu Valley

After trudging high mountains in a 17-hour-long operation amid heavy rain with the mercury dip-

the police in May last year seized over 15 lakh fully grown poppy plants, valued at Rs 10 crore, illegally spread over a vast stretch in the interiors of Mandi district.

A field intelligence report about the cultivation of poppy (opium) plants in Chauhar Valley had revealed that a huge area comprising government and private lands was being used to cultivate opium.

As the news of the police raid spread fast in the neighbouring areas, a few locals themselves started to uproot the poppy plants at one of the spots, but timely action of the police foiled all such at-

The police told IANS that cannabis and opium are grown illegally in vast tracts of Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Chamba districts, causing a serious problem of drug cultivation, trafficking and addiction.

Official sources told IANS that in January this year a proposal was sent to the Cabinet for discussion for controlled cultivation of hemp to mobilise resources.

As per the proposal, the controlled cultivation of cannabis could annually generate a revenue of around Rs 900 crore for the state. besides providing employment to nearly 50,000 people, mainly the youngsters

Experts say there is a huge demand for an extract of the poppy in the pharmaceutical industry. Also, the climatic condition in the state is congenial for its cultivation.

Himachal Pradesh will go to the polls for the 68-member legislative Assembly November 12.

This is Kerala: Vijayan asks Guv to 'behave'



Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 2: The war of words between Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijavan and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan intensified Wednesday with Vijayan asking the latter to "behave" and reminding that "this is Kerala".

"Some (Governor) here are try ing to run a parallel government here and are even directing the police on how to run their department. He says he will withdraw the pleasure towards the Ministers. What he fails to understand is that there is an elected government here and a legislature and above all that, he should understand that this is Kerala. He thinks all powers are vested with him and considers himself even above judiciary," Vijayan said while inaugurating a public meeting called by the Left Democratic Front at the auditorium at the state CPI-M headquarters here.

He went on to add that it appears the Governor has an agenda.

"Just look, several universities in the country are under the control of the RSS and a similar agenda is on the cards here and he wants to do the same here by placing RSS followers here," Vijayan said and sternly warned Khan that this is

He said Khan is not performing his duties as a Governor and is not signing Bills which are sent

'There have been rulings from the Madras High Court on the responsibilities of the Governor.' added Vijayan, and accused Khan of trying to create a scenario here which will enable the Centre to in-

Khan of late has been going hammer and tongs against the way Vijayan is running the higher education sector and first removed 15 nominated Senate members of the University of Kerala for not obeying his directions.

Then riding on a Supreme Court order which asked the Vice Chancellor of the Kerala Technological University to step down as rules were not followed in his appointment, Khan asked 10 other VCs to quit.

This irked the Vijayan government and following an intervention of the Kerala High Court, all the VCs have been given time till November 4 to reply to the show cause notice served by Khan as the Chancellor on why they should not be removed.

Khan is presently out of station and will return Friday.

India's first voter

14-km arduous trek to reach Himachal's highest polling booth



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Nov 2: Himachal Pradesh's highest polling station in Chask Bhatori village in Bharmour assembly seat in Chamba district, located at an altitude of 4,500 metre, where the polling party has to trudge 14-km arduous journey to reach there, said state chief electoral officer Maneesh Garg.

He said 26 people are eligible to cast their votes at the Chask Bhatori, situated at an altitude of 4.500 metres in Sechu panchayat of the Pangi tribal area

The Election Department has set up 7,881 polling stations for the November 12 polls to 68-member Assembly

Kangra, state's largest district, has 1,625 polling stations while Lahaul-Spiti district has the low-

There are 7,235 polling stations in rural areas and 646 in urban areas, an official statement said. Garg said the Ka polling booth

number of voters in the state. The Ka polling station has only six voters -- the lowest in the state. The highest number of voters (1,511) is at Sidhbari polling station in the Dharamsala assembly

in Kinnaur district has the lowest

constituency, he said Chask Bhatori and Ka polling stations are part of the sprawling Mandi parliamentary constituency that covers almost two-thirds of

the hill state. For the assembly polls, three auxiliary polling stations - Sidhbari (Dharamsala), Bara Bhangal (Baijnath) and Dhillon (Kasauli) -

will also be set up. Chamba, a remote district, has the maximum number of 1,459 voters in the Manola polling station in Dalhousie, while Bharmour has only 84 voters

Kangra, state's biggest district, having 15 assembly constituencies has the highest 1,511 voters in Sidhabari, while the lowest polling station is Kalangan in Nurpur having 75 voters. The remotest polling

of another to save its life, gets pat on back PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 2: A woman police officer who breastfed a 12-day-old baby, separated from its mother due to a row between the parents, to save its life, has been praised for the same by the State Police Chief (SPC) and a Kerala High Court judge.

Kerala High Court judge Justice Devan Ramachandran in a letter to the SPC, appreciated the spontaneous compassion shown by Civil Police Officer (CPO) MR Ramva and also sent a certificate to be handed over to her, a statement issued by the State Police Media Cell said Monday.

In the certificate, Justice Ramachandran has said, "You are, today, the face of policing at its best. A fine officer and a true mother - you are both!'

'The nectar of life is a divine gift, which only a mother can give and vou offered it while on duty. You keep alive the hope of humanism for the future in all of us," he added. Besides that, SPC Anil Kant also presented the CPO with a

commendation certificate. Kant also said that her actions enhanced the reputation of the

force, according to the statement. The infant had been rushed to a hospital as it appeared exhausted due to lack of breast milk and there it was found that the baby's sugar



Students stand in a formation depicting the Kerala state as part of an anti-drug campaign, in Thrissur

Will not surrender to Islamic clergy when deciding legal questions: HC

A division bench of Justices Muhamed Mustaque and CS Dias said that when it comes to law, the courts are manned by trained legal minds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 2: The Kerala High Court Tuesday held that it will not surrender to the opinions of the Islamic clergy when deciding legal questions as they have no legal training.

A division bench of Justices Muhamed Mustaque and CS Dias

THE AIRPORT HAS BEEN PAUSING

CEREMONIAL PROCESSION

TWICE EVERY YEAR FOR DECADES TO

ENABLE THE BI-ANNUAL CENTURIES-OLD

OPERATIONS AND RESCHEDULING FLIGHTS

said that when it comes to law, the courts are manned by trained legal minds and only in matters related to beliefs and practices will the opinion of the clergy be considered

The courts are manned by trained legal minds. The court shall not surrender to the opinions of the Islamic clergy, who have no legal training on the point of law. No doubt, in matters related to beliefs and practices, their opinion matters to the court and the court should have deference for their views, it stated.

To bring home the point that the clergy cannot be relied on by the Court to decide the personal law applicable to the Muslim community, the court stressed on the dis-

tinction between Figh and Shariah. The court was looking into a petition seeking review of its pre-

vious judgment in which it had declared that the right to terminate the marriage at the instance of a Muslim wife is an absolute right, conferred on her by the holy Quran and is not subject to the acceptance or the will of her husband.

After hearing all the parties, the court found no reason to review its judgment and dismissed the plea.

It also pointed out that this is not a new issue and has evolved over many years as scholars of Islamic studies, who have no training in legal sciences, started to elucidate on the point of law in Islam, on a mixture of belief and practice.

casts vote at 105 INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Nov 2: Shyam Saran Negi, believed to be India's first voter at 105 years of age, cast his vote Wednesday in the Kinnaur assembly constituency in Himachal Pradesh. As per official record, Negi had

also participated in the 1951-52 general elections, the country's first. "I have never missed an oppor-

tunity to cast my vote since India got its Independence in 1947 and l am happy to vote this time too," Negi said in Kalpa, some 275 km from the state capital, after exercising his franchise.

Last year also, he cast his vote for the Mandi parliamentary by-poll. Election officials said on earlier

polling station to cast the vote. "This time, the Election Commission made a special provision for those above 80 to cast vote on a ballot paper at their place of residence. First, he asked that he will cast the vote on the day of polling (November 12), later he decided to cast vote in his house,"

an election official told IANS. He flashed his inked wrinkled finger after voting.

Like on previous occasions, the centenarian requested the young voters to actively participate in the democratic exercise to get their representatives at the helm.

A staunch believer in democracy, the centenarian never fails to cast his vote in any election, be it Lok Sabha, Assembly or panchayat.

Aaratu ritual: Where flights make way for the divine passage

in the Swahal polling station, while PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

level was low, it said

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 2: Flight operations were suspended for five hours and a number of services rescheduled at the airport here Tuesday to enable the traditional Aaratu procession of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple pass through the runway, in lines with a decades old practice involving the local Royals.

At least 10 flights of major carriers, including that of Indigo, Air India Express and Air Arabia, were rescheduled at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport as services came to a halt from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm, Airport sources here said.

The airport has been pausing operations and rescheduling flights twice every year for decades to enable the bi-annual centuries-old ceremonial procession of the shrine to pass through the runway.

beach for the holy bath of the

idols began centuries ago and it has been continuing even after The practice of the temple prothe establishment of the airport cession passing through the route to reach the Shangumugham

When the airport was constructed in the particular place, the then Travancore King Sree Chithira Thirunal had made it clear that facility would be open for public for 363 days in a year and for two days for Lord Padmanabha.

ily, according to historians.

The royal-era ritual has been continuing even after the Adani Group took over its management of the airport last year.

The airport issues a NOTAM

(Notice to Airmen) twice every year before the runway is closed during the bi-annual Alpashi festival which falls in October-November and the Panguni festival in March-April.

Sporting the traditional green silk cap and carrying the ceremonial sword, Sree Moolam Tirunal Rama Varma, the present head of the erstwhile Travancore royal family, led the procession Tuesday. It began from the shrine at around 5.00 pm.

The Utsava Vigrahas (idols) of Padmanabha Swamy, Narasima Moorthy and Krishna Swami, were accompanied by a large number of devotees including women and children.

After entering the airport premises, the idols were kept at the 'aaratu mandapam' near the runway for some time and later taken to the nearby beach for the rituals. After a dip in the sea off Shankumugham beach, the idols were then taken back to the shrine in a procession lit bytraditional torches which marks

the titular deity of the royal fam-

the conclusion of the festival.

national



The BJP is blaming farmers for burning stubble because of their protests. They now want FIRs to be filed against them. **They should stop abusing** farmers, stop seeking revenge from them GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

HEAVY RAIN LASHES TN AREAS

With the northeast monsoon in full fury and rain lashing the state, the Tamil Nadu government has declared an Orange alert for seven districts and holiday for schools and colleges. The orange alert has been issued for Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Ranipet, Villupuram and Vellore districts





Karnataka has the power of double engine, with the same party (BJP) in the government at both State and Centre.

That is one of the reasons why the State is growing at a fast pace in several areas and is holding top ranking in ease of doing business and FDI inflow

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Farmers have to wait for payment for paddy, bajra, and cotton. Despite claims by the

government, it is unable to pay the farmers on time. The farmers have not received compensation for the crops damaged due to the weather in every season for the last three years

HARYANA'S LEADER OF OPPN

Lam shocked by the incident I expressed my condolences to the family members of those who have lost their lives. I think there should be a judicial commission under the Supreme Court to look into the Gujarat bridge

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Bus hits several vehicles; 5 killed

Aligarh (UP): Five people were killed and over half a dozen were injured when a private bus hit several vehicles on a highway here, police said Wednesday. The incident took place Tuesday night in an area between Jattari and Tappal township, they said. The private bus from Punjab suddenly lost control and hit a dozen vehicles including cars, tempos, and two-wheelers. they said. While three people died on the spot, two succumbed in the hospital, they said. The police and district officials rushed to the spot and initiated rescue operations, they said.

Ela Bhatt, founder of

Ahmedabad: Renowned women's rights activist Ela Bhatt, the founder of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), died here Wednesday due to age-related issues, her associates said. Bhatt, 89, a Padma Bhushan recipient, was a pioneer in the field of women empowerment and had received international recognition due to her work. "It is with profound grief that we announce the passing away of our beloved and respected founder, Smt. Elaben Bhatt, a pioneer in advocating for women workers' rights, we strive to carry her legacy forward," SEWA Bharat tweeted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condoled her death.

Delhi air quality remains 'poor'

New Delhi: The air quality of Delhi Wednesday entered in the "very poor" category. according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), and will remain the same Thursday also. However, the SAFAR also stated that the air quality in Noida may dip into the "severe" category with PM 2.5 levels expected to reach 415.

Bus catches fire

Nashik: In the second such incident in two days, a Shivshahi bus of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) caught fire on the Nashik-Pune highway Wednesday morning, police said. Nobody was injured in the incident which took place around 8 am near Malwadi Shivar in Sinnar tehsil of Nashik district, said an official. Shivshahi is a luxury AC bus service of the state-run MSRTC.

Fierce battle in 7 seats across 6 states today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna/Lucknow/Hyderabad, Nov 2: Voting will be held Thursday in bypolls to seven assembly seats in six states - a contest symbolic of the fierce turf war between the BJP and regional parties.

While in Haryana former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal's family is trying to hold on to its bastion of five decades. Bihar will see the first electoral test for the Nitish Kumar-led 'Mahagathbandhan' government, formed less than three months ago after the JD(U) parted wavs with the BJP.

The BJP and the ruling TRS had been campaigning aggressively in Manugoda in Telangana, where the Congress MLA had resigned and is fighting on the saffron party's ticket. The Election Commission has made elaborate arrangements for polling, including the deployment of 3,366 state police and 15 companies of central security personnel in Manugoda. Webcasting would be done from all the polling stations, officials said.

In Adampur, Haryana, the byelection was necessitated after Bhajan Lal's younger son Kuldeep Bishnoi resigned as MLA from the seat and switched from the Congress to the BJP in August. Bishnoi's

New Delhi, Nov 2: The

Enforcement Directorate has sum-

moned Jharkhand Chief Minister

Hemant Soren for questioning

November 3 in a money launder-

ing case linked to alleged il-

legal mining in the state.

Soren, 47, has been

officials said Wednesday.

asked to appear before

the federal probe agency

at its regional office in the

Hinoo area of state capital

Ranchi at 11 am Thursday. The

agency wants to question and record

the statement of the chief minister

under the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

request of our Opposition. An at-

tempt has been made to show how

powerful the ED is... The people

will give them the answer for every

conspiracy," the Jharkhand Mukti

The Enforcement Directorate

(ED) had earlier arrested Soren's

Morcha leader tweeted.

We have also been called on the



son Bhavya is now contesting as the BJP candidate.

The Adampur seat has been held by the Bhajan Lal family since 1968, with the the late ex-chief minister representing it on nine occasions, his wife Jasma Devi once and Kuldeep on four occasions. The Congress, Indian National Lok Dal and Aam Aadmi Party are among the key parties contesting the bypolls.

Bypolls are being held in Mokama and Gopalganj seats in Bihar, earlier held by the RJD and the BJP respectively.

political aide Pankaj Mishra and

two others -- local muscleman

Bachhu Yadav and Prem Prakash

The agency has claimed it has

"identified" proceeds of crime re-

lating to illegal mining in the state

to the tune of more than ₹1,000

crore till now. The ED probe began

after the agency raided Mishra

and his alleged associates on July

8, covering 19 locations in Sahibgani,

Barhait, Rajmahal, Mirza Chauki

and Barharwa in Jharkhand in

the case linked to alleged instances

that Mishra, who enjoys political

clout, being the representative of the

chief minister, MLA from Barhait,

his accomplices.

well as installation and operations of

several crushers, set up across var-

ious mining sites in Sahibganj," the

ED had alleged after filing a charge

sheet in the case before a special

court in Ranchi. In the charge sheet,

the ED stated that it recovered "a sealed envelope containing a passbook

and two cheque books containing

two signed cheques, all pertaining to

A/c. In the name of Shri Hemant

Soren held with Bank of India,

Sahibganj, Jharkhand controls

the illegal mining businesses

as well as inland ferry serv-

ices in Sahibganj and its

adjoining areas through

able control over the mining

of stone chips and boulders as

"He exercises consider-

"The PMLA investigation revealed

of illegal mining and extortion.

-- in this case.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED SUMMONS

HEMANT SOREN

hits out at the

BJP, alleging it was

resorting to

"misusina"

institutions as it

cannot face him

politically

Mokama is the stronghold of Anant Singh since 2005. He won the seat twice on JD(U) tickets and

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has

appealed to voters to support him. Shiv Sena's Rutuja Latke is expected to comfortably win Andheri East Assembly constituency in Mumbai after the BJP withdrew from the contest which is the first after the recent split in the Shiv Sena following a rebellion by Eknath Shinde, who replaced Thackeray as the Maharashtra Chief Minister.

The NCP and Congress have supported her candidature. The

Telangana, Bihar, Haryana, Od<u>isha,</u> stakes bypolls in seven assembly constituencies November 3

The saffron party is seeking to retain Gola Gorakhnath seat in Uttar Pradesh and Dhamnagar in BJD-ruled Odisha, banking on sympathy votes as it has fielded the sons of sitting MLAs whose death necessitated the bypolls

by-election was necessitated due to the death of Rutuja Latke's husband and Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke in May this year.

Among the seven seats where bypolls are being held, the BJP and the Congress held two seats each, while one seat each was with the BJD, Shiv Sena and RJD. While a victory in the bypolls will be inconsequential to their position in the assemblies, the parties have not taken the contest lightly and carried out a hight pitched campaign.

The counting of votes will take place on November 6 The Election Commission has asked Telangana's chief electoral officer to keep a "close watch" on the Munugode Assembly constituency through "various enforcement agencies' amid allegations of attempts to induce voters.

SC junks plea against Justice Chandrachud, terms it 'misconceived' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking to restrain its senior-most judge, Justice D Y Chandrachud, from taking oath as the Chief Justice of India November 9 by terming it "completely miscon-

sel for the petitioner, we see no reason to entertain the petition. In our considered view, the entire petition is completely misconceived and the petition is therefore dismissed," a three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi said in the

"Having heard the learned coun-

Earlier in the forenoon, the bench agreed to hear the plea at 12.45 itself, instead of Thursday as urged by the counsel for petitioner Mursalin Asiiith Shaikh.

"Get the paper books for my brother and sister (justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi). We will list the matter at 12.45 pm today itself," the CJI said.

During the brief hearing, the lawyer referred to alleged instances pertaining to the hearing related to COVID-19 case and alleged that a plea, argued by a senior lawyer,



clined to a junior counsel, the lawyer said. "Sorry sir, we do not see any substance in this," the bench said.

When the lawyer sought to argue in the afternoon, the bench declined the request saying, "Whatever vou wish to argue, argue right now." The bench stopped the lawyer from making allegations pertaining to a judicial order and later dismissed the petition.

Earlier also, Bar bodies like the Bar Council of India and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) had strongly condemned the "vilification" of senior-most judge Chandrachud and termed the allegation of misuse of office against him as an attempt to "malign" his image while he was being considered for elevation as the CJI.

The bar bodies had deprecated the complaint of one 'Supreme Court and High Court Litigant Association' with the President of India and others against the judge.

Kejriwal announces \angle ₹5K aid to workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday directed Labour Minister Manish Sisodia to provide ₹5,000 each as financial aid to 10 lakh registered workers due to pollution-related ban on construction activities in

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

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

"Construction activities have been stopped across Delhi in view of pollution. I have directed Labour Minister, Sh Manish Sisodia, to give ₹5,000 pm as financial support to each construction worker during this period when construction activities are not permitted," Kejriwal tweeted.

The Delhi government will deposit ₹5,000 in the accounts of over 10 lakh construction workers of Delhi. A sum of approximately ₹500 crores is to be spent on the scheme, said a Delhi government statement.

The assistance amount will be deposited by the government directly in the accounts of the registered construction workers soon, it said.

The Delhi government had spent ₹350 crores to support 7 lakh construction workers last year too due to pollution-induced ban on construction activities

was allowed to be tagged. While the similar relief was de-

A first-year student being welcomed by a senior on the first day of the academic session, at Delhi University's Ramias College. Many colleges, Wednesday held orientation programmes to apprise the new batch of students about the syllabi, the societies and the committees

Twitter rival Koo surpasses 50mn downloads

KOO IS AVAILABLE IN 10 LANGUAGES INCLUDING HINDI, MARATHI, GUJARATI, PUNJABI, KANNADA, TAMIL, TELUGU, ASSAMESE, BENGALI AND ENGLISH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: Homegrown micro-blogging platform Koo Wednesday said it has clocked 50 million downloads with a significant uptake in users, time spent and engagement since January this year.

Koo is available in 10 languages including Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Assamese, Bengali and English.

According to the platform, there are more than 7,500 high-profile people, millions of students, teachers, entrepreneurs, poets, leaders, writers, artists, actors, etc. actively posting in their native languages.

"This validates the demand for a multi-lingual social network built with an India-first product mindset of seamlessly including language speaking Indians in daily thoughts sharing," said Aprameya Radhakrishna, CEO and Co-founder, Koo app.

"Our rapid growth and adoption is a testimony to the fact that we are solving a problem faced by a billion Indians," he added. Koo was launched in March 2020 as a multilingual micro-blogging platform.

Radhakrishna said that the company will continue to invest in technology and continue to build the platform with a user-first mindset. Koo is backed by Tiger Global



and early stage investors like Accel, investors included Capsier Venture Kalaari Capital, Blume Ventures Partner, Ravi Modi Family Trust, and Dream incubator. In February Ashneer Grover, FBC Venture this year, Koo raised \$10 million Partners, Adventz Finance etc. acthrough Indian family offices. The cording to regulatory filings.

The company claims there are over '7500 eminent voices' on the platform besides 'millions' of students, teachers, entrepreneurs, poets, leaders, writers, artists and actors, 60% of the users are communicating in Hindi on the platform while 25% of users are from other Indian languages and 15% users communicate in English.

Being an inclusive platform that is built around a language-first approach, Koo's mission is to connect like-minded users in the language of their choice. In the near future, the platform aims to further announce product features as part of its continuous effort to enhance the user experience.

Minor gangraped, murdered in K'taka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 2: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped and murdered in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district. Kalaburagi SP Isha Panth Wednesday said a special team has been formed to probe the case and nab the accused.

According to police, the victim had gone out of the house to attend nature's call Tuesday afternoon.

When the girl did not return home, her family members started searching her everywhere, after which her body was found in a farm. After reaching the spot, Isha Panth assured that the accused will be arrested soon.

The girl was studying in Class 9 and staving at her relative's place, the police said. Aland police have taken up the investigation.

international



This increasing habit of demonizing political opponents creates a dangerous climate. If that's the environment that we create, more people are going to get hurt BARACK OBAMA | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

ADIEU TO MARS INSIGHT LANDER

NASA's Mars InSight lander is set to fall silent in the next few weeks, ending its history-making mission to reveal secrets of the Red Planet's interior. The spacecraft's power generation continues to decline as windblown dust on its solar panels thickens, so the team has taken steps to continue as long as possible with what power remains



to learn about the collapse of the Morbi Bridge in Gujarat and the tragic loss of lives On behalf of the Government of Singapore, I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences

I was saddened

and sympathies to the families of the

LEE HSIEN LOONG | PM, SINGAPORE

wholeheartedly believe that with the climate crisis, inflation, war in Europe ... and a potential recession in the European economy, we must put the harsh words of the election campaign behind us and come to the

METTE FREDERIKSEN PM. DENMARK

There is no long-term prosperity without action on climate change. There is no energy security without

negotiating table

investing in renewables. That is why I will attend COP27 next week: to deliver on Glasgow's legacy of building a secure and sustainable

RISHI SUNAK PM, UK





Tension grips Korean Peninsula Iran may attack: Saudi tells US

North and South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. North's latest launch comes as Seoul and Washington stage their largest-ever joint air drills, dubbed 'Vigilant Storm', which involve hundreds of warplanes from both sides

did not land in our territory but in

the Exclusive Economic Zone under

our jurisdiction, therefore it was

That missile was one of three

short-range ballistic missiles fired

from the North Korean coastal

area of Wonsan into the sea, South

Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)

said. The JCS later said as many as

14 other missiles of various types

had been fired from North Korea's

The JCS said at least one of the

missiles landed 26 km south of the

NLL, 57 km from the South Korean

city of Sokcho, on the east coast,

and 167 km from the island of

Ulleung, where air raid warnings

The North also fired more than

100 rounds of artillery from its

east coast into a military buffer

zone established in a military agree-

ment with the South, South Korea's

not subject to interception."

AIR RAID SIRENS

east and west coasts.

were sounded.

Seoul, Nov 2: North Korea fired at least 23 missiles into the sea Wednesday, including one that landed less than 60 km (40 miles) off South Korea's coast, which the South's President Yoon Suk-yeol described as "territorial encroachment"

It was the first time a ballistic missile had landed near the South's waters since the peninsula was divided in 1945, and the most missiles fired by the North in a single day. South Korea issued rare air raid warnings and launched its own missiles in response.

The missile landed outside South Korea's territorial waters, but south of the Northern Limit Line (NLL), a disputed inter-Korean maritime

South Korean warplanes fired three air-to-ground missiles into the sea north across the NLL in response, the South's military said. An official said the weapons used included an AGM-84H/K SLAM-ER, which is a US-made "standoff" precision attack weapon that can fly for up to 270 km with a 360kg warhead.

The South's launches came after Yoon's office vowed a "swift and firm response"

'President Yoon Suk-yeol noted North Korea's provocation today was an effective act of territorial encroachment by a missile intruding the NLL for the first time since (the two Koreas') division," his office said in a statement.

When asked whether the missile was flying towards the South's



launches at least 23 missiles into the sea

One landed south of disputed coast for the first time

South Korea President vows N Korea will 'pay the

North Korea calls allied military drills 'provocative'

territory and should have been inmilitary said. The firing violates a 2018 agreetercepted, a senior presidential official said: "Strictly speaking, it

ment banning hostile acts in border areas, the JCS said. Nuclear-armed North Korea has

tested a record number of missiles this year, and officials in Seoul and Washington say the North has completed technical preparations to conduct a nuclear weapon test for the first time since 2017.

The launches came just hours after Pyongyang demanded that the United States and South Korea stop large-scale military exercises, saying such "military rashness and provocation can be no longer tolerated"

Despite Yoon's declaring a national week of mourning after more than 150 people were killed in a weekend crowd surge in Seoul, the United States and South Korea began one of their largest combined military air drills Monday. Dubbed Vigilant Storm, the exercises involve hundreds of warplanes from both sides staging mock attacks 24 hours a day.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 2: Saudi Arabia has shared intelligence with American officials that suggests Iran could be preparing for an imminent attack on the kingdom, three US officials have said.

The heightened concerns about a potential attack on Saudi Arabia as the Biden administration is criticising Tehran for its crackdown on widespread protests and condemning it for sending hundreds of drones -as well as technical support — to Russia for use in its war in Ukraine.

'We are concerned about the threat picture, and we remain in constant contact through military and intelligence channels with the Saudis," the National Security Council said in a statement. "We will not hesitate to act in the defense of our interests and partners in the region.

SUDDEN U-TURN

Russia returns to Ukraine grain deal

Moscow, Nov 2: Russia said Wednesday it would renew its participation in an agreement allowing Ukraine to export grain via the Black Sea, just four days after suspending its role in the deal.

Moscow had pulled out at the weekend, saying it could not guarantee the safety of civilian ships crossing the Black Sea because of a drone attack on its fleet there.

'The Russian Federation considers that the guarantees received at the moment appear sufficient, and resumes the implementation of the agreement," the defence ministry said.

The U-turn followed a phone call between Russian President

President Tavvip Erdogan Tuesday and after consultations between their defence ministers.

"This is quite an unexpected turnaround," said Andrey Sizov, head of the Russia-focused Sovecon agriculture consultancy. "We did not bury this deal, but we did not expect Russia's return to it so soon either, as it was not very clear what kind of guarantees Russia could get and how quickly it would happen. But, well, good job Erdogan.'

Even after the call with the Turkish leader; the Kremlin had said Moscow would only consider resuming the agreement after a "detailed investigation" of a drone attack Saturday against its Black Sea Fleet

ing fears of sexual and religious mi-

norities, he has shown how a leader can

win elections time and again while openly

campaigning against the press, univer-

In the century since Mussolini's March

run against democ-

racy all too easily

prevail in elections

În Brazil, President

Jair Bolsonaro has

called for removing

democratic insti-

tutions and repeat-

edly praised the

country's former

military dictator-

on Rome, leaders and parties who openly

ship. And in the US, the Republican Party

has become a cult of personality be-

holden to a white nationalist leader who

led an effort - most of which he plotted

in the open - to overthrow American

Today, as in the past, fascist move-

ments often have a powerful symbolic di-

legacy and hatred of immigrants and

sexual minorities in her pursuit of party

and government positions, Meloni's as-

cension to the Italian premiership is a po-

Finally, the world has its most openly

tent symbol for global fascism.

sities, and democracy itself.

A New Wave?

Jair Bolsonaro

democracy.

mension that

makes them conta-

gious internation-

ally. In the figure of

Giorgia Meloni

Italy has its first

Far-right leader

since Mussolini.

Having long pro-

moted admiration

of Mussolini's



mainly truck drivers, block a highway during a protest over Bolsonaro's defeat in the presidential run-off election, in Curitiba, in the state of Parana, Brazil

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FASCISM

JASON STANLEY

Then Fascist Blackshirts marched through the streets of Rome at the end of October 1922, their leader, Benito Mussolini, had just been installed as Prime Minister. While Mussolini's followers had already organised into militias and begun to terrorise the country, it was during the 1922 squadristi, historian Robert O. Paxton writes, that they "escalated from sacking and burning local socialist headquarters, newspaper offices, labour exchanges, and socialist leaders' homes to the violent occupation of entire cities, all without hindrance from the government." By this point, Mussolini and his Fascist Party had been normalised, because they had been brought into the Centreright government the previous year as an antidote to the Left.

But while Mussolini presided over Fascism's first real taste of political

power, his movement was not the first of its kind. For that, one must look instead to the United States. As Paxton explains, "It may be that the earliest phenomenon that can be functionally related to



fascism is American: The Ku Klux Klan ... the first version of the Klan was arguably a remarkable preview of the way fascist movements were to function in interwar Europe.

The Great Race to the Bottom

In 1916, the American eugenicist Madison Grant published The Passing of the Great Race, which decried the supposed replacement of whites in America by Black people and immigrants, including "Polish Jews." According to Grant, these groups posed an existential threat to the "Nordic race" - America's "native class." While Grant did not object to the presence of Black people in America, he insisted that they must be kept subordinate. His book was an exercise in scientific racism, arguing that "Nordic whites" are superior to all other races intellectually, culturally, and morally, and thus should command a dominant posi-

Meanwhile, the American industrialist Henry Ford had been financing the publication and distribution of The International Jew, a compilation of articles that placed Jews at the centre of a global conspiracy. Jews, Ford claimed, controlled American media and cultural institutions, and were bent on destroying

the American nation. One finds the same kind of racialised nationalism running through Mein Adolf Hitler's 1924 prison manifesto. Hitler was incensed by the presence of foreigners, and especially Jews, in Vienna, but he



made clear that his h Jewish religion. Before arriving in Vienna, he writes, Hitler had rejected anti-Semitism, because he saw it as a form of discrimination against Germans on the basis of religion. But Hitler came to see Jews as the ultimate enemy, portraying them as members of a foreign race who had become assimilated in Germany in order to take it over. This, he claimed, would be achieved by loosening immigration laws to "open the borders," encouraging intermarriage to destroy the Aryan race, and using control of the media and culture industries to destroy traditional German values. According to Nazi propaganda, Jews were the force behind international communism and the source of the mythical "stab in the back" that had supposedly caused Germany to lose World War I.

The Misrule of Law

The fact that American racialised nativism and German fascism embodied shared practices, not just shared beliefs, merits closer attention. As the American legal theorist Kimberlé Crenshaw has shown, legal practices historically have enforced and perpetuated unjust hierarchies of value in ways that often go unnoticed. Hence, the point of anti-discrimination laws is not to offer special protections for any specific group – say, Black women; rather, it is to ensure that the law does not reproduce discriminatory social, political, and historical hierarchies of value.

This is one of the central insights of critical race theory (CRT), which evolved from the work of Crenshaw, Derrick Bell, and other scholars who have explored how legal practices perpetuate discrimination - sometimes as a side effect of motivated reasoning by those in power, and sometimes as a policy's explicit intent. And, because CRT has become one of the most important theoretical tools in anti-fascist practice, it is also the new

bugbear of the white nationalist right. CRT urges us to recognise law as the core manifestation of a political ideology. In the case of fascism, citizenship is based on racial identity, which in turn rests on a founding myth of hierarchy and superiority. While a race-based conception of national identity was not central to Italian Fascism, it was the driving force behind Nazism.



FASCIST PARTIES FEED A LONGING FOR NATIONAL INNOCENCE, WHICH IS WHY THEY RUN ON NARRATIVES OF NATIONAL GLORY THAT ERASE PAST CRIMES

Fascist Big Tents

The defeat of Nazi Germany had required America to overcome the power of the isolationist America First movement at home. But the draconian immigration policies that the movement had inspired in the 1920s were still in place in the 1930s, when America infamously turned away many Jewish refugees attempting to flee Europe ahead of the Holocaust.

In Germany, fascists had entered government as a result of their rapidly rising popularity in electoral politics, starting in 1928. The German economy had experienced a series of terrible shocks, from hyperinflation to soaring unemployment. Hitler's Nazis, naturally, blamed these problems on Jews, communism, and international capitalism. Like Mussolini's Blackshirts, they violently attacked Leftists and provoked open street fighting – and then presented themselves as the only force that could restore order. Nazi ideology appealed to multiple constituencies. With its promise to strengthen the nation by supporting traditional gender roles and the creation of large Aryan

families, it appealed to religious conservatives. And with its hostility toward communism and socialism, it promised to protect big business from organised workers. The Nazis opposed capitalism only as a universal doctrine - that is, as one that granted Jews the right to property – and portrayed themselves as the protectors of Aryan private property against "Judeo-Bolshevism."

In Brazil, a Catholic integralist form of fascism was imported directly from Italy by Plínio Salgado. The role of Christianity is also obvious in



Plínio Salgado

decadent Western liberalism and gender fluidity. And, of course, Christianity has always animated American fascism, with its ideological core of white Christian

From Putsch to Parliament

By the end of the 1920s, the Nazis had

managed to appeal to multiple groups that did not regard themselves as Nazis. And owing to the widespread distrust of more mainstream political parties and institutions, they became the second-largest parliamentary party after the 1930 election, and then the leading party following the election in 1932. Though conservatives looked askance at the Nazis, they regarded Hitler as preferable to any option on the Left. Thus, with the support of the conservative establishment, Hitler was appointed chancellor by Germany's president in 1933. While Hitler had made his virulent opposition to democracy abundantly clear in his statements and writings, German conservatives handed him power anyway, demonstrating - at best

- unforgivable naivete. In fact, every canonical example of European fascists' success in the twentieth century involved political parties coming to power through the normal electoral process, after having broadcast their anti-democratic sentiments and sometimes even their express intentions. Conservative leaders and voters chose fascism over democracy, believing that they would win out in the end. For a fascist party to triumph, it must attract support from people who, if asked, would loudly deny that they share its ideology. This need not be so difficult: voters merely have to be persuaded that democracy is no longer serving their interests

Fascism Today

If we think of fascism as a set of practices, it is immediately evident that fascism is still with us. As Toni Morrison pointed out in a 1995 speech, the US has often preferred fascist solutions to its national problems. Consider, for example, the Prison Policy Initiative's findings on global incarceration rates in 2021: "Not only does the US have the highest incarceration rate in the world; every single US state incarcerates more people per capita than virtually any independent democracy on earth.'

Far-right leaders elsewhere in Europe have also been openly campaigning against multiracial democracy, though Muslim minorities have been substituted for the massacred Jewish population as the Fifth Column in their "Great Replacement"

Viktor Orbán

theory. In Hungary, PM Viktor Orbán has used courts and the law to silence opposition media and peddle a Christian nationalist nostalgia for a lost greater Hungary. By stok-



Hitler in the figure Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has demonstrated why we must never become complacent about this ideology and its implications. Putin's geno-

Giorgia Meloni

fascist leader since

cidal war against Ukraine shows that he is not a pragmatic actor, but rather a fanatic seeking to recreate a lost Russian empire. In mustering such effective resistance, the Ukrainians have confirmed the ancient truth suggested in Pericles's famous funeral oration: democracies fight better than tyrannies, because democratic citizens fight by their own choice.

> -- The writer is Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. ©Project Syndicate

business



2022 marks 40 years of Suzuki's partnership with the people of India. **Crossing 25 million cumulative** production milestone this year is a testimony of Suzuki's continued commitment and partnership with the people of India HISASHI TAKEUCHI | MD AND CEO, MSI

AIRTEL CROSSES 1MN ON 5G

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel Wednesday said it has surpassed 1 million customers on 5G network within 30 days of its commercial launch even while the network is being built. Earlier, Airtel had announced phase wise roll-out of its 5G services in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Siliguri, Nagpur and Varanasi





is clearly our ambition. But it may

take longer and may not happen SANKET RAY PRESIDENT (INDIA AND

SOUTHWEST ASIA), COCA-COLA

This investment will consolidate the company's position in the Indian market and strengthen its commitment towards sustainable crop solutions to increase farm profitability of Indian farmers by leveraging R&D and technology

ANKUR AGGARWAL MD, CRYSTAL CROP PROTECTION



ANSHUL SWAMI MD. SHIVALIK SMALL FINANCE BANK

SHORT TAKES

Tesla shuts first China showroom

Beijing: Electric vehicle giant Tesla has closed what had been its flagship showroom in China as the company adjusts its sales and service strategy in its second-largest market, two people with knowledge of the matter said. Tesla shut the showroom in Beijing's Parkview Green, an upscale downtown shopping centre late last week. according to the people, who spoke on condition they not be named because they were not authorised to discuss the closure. The Beijing store. opened in 2013, was Tesla's first in China.

Adani Transmission net profit falls 32%

New Delhi: Adani Transmission Wednesday reported a 32 per cent dip in its consolidated net profit at ₹194 crore in . September quarter compared to year ago, mainly due to adverse forex movement adjustment. The company explained in a statement that in the second quarter of FY23, consolidated PAT (profit after tax) or net profit of ₹194 crore was lower year on year. The Q2 number is not comparable on account of adverse forex movement (MTM) of ₹138 crore (mark-to-market adjustment on foreign currency loans) vs ₹6 crore gain in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal in the AEML (Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd) business, the company stated.

JSW to invest ₹1L-cr in K'taka

Bangalore: The JSW Group plans to invest ₹one lakh crore in Karnataka over the next five years, its Chairman Saiian Jindal said Wednesday. In his address to the inaugural function of "Invest Karnataka 2022", the State's Global Investors' Meet (GIM) here, he also requested the state government to consider mineral auctions. Jindal said the Group has so far invested over ₹one lakh crore in Karnataka.

Byju's rolls back **Kerala layoffs**

New Delhi: Byju's has rolled back the decision to relocate 140 employees at one of its offices in Kerala after founder Byju Raveendran's meeting with chief minister P Vijayan and announced plans to hire 600 people in the state. The edtech major gave an option to all its 140 staff working at TVM product development to relocate to Bangalore as it part of its cost optimisation strategy.



Avoided early tightening to prevent meltdown: Das

Seeking to address the critique of RBI being behind the curve, Das said the debate on this topic is over and presenting a chronology to illustrate how the Russian invasion of Ukraine which led to commodity price spike and impact on financial markets said all estimates were wrong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Amid flak faced by the RBI for missing inflation target Governor Shaktikanta Das Wednesday defended its policies saying the economy would have taken a "complete downward turn" if it had started to tighten rates earlier.

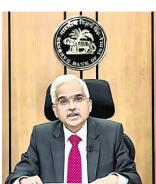
Das said the Indian economy is being looked at as a story of resilience and optimism by the world and the inflation is now expected

Acknowledging that the central bank has missed its primary target as inflation has consistently overshot, Das said there is a need for appreciating the counterfactual aspect as well, and think about the impact of premature tightening which would have hurt recovery.

"It (tightening earlier) would have been very costly for the economy. It would have been very costly for the citizens of this country. We would have paid a high cost," he said.

'We prevented a complete downward turn of our economy," Das said, adding that RBI did not want to upset the recovery process and was guiding the economy towards a safe landing.

During the pandemic, the RBI utilised flexibility in the monetary policy framework to tolerate a slightly higher inflation which was within the target range of 2-6 per cent, to ensure that overall economy remained resilient and financial sta-



RETAIL E-RUPEE TRIALS WILL START THIS MONTH ITSELF: RBI **GOVERNOR**

RBI WON'T IMMEDIATELY MAKE LETTER ON INFLATION

bility was maintained, Das said. He said the economy bounced back in FY22 and FY23 after contracting in the pandemic-affected FY21, and is also expected to sustain in FY24.

It can be noted that some critics have questioned the delay in rate tightening, which began in May this year with an off-cycle meeting of the rate-setting panel, saying RBI should have acted earlier in the face of high inflation.

Till the war started, the RBI was expecting headline inflation to come at 4.3 per cent while the analysts were forecasting it to be above 5 per cent, but the war that started on February 24, led to all estimates going wrong.

He said the RBI's rate setting panel will be meeting on Thursday to discuss and formulate a response to the government for a failure to meet the inflation target. Its reply will focus on the reasons that led to inflation staying above 6 per cent for nine consecutive months, when it sees coming back into the 2-6 per cent band and the measures that will be taken. Das said.

Amid criticism for its decision not to make the communication public, Das said there is no law which gives him the privilege, luxury and authority to go public with the letter and asserted that keeping it private does not compromise transparency in any way.

On the growth front, he said India's recovery has been more broad based, courtesy timely and targeted fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies.

A study of 70 high frequency indicators by the RBI is pointing towards a healthy private consumption, especially in the urban areas, Das said, pointing to the purchases that happened during the recently concluded festivities.

Contact intensive services have continued to make a smart rebound, Das said, adding that retail sales of white goods and fast moving consumer goods have also improved.

The external demand was classified as a "weak spot" by the RBI Governor because of the overall headwinds faced in major markets.

In remarks that come hours ahead of the US Fed's decision on rates. Das said the American central bank cannot keep tightening endlessly and added that once the hikes stop, capital flows will resume to countries like India.

He asked people not to look at currency depreciation from an emotional perspective, asserting that there has been an orderly depreciation of the domestic currency. Das termed the launch of the

central bank digital currency

(CBDC) Tuesday as a major milestone in the history of currency in the country and added that it will lead a major transformation in the wav we do business Trials on the retail CBDC front will start this month itself and the

complete CBDC will be a reality soon, Das said, choosing not to give a timeline on the same. After piloting a project for

quickly disbursed digital loans for the farm sector in a few pockets. Das said the country will have similar lending for small busi nesses in 2023. Das asked banks to invest more in technologies and added that branch banking as a model will stay for long.

Cab okays ₹51,875cr subsidy for P&K ferts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The government Wednesday approved a subsidy of ₹51,875 crore for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the second half of 2022-23 as part of efforts to provide affordable soil nutrients to farmers

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) rates for P&K fertilisers for the 2022-23 rabi season, an official statement said.

The CCEA has approved a subsidy of ₹98.02 per kg for nitrogen (N), ₹66.93 per kg for phosphorus (P), ₹23.65 per kg for potash (K) and ₹6.12 per kg for sulphur (S), it added.

Briefing media, Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said taking into account the global prices, the subsidy has been increased only for nitrogen for this rabi season, while that for other three nutrients it has been reduced when compared to the NBS subsidy given in the Kharif season this year.

As a result, the total subsidy outgo for P&K fertilisers for six month period of the rabi season from October 2022 to March 2023 is lower at ₹51,875 crore, when compared to ₹60,939.23 crore released during the first six months of the Kharif season of the current fiscal.

"However, total fertiliser subsidy including both P&K and urea fertilisers, will be a record ₹2.25 lakh crore in the current fiscal, as against ₹1.65 lakh crore in the previous fiscal." Mandaviva said. During the Kharif season of this year, the subsidy for N was fixed at ₹91 per kg, P at ₹72 per kg, K at ₹25 per kg and S at ₹6.94 per kg, he added.

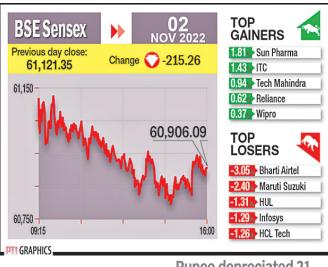
Mandaviya explained that the government had to raise the subsidy on P&K fertilisers in the first half of this fiscal in view of high global prices. But for the rabi season, the subsidy was reduced for three nutrients due to the fall in global rates. "Subsidy approved by the Cabinet

for the NBS Rabi-2022 (from 01.10.2022 to 31.03.2023) will be ₹51,875 crore, including support for indigenous fertiliser (SSP) through freight subsidy," the statement said. This will enable smooth avail-

ability of all P&K fertilisers to farmers during the rabi season at subsidised / affordable prices and support the agriculture sector, it noted.

Sensex, Nifty snap 4-day winning rally

Investors were also cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's meeting on interest rates, while a depreciating rupee further weighed on sentiment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Equity benchmarks surrendered early gains to close with losses on Wednesday, snapping their four-day winning streak as investors pared exposure to telecom, realty and tech stocks amid a mixed trend in global markets.

After a positive beginning, the 30-share BSE Sensex failed to hold on to the gains and ended 215.26 points or 0.35 per cent lower at 60,906.09. During the day, it slipped 326.96 points or 0.53 per cent to 60,794.39. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 62.55 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 18.082.85. Bharti Airtel was the top loser

among the Sensex constituents, slipping 3.05 per cent, followed by Maruti, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, HCL Technologies, IndusInd Bank and Titan. On the other hand. Sun Pharma, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's and Reliance Industries were among the gainers. In the broader market, the BSE

midcap gauge dipped 0.12 per cent, while the smallcap index climbed 0.23 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices,

telecommunication declined 1.31 per cent, realty fell 1.01 per cent, teck dipped 1 per cent, auto (0.75 per cent), utilities (0.63 per cent) and IT Rupee depreciated 21 paise to close at 82.80 against the US dollar

(0.55 per cent). Metal, healthcare, energy and commodities ended in The Fed is poised to hike inter-

est rates by 75 bps for the fourth time while a less hawkish stance could simply see the bear market dead, Tapse noted. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in

Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher, while Tokyo settled lower. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in midsession deals. Wall Street had ended in negative territory Tuesday. In remarks that come hours

ahead of a review of monetary policy announcements in the US, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the US Fed Reserve cannot tighten endlessly and capital flows will eventually resume. Meanwhile, the rupee depreci-

ated 21 paise to close at 82.80 (provisional) against the US dollar Wednesday. International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.17 per cent higher at \$94.81 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers Wednesday as they bought shares worth ₹1,436.30 crore, as per exchange data

Wheat export doubles in Apr-Sept Air Asia India-AI Express may merge by '23-end

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The country's wheat exports more than doubled to \$1.48 billion during April-September 2022-23 as compared to the year-ago period, the commerce ministry said Wednesday

The exports stood at \$630 million in the year-ago period.

Though the government banned wheat exports in May, some shipments are allowed to meet food security needs of the countries that request for it.

'Wheat export rose to \$1,487 million in April-September 2022 from \$630 million in April-September 2021," the ministry said. The global wheat supply has

been seriously disrupted because of the Russia-Ukraine war. Both nations are major wheat producers. The ministry also said exports of



agricultural and processed food products rose 25 per cent during the six-month period of this fiscal year.

The overall export of Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) products increased to \$13.77 billion in April-September 2022 from \$11.05 billion in the same period a year ago.

For 2022-23, an export target of \$23.56 billion has been fixed by APEDA and export of \$13.77 billion has already been achieved in the sixmonth period, it added.

TATA GROUP AND THE MALAYSIAN **ENTITY-OWNED AIRASIA INDIA STARTED FLYING IN JUNE 2014**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Malaysia's AirAsia Wednesday said it has entered into a pact with Air India to sell its remaining stake in budget carrier AirAsia India.

Air India also said an operational review process is underway to integrate budget carrier AirAsia India with Air India Express and the merger is likely by the end of 2023. The merger, likely by the end



of 2023, is aimed at having a single low-cost carrier for the Air India group. Post-merger, the entity will be branded as Air India Express.

In a statement, AirAsia Aviation Group Ltd said it has entered into a share purchase agreement to sell the remaining equity shares held in AirAsia India to Air India. It did

not provide any specific details. AirAsia India was a joint venture between Tata Sons and Air Asia Investment Ltd. Tata Sons had an 83.67 per cent stake and the latter owned a 16.33 per cent shareholding.

In June, the Competition Commission of India approved the proposed acquisition of the entire shareholding of AirAsia India by Air India. Group CEO of Air Asia Aviation Group Bo Lingam said that since 2014, "when we first commenced operation in India, AirAsia has built a great business in India, which is one of the world's biggest civil aviation markets".

"We have had a great experience working with India's leading Tata Group. This is not the end of our relationship but the beginning of a new one as we explore new and exciting opportunities to collaborate and enhance our synergies moving forward," he said.

Further, he said, the pandemic has allowed it to re-examine the priorities and "we felt that it was best suited for AirAsia to develop an Asean-only business". The Malaysian group will continue to have airlines in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"India will remain an important market for AirAsia and will continue to be served by our various airlines. We will use the experience and knowledge we have gained from operating in the Indian domestic market to grow the Asean-Indian market in logistics and passenger services to a far greater extent," Bo Lingam said.

Twitter's blue tick on sale for \$8/month, says Musk, faces backlash

A blue tick signifies that a particular account is verified "because it's notable in government, news, entertainment, or another designated category"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 2: Twitter's new owner billionaire Elon Musk has announced that the verification blue tick in front of a user's name that authenticates the account will be charged eight dollars per month, prompting outrage and disbelief among some longtime users.

Musk, the world's richest person,

chasing power parity.

With that price, he said, users will also get priority in replies, mentions, and searches, which he said is essential to defeating spam/scams, as well as the ability to post long video and audio, half as many ads, and paywall bypass for publishers willing to work with the social media company.

Musk, 51, said the monthly pay-



cause it's notable in government, news, entertainment, or another designated category". Twitter introduced the system in 2009, after it faced a lawsuit accusing it of not doing enough to prevent imposter accounts.

However, Musk's decision to charge for blue ticks did not go down well with many longtime users, including author Stephen King, who has nearly seven million followers on the platform.

'\$20 a month to keep my blue check?" he tweeted Monday, followed by an expletive. "They should pay me. If that gets instituted, I'm gone like Enron." Following up later in a reply, King wrote, "[i]t ain't the money, it's the principle of the thing.

Musk replied to King with his most explicit acknowledgment yet of the proposal to charge for account verification. "[W]e need to pay the bills somehow! Twitter cannot rely entirely on advertisers," he said. "How about \$8?"

Kasturi Shankar, a user with blue tick whose Twitter bio describes her as an actor, activist, lawver, writer, quizzer, dancer, foodie and "travelholic", wrote, 'Way to dilute the blue tick verification. Real important people will leave, and take with them the users vou need to justify the platform. When businesses and media buy blue ticks, they will in turn try to monetise their tweets. Twitter will become a bill board.

Another user named David Rothschild asked, "So, the more money you spend the more elevated your speech?'

"Faux populism from billionaires who just want to cut taxes & regulations for the rich, while crushing rights of workers to get basic social safety & bargaining necessary to be healthy, productive, and have meaningful opportunity is particularly infuriating type of faux populism," said the user which has the blue tick handle @DavMicRot.

Another verified user having handle @Rubiu5 asked, "What happens when a random user pays \$8 and changes his Display Name to Elon Musk, using your same profile pic and starts tweeting like he's you?

Verified check marks exist so 🔫 people know they follow the real person, the user pointed out.

Responding to the barrage of criticisms, Musk said Twitter speaks to the inner masochist in all of us. "To all complainers, pleasecontinue complaining, but it will cost \$8," he tweeted.

acquired Twitter in a whopping ments from users for the blue tick \$44 billion deal October 27. He also "will also give Twitter a revenue fired the social media company's stream to reward content creators". four top executives, including CEO There will be a secondary tag Parag Agrawal and legal execubelow the name for someone who centre in Thiruvananthapuram tive Vijaya Gadde. is a public figure, which is al-"Power to the people! Blue for \$8 was planning to shut down the ready the case for politicians, he Thiruvananthapuram office as per month," he tweeted Tuesday, further said. A blue tick signifies that a paradding that the price is adjusted by ticular account is verified "becountry proportionate to pur-

VIRAT, RAHUL, RAIN LIFT INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 2: A piece of sheer on-field brilliance by a rejuvenated KL Rahul and divine intervention by the weather gods took India one step closer to the T20 World Cup semifinals with an edge-of-the-seat five-run victory over Bangladesh in a rain-curtailed contest here

Having posted an imposing total of 184/6 courtesy Virat Kohli (64 n o. 44b, 8x4, 1x6) and KL Rahul (50, 32b, 3x4, 4x6), little did India factor in what was about to hit them in the form of Litton Das (60, 27b, 7x4,

Needing 151 in 16 overs as per the revised target after a brief spell of rain, Bangladesh managed 145/6 in the end. India, who now have six points from four games, will need to beat Zimbabwe in their last Super-12 match to clinch a last four

Needing 20 off last over, young Arshdeep Singh (2/38) showed icecool temperament despite Nurul Hasan hitting him for a six and four as he bowled couple of perfect yorker length deliveries to seal the

Just when Bangladesh were cruising along at 66 for no loss in 7 overs, heavens opened up much to the delight of the Bangladeshi fans and their partisan media.

After the forced break, the revised target as per DLS method required Bangladesh to score 85 off 54 balls. The break did affect their momentum as Rahul effected a runout that will be a part of any highlights package with the direct throw from deep mid-wicket getting rid of Litton.

Just like it happened with Mohammed Nawaz in the Asia Cup. India's coaching staff had no planning for Litton, who cleverly played for the rain.

After a quiet first over by Bhuvneshwar Kumar (0/27), the next over by Arshdeep saw the right-hander repeatedly stepping down the wicket, trying to negate any swing on offer.

In the next few overs, he was all over Arshdeep and Bhuvneshwar as he converted good length deliveries into over-pitched ones and lofted them over the infield. It was one of the finest T20I fifties for Bangladesh, coming only in 21

By the time it started drizzling, Bangladesh were 66 for no loss in seven overs with a 17-run advantage on DLS par score. Once the target



was reduced, Rahul's inspirational fielding from the deep found Litton short of his ground at the non-

Shanto (21) struggled for timing for the better part before a mistimed pull off Mohammed Shami's (1/25) bowling found Suryakumar Yadav at wide long-on.

While two wickets fell in quick succession, the moist outfield due to rain made it difficult to grip the ball as Shakib Al Hasan launched into R Ashwin (0/19) for a couple of boundaries.

But Arshdeep coming for his

post-rain spell got the dangerous Afif Hossain caught by Surya and then skipper Shakib was caught by substitute fielder Deepak Hooda at deep mid-wicket to change the complexion of the match. Hardik Pandya (2/28) then removed Yasir Ali and Mosaddek Hossain Saikat

in one over to seal the match. Earlier, Kohli's eternal love affair with the Adelaide Oval continued as he powered India to a strong total. None of the Bangladesh bowlers had any answer for his

exquisite stroke-play.



TURNING POINT: R Ashwin and Rohit Sharma reacts after the dismissal of Bangladesh's Litton Das, Wednesday

pared to Perth and the Bangladesh bowling attack fizzled out under extreme pressure in the post-Powerplay overs as Rahul also returned to form with his first fifty of the tournament.

Kohli, en route to his third half century of the competition, had couple of useful stands - 67 for second wicket with Rahul and 38 for the third wicket with Suryakumar Yadav (30, 16b, 4x4). Shakib Al Hasan (2/33) picked wickets of Rahul and Surya but Taskin Ahmed (0/15) undoubtedly was the best

BRIEF SCORES: India 184/6 (Virat Kohli 64 n o, KL Rahul 50, Suryakumar Yadav 30; Hasan Mahmud 3/47, Shakib Al Hasan 2/33) beat Bangladesh 145/6 in 16 overs (Litton Das 60, Nurul Hasan 25 n o; Hardik Pandya 2/28, Arshdeep Singh 2/38) by 5 runs via

'Oz as hosts' news gave Kohli rapture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 2: Virat Kohli says he was "grinning from ear to ear" when Australia was awarded the hosting rights of the ongoing T20 World Cup as his records Down Under speak volumes.

Entering the showpiece with an aim to rediscover his glory days, the Indian batting maestro, who started the campaign with a magnificent 82 against arch-rivals Pakistan, stretched his excellent run with a 44-ball 64 against Bangladesh here Wednesday.

"As soon as I knew the World Cup was in Australia, I was grinning from ear to ear. I knew good cricketing shots would be the key. I knew the kind of experience and game awareness of having played in Australia will come in handy for the team." Kohli said at the post-match presentation cer-

In my mind, Kohli was always there. It was just a matter of and he hasn't looked back since the Asia Cup. The guy has so much experience **ROHIT SHARMA** Kohli top-scored in the rain-

curtailed game which ended in a tense, five-run win for India. "Pretty close game, not as close as we would've liked it to be. It was another good day with the bat I guess, was trying to play myself into the innings. "When I went in there was pres-

sure, was watching the ball well. I'm just in a happy space, I don't want to compare anything. What's in the past is in the past.

Kohli hit his first Test ton in 2012 in Adelaide. Then, on his Test captaincy debut two years later, he

hit hundreds in each innings at the same venue and nearly led India to a famous victory.

"I absolutely love playing in this ground. Right from the nets at the back, as soon as I enter, it makes me feel at home. That knock at MCG was meant to be, but when I come here, it's like I'm meant to come to Adelaide and enjoy my batting," he said.

India captain Rohit Sharma said the team has prepared young Arshdeep Singh for death overs, something that worked for them in the absence of injured Jasprit

"Arshdeep, when he came into the scene, we asked him to do the death overs for us. With Bumrah not there, it was a tough job for someone to take up. For a young guy to come and do that kind of a job is not easy, we've prepared him," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

TIDBITS

SKY WORLD NO.1 BATTER IN T20IS

Dubai: The swashbuckling Suryakumar Yadav Wednesday became the world's number one batter in T20 Internationals. rising to the top on the back of his incredible form in recent times. Yadav overtook Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan on the back of his unbeaten 51 off 25 balls against the Netherlands in Sydney last week, to become just the second Indian player to hold the top T20I batter ranking after Virat Kohli, who spent 1.013 days at the top in different periods from September 2014 to December 2017. Yadav's tally of 863 rating points is also the second best by an Indian, the highest being Kohli's tally of 897 in September 2014. New Zealand's Glenn Phillips has moved up five slots to reach a career-best seventh position. while South Africa's Rilee Rossouw is another one to enter the top 10, moving up 17 slots to a career-best eighth position. The latest weekly update, that considers performances in matches completed by Tuesday.

NETHERLANDS STUN ZIMBABWE

Adelaide: In-form opener Max O'Dowd slammed a fine half century (52, 47b, 8x4, 1x6) after a clinical show by the pace bowlers as Netherlands beat Zimbabwe by five wickets for their first win of the ongoing T20 World Cup here Wednesday. The Netherlands chased down the small target of 118 with two overs to spare, reaching 120/5 to collect their first points. Zimababwe are also virtually out of the tournament after Wednesday's loss. Paul van Meekeren (3/29) led the Dutch's disciplined pace bowling show after Zimbabwe opted to bat, while Brandon Glover, Logan van Beek and Bas de Leede also returned with two wickets apiece to skittle out the African side for 117 in 19.2 overs. In their must-win match, Sikandar Raza (40, 24b, 3x4, 3x6) was the lone bright spot for Zimbabwe in an otherwise sloppy batting display by the team.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nithva. Ramadass record easy wins

TOKYO: The Indian pair of Nithya Sre and Krishna Nagar pulled off an easy 21-8, 21-9 win over Yasmina Eissa and Ivan Segura Escobar in a Group A mixed doubles SH6 match at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships here. The 17-year-old Sre, who was making his debut in the showpiece, later took just 15 minutes to dispatch Lam Ching Yung of Hong Kongwin 21-4, 21-4 in her opening Group B women's singles SH6 game Tuesday. Paralympic champion and 2019 bronze medallist Nagar was stretched to the limit by USA's Miles Kraiewski before he fought back from a game down to win 17-21, 21-16, 21-17 in his men's singles SH6 Group D game. Another debutant Manisha Ramadas notched a comfortable 21-10, 21-5 win over Spain's Cristina Sandhez De Lechina Teiada in her women's SU5 match. In other women's matches. World No.1 and defending champion Manasi Joshi, Parul Parmar and Mandeep Kaur also had a comfortable opening day. Among the top names, five-time World Champion and top seed Pramod Bhagat, Manoi Sarkar, Suhas Yathiraj and Nitesh Kumar all had easy matches.

Satwik-Chirag shines

SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY):

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat Chinese Taipei's Lee Yang and Lu Chen to progress to the men's doubles second round of the Hylo Open Super 300 tournament here Wednesday. The third seeded Indians overcame a game deficit to beat Yang and Chen 19-21, 21-19, 21-16 in their first-ever meeting. The World No.8 pairing will next face England's Rory Eastron and Zach Russ. Saina Nehwal made another first round exit, losing 15-21, 8-21 to Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in the women's singles event. However, Malvika Bansod fought her way into the second round of the women's singles with a 20-22, 21-12, 21-6 win over Spain's Clara Aazurmendi.

Dhawan new skipper

NEW DELHI: Veteran India opener Shikhar Dhawan will replace Mayank Agarwal as Punjab Kings captain for the 2023 IPL. The decision was taken at the franchise's board meeting Wednesday. The move was on expected lines after the 31-year-old from Karnataka failed to take the team to the IPL play-offs earlier this year. Agarwal was made captain for the 2022 edition after KL Rahul decided to move to Lucknow Super Giants. Besides the team's inconsistent run, Agarwal's form also dipped as he managed 196 runs at an average of 16.33. The franchise had thought about making Dhawan the skipper last year as well but decided to go ahead with Agarwal.

Praggnanandhaa, Nandhidhaa in lead

NEW DELHI: Top-seeded Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa posted a crucial win over compatriot Koustav Chatterjee in the eighth round of the Open section to jump into sole lead of the Asian Continental Chess Championship, here Wednesday. The victory put Praggu half a point ahead of the field and in a good position to claim the top position. Five players Harsha Bharathakoti, SL Narayanan, B Adhiban and Karthik Venkataraman (all India) - and Shamsiddin Vokhidov (Uzbekistan) are on six points. Grandmaster Bharathakoti was held to a draw by Vokhidov in 30 moves. Meanwhile, there were wins for Narayanan, Adhiban and Venkataraman. Narayanan scored over Saparmyrat Atabayev (Turkmenistan), Adhiban beat young GM Leon Luke Mendonca and Venkataraman outlasted Maksat Atabayev. In the women's event, Indian WGM PV Nandhidhaa continued to maintain her lead with seven points after a win over Soumya Swaminathan in the eighth round. Two of her compatriots Padmini Rout and Divya Deshmukh are in joint second place with six points. WGM Rout beat WGM Mary Ann Gomes and Deshmukh won a 44-move match against Priyanka Nuttaki.

Spurs, Frankfurt advance in CL Swiatek's top-10 in last place and will have no in-



TIMELY STRIKE: Spurs' Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg (No.5) and Harry Kane celebrate the former's winning goal against Marseille, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 2: Tottenham and Eintracht Frankfurt both came from behind to win their respective games and secure a place in the last 16 of the Champions League. At halftime in the final round of group matches Tuesday, Marseille and Sporting Lisbon were going through from Group D.

But instead it was their opponents who progressed as a stoppage-time winner from Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg saw Tottenham beat Marseille 2-1 to top the group and Frankfurt won by the same score in Lisbon to secure second spot

on its Champions League debut. The top two finishers in the other groups Tuesday had already been decided, although not necessarily the order. Porto beat Atlético Madrid 2-1 to snatch top spot in Group B after Club Brugge was held to a 0-0 draw at Bayer Leverkusen.

Napoli kept hold of first place in Group A despite dropping its first points in the Champions League this season in a 2-0 loss at secondplace Liverpool.

Bayern Munich did manage to progress with a perfect record as it beat Inter Milan 2-0 to make it six wins out of six. The four places in Group C had already been decided with Inter having secured second spot ahead of Barcelona.

FINAL DAY DRAMA

In a rare occurrence for a group, all four teams had entered the final round of games with a chance to advance. And which teams would go through and in what order changed several times over the night.

But Hojbjerg scored with the last kick of the game at Stade Velodrome for a goal that lifted Tottenham to the top of Group D above Frankfurt, which was in first place until the Denmark midfielder's goal. That goal also meant Marseille finished

volvement in European competition in the new year.

Lenglet had headed in the equalizer for Tottenham in the 54th minute after a woeful first half from the English side which didn't have a touch in the opposition penalty box before the break. Tottenham had fallen behind on the stroke of halftime when Chancel

Mbemba headed in a corner. Frankfurt also came from behind, with Kolo Muani scoring a 72nd-minute winner for the visitors. Arthur Gomes had put the hosts ahead in the 39th and Frankfurt equalized with a penalty kick converted by Daichi Kamada in the

Atlético Madrid doesn't even have the consolation of the Europa League playoffs. The Spanish team was the heavy favorite to progress from its group but was left lamenting a last-place finish after losing at Porto, which secured top spot in

Group B. Few expected Porto to even advance after losing its first two Champions League matches this season but the Portuguese team had already secured its place in

the last 16 with a match to spare. Barcelona ended its disappointing Champions League campaign with a 4-2 win at Viktoria Plzen. Ferran Torres scored twice and Marcos Alonso and teenager Pablo Torre grabbed a goal each for the Catalan club. The hosts got on the board with a pair of goals by Tomás Chorý.

Napoli was looking to become the first Italian team since AC Milan in 1992 to have six straight wins in its group. However, late goals from Mo Salah and Darwin Nunez ended the Italian side's unbeaten start to the season in all competitions.

Rangers was left with an unwanted record after losing 3-1 at home to Ajax, which secured a place in the Europa League's qualifying playoffs. Rangers finished Group A with six straight losses and a goal difference of minus 20 the worst group stage record ever.

streak reaches



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Worth, Nov 2: World No.1 Iga Swiatek performed so well against nearly every opponent all season that it should come as no surprise she's been perfect when facing the best of the best since early January.

Swiatek extended her winning streak against opponents ranked in the top 10 to 13 matches — the longest such single-season run in 15 years — and opened her bid for a first WTA Finals title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Daria Kasatkina in round-robin play Tuesday night.

Swiatek has asserted herself as a dominant force in women's tennis, claiming two Grand Slam titles and eight tournament trophies in 2022. Her 65-8 match record leads the tour, too. That includes a 5-0 mark against Kasatkina this year.

Swiatek will try to make it 14 in a row against top-10 foes when she takes on No.6 Caroline Garcia, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over 18-year-old American Coco Gauff.

This one, against Kastakina, was pretty much over at the outset, when Swiatek raced to a 3-0 edge. She quickly adapted to the indoor hard court set up at Dickies Arena. Swiatek is 13-1 against mem-

bers of the top 10 this year, with the lone loss coming against then-No. 1 Ash Barty January 8. Barty's retirement at age 25 in March allowed Swiatek, a 21-year-old from Poland, to climb atop the rankings.

World No.4 Gauff, the runnerup to Swiatek at the French Open in June, will now face No.8 Kasatkina, who reached her first Grand Slam semifinal in Paris before losing to — yes, you guessed it — Swiatek.

A year ago at the WTA Finals, Swiatek's debut in the season-closing tournament for the top eight women ended after the group stage. Garcia also has made it to this event just once before: She was eliminated in the semifinals in 2017.

Garcia is also the only player at the WTA Finals who has defeated Swiatek this year, doing so in front of a partisan crowd at the Poland Open in July.

Swiatek has earned the same number of titles this season as the other seven women combined. That doesn't mean she is only thinking about collecting hardware. She often practices visualization before heading out on court, although she said she did not do that Tuesday ahead of facing Kasatkina.

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