



SHEHNAAZ CLAPS BACK

Actor Shehnaaz Gill responds to online criticism of her wardrobe choices and hits back at them

LEISURE P2



TERRORIST ATTACK IN TURKEY

Two attackers detonate bomb in front of Turkish government buildings in an assault that left both of them dead

INTERNATIONAL P10



SHOCKING LOSS

Boxer Nikhat Zareen suffers a stunning loss in the semifinals of the Asian Games to unseeded Thai boxer

SPORTS P12

Graft case: OSAP Commandant held

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Vigilance sleuths Sunday arrested Odisha State Armed Police, 1st Battalion, Dhenkanal, Commandant Sunil Kumar Behera on the charges of corruption.

Acting on a tip-off, Vigilance sleuths intercepted Behera near Madhusudan Setu in CDA Sector 11 area September 30 while he was coming from Dhenkanal to his residence in Cuttack by his official vehicle and recovered ₹1,31,535 from his possession.

Later, simultaneous searches were conducted at multiple places belonging to him in Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri.

"Rs 8.70 lakh in cash was recovered from Behera's residential quarters at Cantonment Road in Cuttack, leading to total recovery of ₹10,01,535, which he could not account for satisfactorily," said a Vigilance official.

Four held for killing two Manipur youths

AGENCIES

Imphal, Oct 1: Four people were arrested by CBI in connection with the kidnapping and killing of two Manipuri youths, and the government will ensure the maximum punishment for them, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said here Sunday.

The four, including the wife of the main accused, were taken "outside the state" by a special flight, Singh said.

Officials of the chief minister's secretariat said two minor girls, aged 11 and 9 years, were detained in connection with the case but they were released later. The two are daughters of the main accused.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Let's celebrate Gandhi Jayanti in a big way by trending #GodseZindabad on social media throughout the day

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.0°C	30.5°C
MIN	23.6°C	23.0°C
Humidity	98%	95%
Rainfall	Nil	3.2mm
Forecast	Cloudy sky with light rain	

ASIAD MEDAL RUSH

INDIA CLINCH 2 GOLD, 4 SILVER AND 3 BRONZE IN ATHLETICS

AGENCIES

Hangzhou, Oct 1: India had an impressive performance in athletics Sunday, securing a remarkable tally of two gold, four silver, and three bronze medals at the Asian Games. Tajinderpal Singh Toor achieved a remarkable victory in the shot put event, claiming the top spot on the podium, while Avinash Sable set an Asian Games record as he won the gold medal in the men's 3000m steeplechase.

Jyothi Yarraji initially won a bronze in the women's 100m hurdles. However, her achievement was later upgraded to silver due to the disqualification of China's Wu Yanni, who finished second, for a false start. Furthermore, the Indian badminton team accomplished a historic feat by securing the silver medal after an intense battle against China.

Sable became the first Indian man to win the gold medal in 3000m steeplechase while shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor defended his title with an amazing final throw to beat back the challenge from his Saudi Arabian rival. Sable, the 29-year-old national record holder, earned



GUNNING FOR GOLD: India's Avinash Mukund Sable competes in men's 3000-mt steeplechase final event at 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Sunday. Sable became the first Indian man to win gold medal in the category. PTI PHOTO

India its first gold medal in athletics, completing the race in 8:19.50 seconds. Sable rewrote the previous Asian Games record of 8:22.79 held in the name of Iran's Hossein Keyhani set at the 2018 Jakarta Games.

Sudha Singh had won a gold in women's 3000m steeplechase in the 2010 Asian Games in

Guangzhou.

Toor, the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold medallist, came up with a mighty throw of 20.36 metres on his sixth and last attempt to overhaul his Saudi rival Mohamed Daouda Tolo's distance of 20.18 metres.

Toor, however, could not break his own Asian Games record of

20.75m set in 2018 Jakarta. But the 28-year-old's final throw was way too good for his Saudi rival to overhaul in his final attempt.

In the 1500m for women, India's Harmilan Bains won a silver while Ajay Kumar Saroj and Jinson Johnson won silver and bronze respectively in the men's 1500m. **MORE P12**

Triple murder rocks Junagarh

AMONG THE DECEASED ARE A WOMAN AND HER TWO-YEAR-OLD SON

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Oct 1: Three bodies with throats slit were found at the roadside near Sankarpala village under Junagarh police limits in Kalahandi district, police said Sunday.

The bodies, including that of a two-year-old boy and a woman, were found in a secluded area beside the Sankarpala-Dunda Road under Junagarh police station limits. As per reports, the third body is of a neighbour of the deceased woman.

The deceased were identified as Raimati Majhi, aged around 35 years, her two-year-old son Sibasaki and an elderly man, 60-year-old Mahendra Kumar, a police officer said.

While the bodies of the deceased mother-son duo were found lying on one side of the road, Mahendra's body was found on the opposite side. As the bodies have cut injury marks, lo-



cals suspect it to be a case of murder.

However, the reason behind the murders is yet to be ascertained and the weapon used in the crime yet to be found, Junagarh police station inspector-in-charge (IC) Sesadev Behera said.

It was learnt that Braja Majhi, the husband of the deceased woman, is reportedly lodged in the district jail at Bhawanipatna for the murder of his aunt for the last nine years.

Police reached the crime scene and started an investigation. The bodies were sent for post-mortem.

Youth hangs self in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: A 25-year-old youth was found hanging under mysterious circumstances inside his rented accommodation at GGP Colony in Rasulgara area here, Sunday.

The deceased Sachitra Barik of Balipatna used to work at a shopping mall in the City.

According to sources, Barik was staying at a rented house along with one of his friends in GGP Colony under Mancheswar police limits.

Barik was alone Saturday night as his roommate had gone to attend a party. "I found the room was bolted from in-

side when I returned home Sunday morning. I knocked at the door and tried to contact Barik over phone several times but he did not respond. I immediately informed the owner of the shopping mall and the police, who reached the spot in some time. Police found Barik hanging from the ceiling fan with a towel," said the roommate.

The police, in the presence of Barik's elder brother, seized the body and sent it to Capital Hospital for post-mortem.

The deceased's family members, meanwhile, claimed that Barik was in a relationship with his colleague. They alleged that Barik might have had taken the extreme step over some dispute with that girl.

Commercial LPG price up by ₹209

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 1: Commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were Sunday raised by a steep ₹209 per 19-kg cylinder, in line with the firming up seen in international benchmarks.

Jet fuel or ATF price was also hiked by 5 per cent - the fourth straight monthly increase since July.

However, the price of domestic LPG - the one used in household kitchens for cooking purposes - remained unchanged at ₹903 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will now cost ₹1,731.50 in the national capital and ₹1,684 in Mumbai.

The increase reverses most of the

₹157.5 per cylinder cut in commercial LPG price effected September 1 and ₹100 cut effected from August 1.

ATF price was increased by ₹5,779.84 per kilolitre, or 5.1 per cent, in the national capital to ₹118,199.17 per kl from ₹112,419.33, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The increase comes on back of the steepest-ever 14.1 per cent increase (₹13,911.07 per kl) effected September 1, and a 8.5 per cent or ₹7,728.38 per kl increase August 1.

The fourth straight increase in prices of jet fuel, which makes up for 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost, will increase the burden on already financially strained airlines.

Ghost faculty in most medical colleges

None of the institutes met the requirement of 50% attendance, NMC report says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: A majority of the medical colleges assessed in 2022-23 were found to have ghost faculty and senior residents, and none of the institutes met the requirement of 50 per cent attendance, the National Medical Commission has said.

The NMC said it found that none of them visit the emergency department regularly "because there is no one in the emergency medicine department to interact with them other than the casualty medical officer."

"The posting in the emergency medicine department is supposed to be a break period for the students," the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB) of the NMC said.

The NMC said this in a reply to the Associations of Emergency Physicians



of India (AEPI) over their grievance regarding the exclusion of emergency medicine specialty as a requirement for setting up new medical colleges.

In a recently notified regulation, the NMC excluded the requirement of an emergency department for setting up new medical colleges. Earlier, in its June 23 draft, emergency medi-

cine department was among the 14 departments that new medical colleges approved for undergraduate admissions must have.

In its reply to the AEPI dated September 22, the UGMEB said the real picture on emergency medicine departments is different from what it looks like on paper.

"While checking the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance of these colleges, we were shocked to note that there was 100 per cent failure in all colleges with respect to the faculty and senior resident doctors employed to fulfil the requirements as per the MSR (Minimum Standard Requirement) 2020. Majority of the colleges had ghost faculty and SRS (senior residents) or had not employed the required faculty at all," the commission said in the reply.

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FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Flow with the tide today. This is Ganesh's tip pertaining to your relationships. You are assertive as a general rule but you can save it for later. Today is the day to be generous and accede to the wishes of your beloved. You may even propose to him/her.

TAURUS

This day appears to be earmarked for a long shopping spree. Ganesh sees you doing the rounds of malls, markets, dollar stores and bargain counters. You are likely to be happily busy in haggling over prices, trying to get the best deals for your purchases. Before you are done you would have bought tons of stuff.

GEMINI

A progressive day awaits you. However, you need to keep yourself in check when enjoying yourself. You will spend time with your friends and family and bond emotionally. Do not neglect your family members in the group activities that you take up, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Today looks set to be a day full of extremes, especially when it comes to your shifty moods. However, you will need to keep reminding yourself of not getting overly emotional or impractical. Otherwise you may end up being in complicated situations, warns Ganesh.

LEO

Today there is a chance that you will meet that special someone that you have been waiting for all your life. You may possibly give your partner a beautiful gift. You will be more inclined towards the arts and will be able to exhibit this new-found appreciation to the max, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

It is more than likely that you will reap financial profits from foreign contacts, predicts Ganesh. You will excel in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of establishing a mammoth business enterprise in a foreign country will take flight today.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will be more conscious about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor or by purchasing expensive cosmetics. To enhance your appearance and personality you may also go on a shopping spree for clothes. Ganesh says you will gain benefits for your money today.

SCORPIO

You may expect the day to be as dull and mundane as those boring repeat telecasts of sitcoms. But remember, it's not always going to be grey! The dance of planets will usher in new change for a better tomorrow. Keep hoping and who knows you may stumble upon something very interesting, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Those around you will be impressed by the leader in you. You are the general and others will rally at your call to arms. And all the while, you swing your sword and make your way to the top, defying all odds. Do not forget to let people have their own time and space.

CAPRICORN

Confidence is the key to unlock the doors of success. Today, with your positive attitude you will mark your presence and come one step closer to success, says Ganesh. You're not a carefree person. You value your achievements and make every decision wisely. Adding to your confidence will be your strong determination and fate, and with the help of all of them, you will realise your dreams today, predicts Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

You are a workaholic. With a lot of hard work you have achieved your targets. You are not somebody who will fail to differentiate between a pit stop and the final destination. Your success will motivate you to plan for bigger and longstanding goals. But, don't take everything so seriously that you fail to enjoy and celebrate your success, advises Ganesh.

PISCES

Your patience and capabilities will be on trial today and will be put to test with every work you undertake. Even simple tasks and common goals will seem hard to achieve and will require a considerable amount of effort to complete.

SHEHNAAZ HITS BACK AT TROLLS

Mumbai: Actress Shehnaaz Gill who is busy promoting her upcoming women-oriented film *Thank You For Coming*, hits back at the netizens commenting on the outfit choices and labeled the actress as arrogant.

During a media interaction at the promotion of the film, Shehnaaz was asked about how she handles the trolls after the drastic change in her wardrobe choices, specifying a hate comment that said, "Woh bhi utaar do". In response to this, the *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* actress cheekily said, "Agar Rhea Kapoor bolegi toh bhi utaar denge".

As soon as the video surfaced online, netizens flocked in on both Instagram and Reddit to share their opinion. One user said, "Chii

shehnaaz sach m ab lg rh h besharm ho gyi h yaar isko hatao yaar," while another said, "Aisi baat karte jao aur asiliyat dikhathe jao. sabbas" Another netizen said, "The sheer arrogance. It's embarrassing atp". "Usse badi baat yeh ho sakti hai ki tum yeh samajh pati ki yeh sab baatein badi nahin hoti," wrote another one.

Meanwhile, *Thank You For Coming* is slated to release in theaters on October 6.



AGENCIES

ARNOLD WAS UNSURE ABOUT BONDING WITH GRANDKIDS

Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger was uncertain how good he would be as a grandparent to his grandchildren Eloise Christina, 16 months, and three-year-old Lyla Maria, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



KHLOE FEELS LIKE AN IDIOT FOR HAVING WHALE PHOBIA

Reality TV personality Khloe Kardashian confessed that she had always been scared of the marine mammals and feels like an idiot after admitting that, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



UNVEILING OF TALES FROM THE LAND OF JAGANNATHA

Devdutt-Balakrishnan conversation spellbinds packed auditorium in City

Acclaimed mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik says, through the 30 essays in the book, he aims to introduce non-Odias to Odisha's heritage, art, culture and wealth of ideas in a non-academic way



In conversation: Devdutt Pattanaik and R Balakrishnan

Bhubaneswar: Author and mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik's new book *Tales from the Land of Jagannatha* was released here at MKCG Auditorium, Utkal University, Sunday.

Even though a host of dignitaries were present on the occasion, the main attraction of the event was a lovely conversation between Pattanaik and author and bureaucrat R Balakrishnan on the topic 'Somanath to Jagannatha'.

At one point during the discussion, Balakrishnan, who also serves as the Chief Advisor,

Office of the Chief Minister of Odisha, questioned Pattanaik what he meant by 'darshan' of Lord Jagannatha. Responding, the author explained, "Darshan encompasses not just our visit to the deity but our exploration of every intricate aspect of the temple's architecture."

Utkal University VC Sabita Acharya, Pro Vice Chancellor at KIIT University and translator of the book in Odia Tapan Kumar Panda and Director of Pen In Books Subhansu Panda,

who published the book, were among the dignitaries who graced the event.

Lord Jagannatha and Ratha Jatra are the identities of Odisha, said Acharya, while Balakrishnan was of the view that no one should forget his or her roots despite being away from the birth place. The book will enlighten readers on many previously unknown facets of Lord Jagannatha and the mystique that surrounds him, he added.

As per the book, it contains 30

short essays that were written by Pattanaik over a period of 10 years.

The author said that at the heart of all things Odia is Shri Jagannatha, which is why these essays are linked in one way or another to Odisha's Mahaprabhu, who is Lord of the World.

Through these essays, he has aimed to introduce non-Odias to Odisha's wealth of ideas and forms, heritage, art, culture, and mythology in an accessible, non-academic way, added Pattanaik.

For the uninitiated, Devdutt Pattanaik is India's best-selling mythologist. He has authored over 1000 articles and over 50 books on the relevance of sacred stories, symbols, and rituals in modern times. These have been translated into Hindi, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, and many international languages, including Russian, Polish, and Japanese.

Priyanka called out for her uptight attitude

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra is one of the few stars who does not shy away from media interactions and she even makes sure to call a spade a spade and call out the unnecessary digs, has her ways of handling the journo and once decided to clap back at one.

PeeCee, who turned a global star with her music album, was in between the interaction when a journo asked her to croon some lines. However, this did not go down well with the *Bajirao Mastani* actress, who felt that the journo was

trying to test her and called the journalist on the stage as she dedicated a song to her: The journalist who was visibly awkward had to bear the limelight thrown unannounced at her.

The video was shared on Instagram and netizens pointed out how this was a sly move. A user wrote, "Why is she so passive aggressive, just sing a few lines, bringing the journalist up on stage embarrassing her knowing well."



AGENCIES

300 Big B memorabilia to go under hammer

Mumbai: Ahead of his 81st birthday (October 11), Bollywood's evergreen emperor Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with 'Bachchanalia' – an auction of over 300 memorabilia, spanning his 55 years' looming presence and contributions to the film industry.

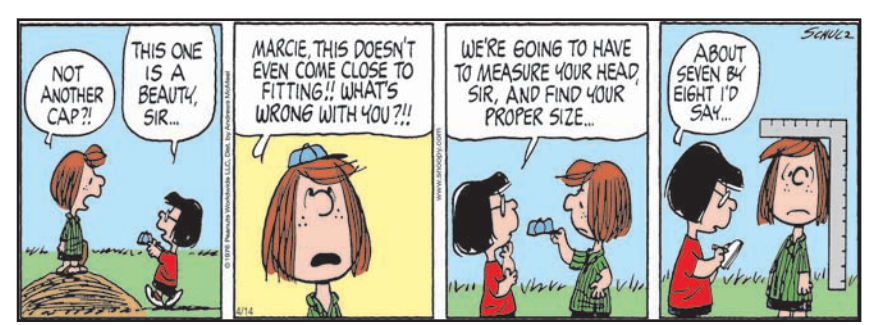
The auction by deRivaz & Ives will take place October 5-7, as a tribute to his long and illustrious career.

Up for grabs will be iconic film posters, photographs, lobby cards, showcards, film booklets and original artworks of several of his epochal movies that contributed to his metamorphoses – from a struggler to an actor, star, heart-throb, a superstar, a legend and the veteran of 200-plus films now acknowledged as a 'Yug Purush'.

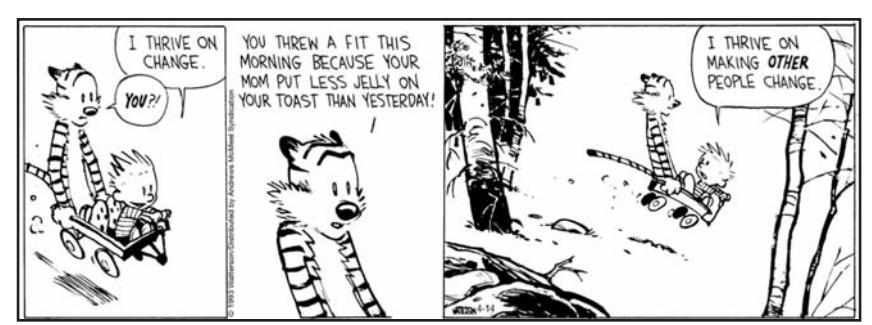
Going up for bids shall be a rare collection of posters of Bachchan's memorable films like *Majboor*, *Mr Natwarlal*, *The Great Gambler*, *Silsila and Kaalia*, *Naseeb*, among others. "These unique pieces are a testament to the artistic craftsmanship of yesteryears, offering a glimpse into the intricate process that once brought the magic of cinema to life. Some are priced around Rs 8,000 and some in the range of Rs 100,000 per piece," said an official for the auctioneers.



PEANUTS



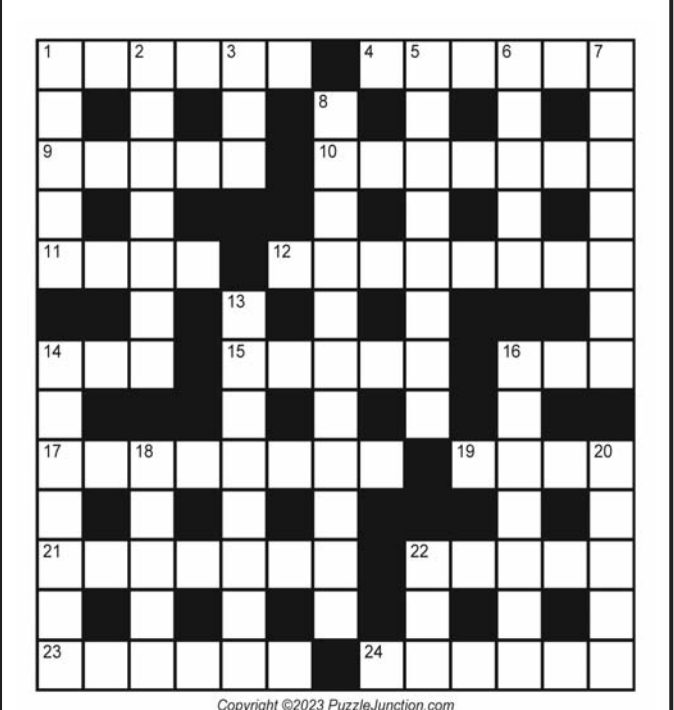
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



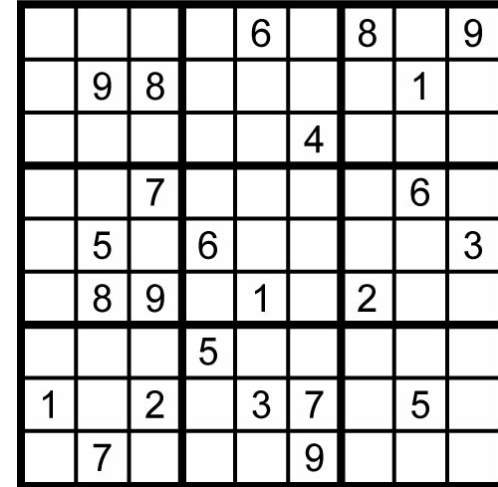
FUN post CROSSWORD



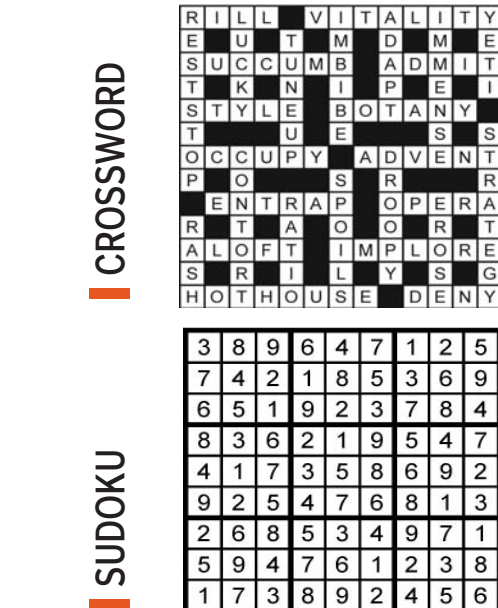
- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Skink, for one
 - 4 Dens
 - 9 Weather forecast
 - 10 Imaginary line
 - 11 Lingerie item
 - 12 Go-between
 - 14 Neon, e.g.
 - 15 Horrible
 - 16 Wordplay
 - 17 Antiquated
 - 19 On the briny
 - 21 Pheasant
 - 22 Torment
 - 23 Means of escape
 - 24 Prestige
- Down**
- 1 Leans to one side
 - 2 Butterfly attractors
 - 3 Manta
 - 5 Type of sprout
 - 6 Extreme
 - 7 Near the beginning (5,2)
 - 8 Enchantress (5,6)
 - 13 Party items
 - 14 Rock group follower
 - 16 Faint (4,3)
 - 18 Fab Four drummer
 - 20 Chasm
 - 22 Aardvark's morsel

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

CULTURAL EVENING

Musicians perform during an event organised by Odia Language, Literature and Culture department at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



65-year-old man killed by nephew over black magic

Bhawanipatna, Oct 1: A 65-year-old man was allegedly murdered by his nephew who suspected that he was doing black magic, targeting him and his family, police said. The incident happened in Sikerguda village in Bhawanipatna Sadar police station area of Kalahandi district, they said. The nephew, 35, was suspecting the man of doing black magic to harm his family. When the man was working in the field, the accused allegedly attacked him with an axe and he died on the spot. Police said they have detained the accused, his brother and his father for questioning. An investigation is underway, they said.

Heavy rain likely till Oct 5

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Heavy rains are likely to continue in parts of Odisha till October 5 due to a well-marked low-pressure area over West Bengal and neighbouring Jharkhand, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Sunday.

In the last 24 hours, heavy rains lashed parts of Khurda, Puri, Kendrapara and Nayagarh districts, it said.

Jatni in Khurda district recorded the highest rainfall in the state at 138 mm, followed by 96 mm at Satyabadi in Puri district and 87 mm rainfall in Kendrapara, it added.

An 'Orange' warning of heavy rainfall was issued for Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Sambalpur districts Monday.



WEATHERMAN SAYS

Heavy rains lashed parts of Khurda, Puri, Kendrapara and Nayagarh districts in the last 24 hours

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An 'Orange' warning of heavy rainfall was issued for Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Sambalpur districts Monday

Sambalpur districts Monday.

Heavy rains are also likely in Bargarh, Subarnapur, Bolangir, Angul, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and

Kendrapara, the IMD said. It also predicted thunderstorms along with lightning in Balasore, Cuttack and Khurda, among others.

Playwright Tripurari Sharma passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: Well-known playwright and former National School of Drama professor Tripurari Sharma passed away Sunday after a prolonged illness, her friend and actor Amitabh Shrivastava said. She was 67.

According to Shrivastava, who was Sharma's batchmate at the National School of Drama, she was suffering from a lung-related ailment since 2017 and had gone to Secunderabad for treatment where she died Sunday morning.

"She was not keeping well for the last couple of years now. One of her lungs was not functioning at all because of this her family took her to Secunderabad for a lung transplant. However, I believe that just could not happen and this morning she passed away," Shrivastava told PTI.

2 DRUG PEDDLERS HELD

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch Sunday claimed to have arrested two drug peddlers who were on the run for months now.

The arrested were identified as Md Sadam of Pipli in Puri district and Chittaranjan Behera of Fategarh in Nayagarh district.

STF sources said Md Sadam, an accused in an NDPS case who had been on the run for the last 20 months, was apprehended by the sleuths during a raid in Khurda, Friday.

About the case, an official said over 3 kilogram of brown sugar worth Rs 3.10 crore, arms, ammunitions and Rs 65.32 lakh in cash was recovered from Md Sadam and his associates during a raid in Nayagarh district January 24, 2022. Md Sadam and his aides, however, had man-



aged to give the cops a slip during the raid in 2022.

About Chittaranjan, STF sources said he was on the run for two years now. Chittaranjan was nabbed by the STF from his hideout in Bhubaneswar here Friday. He is involved in a case registered at the STF police station December 20, 2021.

Earlier, Chittaranjan and two of his aides were arrested from Bhapur area of Dhenkanal district after heroin worth over Rs 1 crore was recovered from them. Chittaranjan, however, had then managed to flee.

Md Sadam and Chittaranjan were Saturday produced before courts in Nayagarh and Dhenkanal respectively.

Senior citizens valuable assets of society: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Senior citizens are valuable assets of society, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Sunday, calling upon people to take care of them.

Joining virtually an event organised by the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department at Rabindra Mandap here to mark International Day for Older Persons, the Chief Minister said they have experience and solutions to different problems.

"The blessings of senior citizens are precious for us. They have experience and solutions to different problems. So, we have to learn more from them," Patnaik said.

Highlighting various welfare schemes for the elderly, Patnaik said the state gov-



ernment has added additional 4 lakh beneficiaries to the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY).

Facilities such as old age homes, geriatric ward and physiotherapy centres in different hospitals have also been made available for senior citizens, the Chief Minister said, calling upon people to work collectively for the betterment and good health of the elderly.

SSEPD Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, who attended the event as guest of honour, described senior citizens as the guardian of the society while highlighting on the commitment of state government for social security, health services and quality life of the elderly. He also focused on various schemes and programmes of the SSEPD department for welfare of the elderly.

The blessings of senior citizens are precious for us. They have experience and solutions to different problems. So, we have to learn more from them

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

Development Commissioner Anu Garg and twin city Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi also spoke on the occasion.

While SSEPD department Principal Secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani and Director Bratati Harichandan presented the activity report, department Special Secretary Dillip Roy welcomed the guests.

Capital Hospital, UNFPA and Sightsavers India organised a health as well as eye checkup camps and awareness campaign on the occasion.



SHOW OF SOLIDARITY: Members of Rashtriya Dalit Mahasabha stage a demonstration near Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, condemning BJP MLAs' alleged 'dal attack' on Speaker Pramila Mallik in Assembly

GST COLLECTION UP BY 12.85% IN SEPTEMBER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Odisha's GST collection increased by 12.85 per cent to Rs 4,249.12 crore in September, officials said Sunday. The state had collected a gross GST revenue of Rs 3,765.17 crore in the same month last year, they said.

The collection to be retained by the state (OGST+IGST settlement) was Rs 1,651.58 crore, against 1,157.08 crore in September 2022, a growth of 42.74 per cent, they added.

The state generated 20.66 lakh waybills in September, as compared to 17.66 lakh waybills during the corresponding period of last year.

Helped by improved compliance, overall GST collections in the country increased by 10 per cent to over Rs 1.62 lakh crore in September, crossing the Rs 1.6 lakh crore-mark for the fourth time during the



The collection to be retained by the state (OGST+IGST settlement) was ₹1,651.58 crore, against 1,157.08 crore in September 2022, a growth of 42.74 per cent

Odisha had collected a gross GST revenue of ₹3,765.17 crore in the same month last year

The state generated 20.66 lakh waybills in September, as compared to 17.66 lakh waybills during the corresponding period of last year

current financial year.

The collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha including GST/ VAT/ Entry Tax / Profession Tax, is

Rs 2,638.17 crore during the month of September 2023 as against collection of Rs 2,070.26 crore during September 2022 with a growth rate of 27.43 per cent.

COURT NAMES CHILD

Kochi: The Kerala High Court has named a three-year-old child, after the girl's estranged parents could not arrive at a consensus on what they should name her. Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas, in an order issued last month, said the name suggested by the mother, with whom the child is presently residing, has to be given due importance, while the name of the father is also to be incorporated due to the absence of any dispute on paternity. The matter pertained to an estranged couple fighting over their daughter's name. As the birth certificate issued to the girl had no name on it, her mother attempted to register a name. However, the Registrar of Births and Deaths insisted on the presence of both parents before him to register the name. As the couple could not arrive at a consensus on the name, the mother approached the High Court. The child was born February 12, 2020 and the relationship between the parents turned sour. The court, in its September 5 order, observed that while invoking its parens patriae jurisdiction, the paramount consideration was the welfare of the child and not the rights of the parents.

'Inverse vax' offers hope for arthritis, Type-1 diabetes

A new type of vaccine that does not shut down the immune system has shown promise in the lab to completely reverse autoimmune diseases like arthritis, multiple sclerosis, Type-1 diabetes, and Crohn's disease.

A typical vaccine teaches the human immune system to recognise a virus or bacteria as an enemy that should be attacked. Currently autoimmune diseases are generally treated with drugs that broadly shut down the immune system.

The new "inverse vaccine," developed by researchers at the University of Chicago, does just the opposite: it removes the immune system's memory of one molecule. While such immune memory erasure would be unwanted for infectious diseases, it can stop autoimmune reactions like those seen in multiple scle-

rosis, Type I diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis or Crohn's disease, in which the immune system attacks a person's healthy tissues.

The inverse vaccine, described in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering, takes advantage of how the liver naturally marks molecules from broken-down cells with "do not attack" flags to prevent autoimmune reactions to cells that die by natural processes.

"In the past, we showed that we could use this approach to prevent autoimmunity," said lead author Jeffrey Hubbell, Professor in Tissue Engineering from the varsity's Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME).

"But what is so exciting about this work is that we have shown that we can treat diseases like multiple sclerosis after there is already ongoing inflammation, which is more useful in a real-



IMMUNE MEMORY ERASURE ACHIEVED BY THE NEW VACCINE CAN STOP AUTOIMMUNE REACTIONS LIKE THOSE SEEN IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, TYPE I DIABETES, RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS OR CROHN'S DISEASE

world context," he added.

The human body has a mechanism for ensuring that immune reactions don't occur in response to every damaged cell in the body - a phenomenon known as peripheral immune tolerance and carried out in the liver. The team discovered in recent years that

A typical vaccine teaches the human immune system to recognise a virus or bacteria as an enemy that should be attacked

The new "inverse vaccine," developed by researchers at the University of Chicago, does just the opposite: it removes the immune system's memory of one molecule

Currently autoimmune diseases are generally treated with drugs that broadly shut down the immune system

tagging molecules with a sugar known as N-acetylgalactosamine (pGal) could mimic this process, sending the molecules to the liver where tolerance to them develops. "The idea is that we can attach any molecule we want to pGal and it will teach the immune system to tolerate it," ex-

plained Hubbell. "Rather than rev up immunity as with a vaccine, we can tamp it down in a very specific way with an inverse vaccine."

In the new study, the researchers focused on a multiple-sclerosis-like disease in which the immune system attacks myelin, leading to weakness and numbness, loss of vision and, eventually, mobility problems and paralysis. The team linked myelin proteins to pGal and tested the effect of the new inverse vaccine. The immune system, they found, stopped attacking myelin, allowing nerves to function correctly again and reversing symptoms of disease in animals. In a series of other experiments, the scientists showed that the same approach worked to minimise other ongoing immune reactions. "These treatments can be very effective, but you're also blocking the immune responses necessary to fight off infections and so there are a lot of side effects," said Hubbell. "If we could treat patients with an inverse vaccine instead, it could be much more specific and lead to fewer side effects."

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE DAY

CM: Govt committed to promote Koraput Coffee

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Koraput Coffee has carved a niche with its premium quality and the government is committed to promote it, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on International Coffee Day here, Sunday.

He added that government will ensure expansion of coffee cultivation to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal people including women.

Odisha is now making the world wake up and smell its homegrown coffee. Or, rather sip it. It's called Koraput Coffee—premium Arabica with a hint of the acidic Robusta and it's fit for royalty. Odisha's caffeinated brew compliments the first coffee seeds sown as a fancy experiment in the sun kissed, rich reddish-brown soil of Bichalkota village in Koraput on the Eastern Ghats by the polyglot Maharaja of Jeypore, Rajbahadur Rama Chandra Deo, in the 1930s.

It has been around for years, but this coffee came of age only recently when Chief Minister's government decided to package it as a signature brand and push its sales vigorously in the domestic and international market through outlets as well as online e-commerce platforms like Amazon. And thus, the brand Koraput

Coffee was launched in 2019.

The secret to a great Koraput Coffee, it turns out, is the way it is organically grown, picked, dried, roasted and ground. Odisha's southernmost district of Koraput is the state's tribal heartland, with rolling hills, valleys, roaring rivers, spectacular waterfalls, deciduous forests, and a pleasantly humid, sun-drenched climate perfect for coffee bushes to thrive and fruit all year round.

Their mission is to provide sustainably sourced, hand-picked, micro-roasted quality coffee. Great coffee is our passion and we want to share it with you. They improve the livelihoods of tribal farmers by paying them a fair price for the wild forest coffee they grow. With access to land, training, and the market they break their reliance on podu farming, planting trees that restore the natural eco-system.

International Coffee Day is an occasion that is used to promote and celebrate coffee as a beverage, with events now occurring in places around the world. The first official date was 3 October 2015, as agreed by then International Coffee Organization and was launched in Milan. The day is also used to promote fair trade coffee and to raise awareness for the plight of the coffee growers.



BMC gears up for water-logging

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: To meet with the challenges in the wake of heavy rainfall, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has activated its 24*7 city call center, which will be fully operational to manage issues related to water-logging and other concerns. In light of the situation, all leaves for BMC officials have been canceled to ensure a swift and coordinated response.

Citizens are urged to contact BMC through the toll-free number 1929 to report incidents of water-logging, fallen tree branches, or any other weather-related issues. To enhance community engagement, officials are told to create WhatsApp groups to share information and report concerns promptly.

In line with our preparations, deputy commissioners have been instructed to identify low-lying areas and collaborate with Block Education Officers (BEOs) and school headmasters to designate

shelter locations. Ward-level preparations are underway, with the active involvement of local corporators.

Furthermore, BMC is proactively monitoring the cleanliness of drainage systems and taking measures to clear debris and ensure the unobstructed flow of water. Identifying potential water-logging areas is a priority, and BMC is ensuring an ample supply of pump sets and generators for efficient drainage.

Additionally, teams have been tasked with identifying potential water-logging areas and ensuring an adequate supply of pump sets and generators. The Odraf and Fire departments are on standby with necessary equipment. Medical personnel and health officers are ready to respond to emergencies.



DRAWING ATTENTION: Members of Odisha Nursing Employees' Association, SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack branch stage a sit-in protest in front of hospital Medical Superintendent's office, seeking fulfillment of their 6-point charter of demands, Sunday

City holds 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaigns

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Archaeological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar in collaboration with Geological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar, and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) held a cleanliness drive at Khandagiri and Udayagiri heritage sites here Sunday as part of the Ayushman Bhav Swachhata Hi Seva campaign that encourages people to volunteer for maintaining the cleanliness of public spaces.

Governor Ganeshi Lal, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Khulange joined the campaign to contribute their labour for cleanliness for one hour. "As part of the drive plastics and green waste materials were collected and taken by the sanitary staff of the BMC for recycling. More than 600 people actively participated from across



the society," said a BMC official. The drive doesn't only make the atmosphere of the monument peaceful for the tourist, also makes them aware about the importance of cleanliness and proper use of dustbins, the official said.

AIIMS, Bhubaneswar also conducted a cleanliness drive at Deras dam here Sunday. "The dam, a picturesque

tourist destination loved by people of the state, boasts natural beauty that AIIMS is dedicated to preserving and protecting," said executive director Ashutosh Biswas who led students, faculty members and employees of the institute in the initiative. Notably, the students and employees cleaned a toilet facility at the dam which was lying in



negligence despite being used by tourists frequently.

Biswas further added, "We are actively participating in the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign to ensure cleanliness of both our academic institution and the surrounding areas." AIIMS has also taken initiatives to spread awareness among tourists and locals about keeping the dam area clean

and pristine, he informed. Along with Biswas, the campaign saw participation of medical superintendent Dillip Kumar Parida, Manoj Kumar Mohanty, Soubhagya Kumar Jena, Prabhas Ranjan Tripathy, Ashok Kumar Jena, Rasmi Ranjan Sethy.

Similarly, the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), a constituent under the KIIT DU, organised a cleanliness drive on the medical college campus with principal professor Ambika Prasad Mohanty and medical superintendent Rama Chandra Das leading the initiative.

The drive started at 10am and continued till 11am with participation of the faculty and staff members. "It was a wonderful sight for the public as the doctors, who usually handle patients with their stethoscopes and surgical equipment took brooms and cleaned the campus along with other staff members," said Mohanty.



IN TATTERS: Commuters negotiate a run-down road in Ganesh Ghat area of Cuttack, Sunday

Elderly feted by DAV Unit VIII

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Grandparents play a pivotal role in our life and share a special bond with everyone. The tiny tots of DAV Unit VIII rendered an adoring tribute to their adorable grandparents Saturday at an event to honour elderly people.

The senior people were given a warm welcome by a rendition signifying the important role played by them. The Principal Ipsita Das, in her welcome speech, addressed them as the messenger of love and affection and ambassadors of enriched culture and tradition.

Fresh flower arrangement and

draw and paint competitions were organised for the grandparents. Sudeshna Mishra and Anupama Pradhan were the winners of the programmes. RN Adwiti received Malti Devi Memorial Award and Master Prayash Nayak received Kulamani Das Memorial Award for being the best girl and boy for the academic session 2022-23.

All the grandparents and students were felicitated by the Chairman Santosh Upadhyay. The little wonders staged a programme 'Roopayan', presenting the mythological episodes and avatars of god and goddesses which captivated everyone's attention.

ChatGPT shows promise for effective psychotherapy

Open AI's ChatGPT-4 can accurately generate individualised personal narratives based on stream-of-consciousness thoughts and demographic details, two studies have suggested.

Previous research has shown that personal narratives -- the stories we tell ourselves about our lives -- can play a critical role in identity and help us make sense of the past and present. It is also known that by helping people reinterpret narratives, therapists can guide patients toward healthier thoughts and behaviours.

To explore, researchers from the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania

tested the ability of ChatGPT-4 to generate individualised personal narratives.

The study findings, published in the Journal of Positive Psychology, showed that 25 of the 26 participants rated the AI-generated responses as completely or mostly accurate, 19 rated the narratives as very or somewhat surprising, and 19 indicated they learned something new about themselves.

"This is a rare moment in the history of scientific psychology: Artificial intelligence now promises much more effective psychotherapy and coaching," said Martin Seligman, Professor of Psychology, and director of the Positive Psychology Center.



For each participant, the researchers fed ChatGPT-4 recorded stream-of-consciousness thoughts, which were likened to diary entries with thoughts as

simple as "I'm hungry" or "I'm tired."

In a separate study published concurrently in The Journal of Positive Psychology, the team

This is a rare moment in the history of scientific psychology: Artificial intelligence now promises much more effective psychotherapy and coaching

MARTIN SELIGMAN | DIRECTOR OF THE POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY CENTER

fed five narratives rated "completely accurate" into ChatGPT-4, asked for specific interventions, and found that the chatbot generated highly plausible coaching strategies and interventions. "Since coaching and therapy typically involve a great deal of initial time spent fleshing out such an identity, deriving this au-

tomatically from 50 thoughts represents a major savings," the researchers said.

The team found that ChatGPT was able to, with just 50 stream-of-consciousness thoughts and very basic demographic information, come up with a highly accurate and detailed personal narrative.

"This could be a tool for helping people gain self-insight. We see this as something that can be used in the therapeutic context, not as something that would replace a therapist," the researchers said.

"This research is exploratory; there is absolutely a need to continue the research and deploy this with coaches," they added.

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SU mulls 3 new PG courses

POST NEWS NETWORK
Sambalpur, Oct 1: The academic landscape of Sambalpur University is set to expand as the institution is planning to launch three new Post Graduate (PG) programmes from the next academic session. The varsity authorities have submitted a proposal to the government to introduce PG programmes in Education, Commerce and Sanskrit.



Official sources said, there is an Education department in Sambalpur University but it does not offer PG in Education. Instead, the department offers three year integrated B.Ed and M.Ed programmes. Currently, the varsity, which was established in 1967, offers 35 science and arts courses from 26 departments.



WALK FOR ELDERLY: School students take out an awareness rally on the occasion of 'International Day of Older Persons' organised by the district administration in Sambalpur, Sunday

Scrub typhus claims another in Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: With one more patient succumbing to scrub typhus in Bargarh district Sunday, the toll due to this vector-borne disease has reached seven in the district.

Patients suffer as DDMCH not fully operational

Studies are going on inside the new DDMCH campus while its hospital unit continues to function from the DHH premises in Keonjhar town even as over seven months have passed after inauguration

POST NEWS NETWORK
Keonjhar, Oct 1: Newly inaugurated Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital (DDMCH) at Kabitra near Keonjhar town has failed to be of any use to the patients as it is yet to become fully operational months after its inauguration.



Residents of Keonjhar town felt relieved after the establishment of DDMCH. However, it has failed to serve its purpose for which it was established, locals alleged. Patients and their attendants continue to throng the district headquarters hospital (DHH) premises as the newly inaugurated hospital is yet to become fully functional inside the medical college campus.

for check-up with a super specialist doctor usually have to stand in queue from the previous night in order to get a ticket. Moreover, they have to jostle with others in the crowd as the ticket counter lies close to the medicine counter. Patients from outside the state are the worst sufferers.

moolah fleeing the poor patients, social activist Dillip Sahu said. Moreover, the DHH has no ICU facility for emergency patients. People said that the buildings in the DDMCH will soon get damaged if they are not put to use for a long time.

ITI launches elephant statue made from 30K plastic bottles



POST NEWS NETWORK
Berhampur, Oct 1: The Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) here has been making unique statues and sculptures going by its "Waste to Wealth" mantra. This time, however, its students have built a 23-foot elephant statue inspired by the Prime Minister's call for "Swachhata Hi Seva" ahead of the Gandhi Jayanti.

Govt official, wife awarded 2 yrs jail in corruption case

An ex-WEO of Nuagaon block in Nayagarh was awarded 4-yr jail and a retired VLW of Angul district sentenced to 3 yrs in jail in separate corruption cases



Berhampur/Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: A government official and his wife were sentenced to two years in jail by a court in a 14-year-old corruption case. The Special Vigilance Court sentenced N Prakash Patra and his wife N Santoshini Patra to two years in jail after convicting them in the corruption case.

conducted, said Panda. The wife was arrested as she allegedly abetted the offence committed by her husband, he said. A Vigilance court in Bhubaneswar sentenced Ludasini Nayak, an ex-welfare extension officer of Nuagaon block in Nayagarh district, to four years in jail in a different corruption case.

'Keonjhar shows the way in maternal, childcare initiatives'

POST NEWS NETWORK
Keonjhar, Oct 1: A day-long workshop titled 'Empowerment through Nutrition: Together towards a Healthy Keonjhar' was organised by the Keonjhar district administration Saturday at the Keonjhar auditorium.

Keonjhar district has shown the way. Keonjhar has created a model of its own, which others are following. The NITI Aayog also appreciated it," he said.



Keonjhar is the first district in the country where eggs are being distributed to children in schools and Anganwadi centres every day. Keonjhar is also a leading district in implementing the Odisha Millet Mission.

assistant professor Dr Priyanka Dixit, project director (Nutrition) CINI Swapan Vikas Shah, Kalavati Saran Children's Hospital senior consultant Dr Rajesh Sinha and Keonjhar CDM & PHO Dr Kishore Kumar Prusty were present on the dais.



UP IN ARMS: Women SHG members destroying an illegal country liquor shop under Dasmanthpur block of Koraput district. As many as 20 women members of various SHGs of five villages were up in arms protesting rampant manufacture and sale of country liquor.

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FOCUS GANDHI JAYANTI

ASHRAMS FOR EDUCATION



We realise that education will play an important part in the liberation of people trapped in a consumerist culture, where the gap between those who have power and privilege, and those who are disempowered is increasing

he later re-wrote and published in 1998, entitled "Art: The Basis of Education." He suggested that through traditional village crafts young people could learn to be innovative, while serving the local community. After attending a conference at Gandhigram on War Resister's International, Devi Prasad became involved with peace education. This conference introduced him to a pacifist approach to art and craft, very much in line with Gandhi's understanding of working with natural materials. In 1983, a major retrospective of Devi Prasad's art and craft was held in Delhi. As an artist and craftsman, he embodied both the ideals of Gandhi and Tagore through his approach to art and craft which he learnt at Santiniketan, later devoting his creativity to peace education and non-violence.

As we think of the relevance of ashram ideals in the thought of both Tagore and Gandhi, we realise that they were ecologically inspired. Gandhi Jayanti, 2023 may help us consider the importance of an education engaging with our natural environment. The neo-Gandhian Sri Sunderlal Bahuguna transformed a folk ritual of embracing trees into socio-ecological activism that came to be known as the "Chipko movement." Increasingly young people are becoming conscious of climate change, brought about by the ecological crisis that will affect particularly the lives of those living close to the earth, such as farmers and the economically marginalised. We realise that education will play an important part in the liberation of people trapped in a consumerist culture, where the gap between those who have power and privilege, and those who are disempowered is increasing. A Gandhian approach to holistic education is now more necessary than ever before.

The writer is a freelance artist, author and art teacher.
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In the spring of 1915, a group from the Phoenix experiment in South Africa, where Gandhiji had founded in 1904 an Ashram type of community called the "Tolstoy Farm," were welcomed at Santiniketan by Rabindranath Tagore. The link between Gandhi and Tagore was furthered by CF Andrews who had made Santiniketan his home, and had suggested that Gandhi and a group of his followers should come to this Ashram when returning to work in India. Both Gandhi and Tagore had felt that an experiment in education should be the basis for rediscovering an authentic indigenous identity founded on the cultural experience of India. Tagore had initiated a type of schooling different from the Western model introduced by colonial institutions concerned to provide its local government with literate and motivated intellectuals. For Tagore his childhood experience of schooling had been a frustrating and crushing process, encaging his creative mind. He believed that a true way to broaden the horizons of a young person was to learn through a natural environment, and in harmony with the whole of creation. In 1901, he had initiated an Ashram school where children were liberated from a closed classroom, and allowed to play and learn in the open under the branches of trees.

In 1863, Maharshi Devendranath Tagore, father of Rabindranath, purchased a property in the countryside which he called Santiniketan, where he started to live in accordance with ancient spiritual values. He gave shape to a new approach in spirituality based on the Vedas, by constructing a place for meditation under a Chhatim tree, and following a simple life close to nature. Rabindranath first visited this Ashram in 1878 when he was twelve years old, and later went to settle in the Ashram to pursue his literary vocation as a poet. Both Tagore and Gandhi were inspired by a way of learning that was in harmony with nature. In the Jain tradition, from which Gandhiji learnt the concept of Ahimsa, we read: "In deep antiquity human beings received all that was necessary for life from the godly trees." Trees played an important part in the enlightenment of Gautam Buddha. Tagore himself in his reflections on the Creative Ideal, speaks of "The Religion of the Forest." Marjorie Sykes, a Quaker educationist who made India her home, worked both with Gandhi and Tagore, in their search for a more holistic approach to learning through the environment. She mentions that the celebration of festivals was an essential way of relating the life of a community to the rhythms of nature.

In 1928, Tagore started a tree planting festival in Santiniketan. This 'Vriksharopana Utsav' became a regular feature of the ashram life at Santiniketan from 1936. Other festivals related to the seasons, like the folk "Posh mela" when local craftspeople were invited to bring their artefacts and village industries, or the Spring Festival when students at Viswa Bharathi were involved in a joyous celebration of dance and music, using local cultural forms like the 'Alpona' designs, and going in procession through the wooded campus adorned with flowers and



Jyoti Sahi

A GANDHIAN APPROACH TO HOLISTIC EDUCATION IS NOW MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER BEFORE

'Scandals' In China

Something is seriously wrong in China. Even as it goes on testing India's military mettle and teasing the political leadership ruling the country, sneaking into its borders or claiming a whole bordering state as its own, it seems to have huge problems in its own backyard. Ironically, it is more a reflection of the leadership of President Xi Jinping, who has recently got the status equivalent to that of Mao Zedong, than of individual leaders who have been made to play second fiddle to him. China is now experiencing what some would like to compare with the purge during the infamous Cultural Revolution during Mao's regime. The sudden disappearance from public life of two prominent leaders once handpicked by Xi himself - foreign minister Qin Gang and defence minister Li Shangfu - does have elements of the ruthlessness displayed during that previous dark chapter of China's history.

The parallel is inevitable, though the stature of the two leaders is in no way comparable to Lin Biao whom Mao Zedong himself declared in 1971 to be his successor. But, he fell from grace, fled the country and was killed in an air crash in Mongolia. True to the Chinese Communist Party's legacy of secrecy, Lin Biao's death was announced weeks after he had perished. The recent disappearances from China's top echelons are but a pale shadow of what happened during the Cultural Revolution's purge. These events show Beijing has not changed much so far as the character of the dictatorship of its supreme leader is concerned. What is worse is the fact that the conspicuous absence of the two leaders is now being explained in the state media as consequences of unparadigmatic moral turpitude and fraudulent acts as if to confirm the adage of giving a bad name to a dog before hanging it.

When Qin Gang, the foreign minister, could not be mysteriously seen in public in June, it created ripples in international politics because of his diplomatic role in world affairs. The authorities took nearly a month before confirming that he had been removed from his post. A few weeks later, he was followed by China's defence minister, Li Shangfu who failed to attend scheduled meetings with foreign officials. Soon it was given out by official sources that he was being investigated over corruption in military procurement. In fact, two most senior generals in charge of nuclear and conventional land-based missiles had already been replaced at the beginning of August. One of them was said to be facing corruption charges.

Corruption, it seems, has become almost a way of life in China for years which prompted Xi, during his first few years as President, to virtually launch a crusade against it. His actions were one of the reasons for his popularity as the average Chinese citizens were fed up with the corruption of party bosses and functionaries throughout the length and breadth of the country.

As is seen in many other countries, whatever form of government they embrace, corruption is always used by the powers that be as a tool for political vendetta. Xi is no exception and he used it to cut his rivals or potential threats to his leadership to size. Recently, he has stressed the need to tighten party control of the army which may explain the absence of the defence minister and actions against high profile army generals.

In the case of Qin, Xi has reasons to project him as a threat to national security. Reports suggested Qin had a child with a woman to whom he is not married via a surrogate mother in the US. The woman's social media posts, the fact that surrogacy is illegal in China, and the existence of a child with US citizenship might all be used by Xi as weighty reasons to fire him.

Yet, Xi cannot escape his share of blame for the supposed wrongdoings of the two. This is because they were his chosen men. His proven loyalists alone could occupy such high positions of power for the long periods they had. The question arises whether Xi's assessment and judgement of his own loyalists was faulty. It is most unlikely that he could err on this score since such appointments are made on the basis of performances for years and intelligence clearances. This makes the world suspect whether there is much more in these developments than what meets the eye.

WISDOM CORNER

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.

MARK TWAIN

Try to realise it's all within yourself no one else can make you change, and to see you're only very small and life flows on within you and without you.

GEORGE HARRISON

Your visions will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.

CG JUNG

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1836: Naturalist Charles Darwin returned to England this day in 1836 after a five-year journey on the HMS Beagle, on which he gathered the specimens and observations that led to his theory of evolution by natural selection. Beagle sailed from Plymouth Sound on 27 December 1831 under the command of Captain Robert FitzRoy. While the expedition was originally planned to last two years, it lasted almost five—Beagle returned on 2 October 1836. Darwin spent most of this time exploring on land (three years and three months on land; 18 months at sea). "The Voyage of the Beagle" is the title most commonly given to the book written by Charles Darwin and published in 1839 as his Journal and Remarks, bringing him considerable fame and respect.

1935: Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie ordered mobilisation upon learning that Italian forces had crossed the frontier to begin the Italo-Ethiopian War. The Second Italo-Ethiopian War, also referred to as the Second Italo-Abyssinian War, was a war of aggression which was fought between Italy and Ethiopia from October 1935 to February 1937. It is seen as an example of the expansionist policy that characterized the Axis powers and the ineffectiveness of the League of Nations before the outbreak of the Second World War.

1950: Peanuts was published for the first time. Charles M. Schulz's comic strip was printed for the first time in 9 newspapers around the U.S. Peanuts is a syndicated daily and Sunday American comic strip written and illustrated by Charles M. Schulz. The strip's original run extended from 1950 to 2000, continuing in reruns afterward. Peanuts is among the most popular and influential in the history of comic strips, with 17,897 strips published in all, making it "arguably the longest story ever told by one human being."

LOL

SCHOOL CAFETERIA

In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching."



Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Affirmative action under siege

Should individuals receive differential treatment based on race, caste, gender, religion, or any other accident of birth? In June 2023, the US Supreme Court answered this question with a firm "no," as it struck down affirmative action in higher education. The plaintiffs in the case, Students for Fair Admissions, had sued Harvard College and the University of North Carolina, alleging that their race-conscious admissions policies discriminated against Asian-American applicants.

When countries are riddled with deep-rooted intergroup inequalities, any group-based policy like affirmative action presents a conundrum. Efforts to redress historical discrimination, such as slavery or caste bias, and to promote equal opportunities for marginalised communities are inevitable. But so, too, is the eventual backlash against such policies for perpetuating "reverse discrimination" and protecting their beneficiaries from the rigors of competition. Inequality of opportunity is not a matter of a country's wealth. The US is considerably wealthier than India, with a per

capita GDP roughly nine times higher in purchasing-power-parity terms. Moreover, 88% of eligible students in the US are enrolled in colleges and universities, compared to only 31% in India. Yet both countries have enacted affirmative action policies.

In the US, these policies can be traced back to the 1960s civil rights movement, which sought to dismantle systemic racism and segregation - the legacy of centuries of slavery. Affirmative action was intended to remedy the serious historical discrimination and ongoing disadvantages faced by African Americans, women, and other minorities.

India's longstanding affirmative action policies are also being eroded. The country's 1950 Constitution formalised the British-era "reservation" policy mandating political, educational, and public-sector-employment quotas for Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Some of these policies were later extended to Other Backward Classes (OBCs), defined as castes and communities that are socially or educationally "backward" (a non-pejorative term in Indian discourse) but not stigmatised

in the same way as SCs and STs. Conceived as a form of compensatory discrimination, India's reservation policy targeted all SCs and STs, regardless of economic status, and non-wealthy OBCs (well-off OBCs, whom Indians refer to as the "creamy layer," were excluded). But in 2019, the authorities announced an additional 10% quota in jobs and education for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society. To qualify for this quota, families must earn less than ₹800,000 (just under \$10,000) per year and cannot be members of SCs, STs, or OBCs. More than 98% of Indians qualify based on this income cut-off.

By focusing solely on economic conditions, rather than marginalisation and discrimination based on social identity, the new EWS quota turned the reservation policy on its head. It was challenged in court for excluding SCs, STs, and OBCs, but in November 2022, India's Supreme Court upheld the programme's validity. For the first time since India gained independence, disproportionately poor groups - those with the highest percentage of individuals below the

poverty line - are excluded from a quota that is, in principle, meant to target economic deprivation.

The EWS reservation is presented as being based on economic criteria and not identity. But in reality, it is very much a caste-based quota, specifically targeting groups that do not suffer any discrimination and, in fact, rank the highest on the social scale of ritual purity. The Indian government has effectively created a quota for the upper castes - all but the top earners qualify.

Affirmative action policies in the US and India were created to address historical discrimination and promote social justice. Over time, they led to increased representation and opportunities for marginalised communities. But this guiding principle has dimmed considerably, leaving little hope of creating a level playing field in either country.

The writer is Professor of Economics and Founding Director of the Centre for Economic Data and Analysis at Ashoka University.
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Ashwini Deshpande

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICIES IN THE US AND INDIA WERE CREATED TO ADDRESS HISTORICAL DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Apostle of peace

Sir, It is apt that October 2, the birth anniversary of the peerless Mahatma, is observed as the "International Day of Non Violence." Nothing can generate love and compassion between countries and individuals than non-violence. The Mahatma said non-violence is the "summit of bravery." Therefore, only brave countries with equally brave leaders can preach and practice the same. He had inbuilt qualities of righteousness and morality that could touch thousands of lives. The Mahatma firmly believed non-violence cuts without wounding, and ennobles the man who wields it. Gandhi substituted good with peace loving and not-so-good with non-violence. That is why he is considered to be the torch-bearer of non-violence.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

ISRO eyes exo-planets

Sir, After the success of the Moon mission, ISRO has set sight on unlocking the mysteries of dying stars and exo-planets some of which are known to have atmosphere and are considered habitable, Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman S Somanath has said. Delivering a lecture, he said the space agency was also planning a mission to study the planet Venus, two satellites to study space climate and its impact on the earth, and conceptualising a project to land a spacecraft on Mars. He said the XPOsat or the X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite, meant to study bright X-ray pulsars or stars that are in the process of death, was ready for launch in December this year. "We are also conceiving a satellite called ExoWorlds, a mission for looking at exo-solar planets or planets that are outside our solar system and orbiting other stars," Somanath said. He said there were more than 5,000 known exo-planets of which at least 100 were considered to have atmospheres. The ExoWorlds mission will study the atmosphere of exo-planets and whether they are livable or they host life. Somanath said the plans for a Mars Lander Mission too were at the conceptual stage. ISRO's continuous progress in space science will prove to be a milestone in the development of science. This mission of ISRO will provide knowledge about the world and information about the history of the Earth.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

RJD mavericks give BJP Hindutva ammunition to fire

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 1: Bihar is a state known for its diversity in politics thanks to regional parties ruling here for the last 33 years.

And the diversity of politics reached to the micro level in Bihar with individual leaders going beyond party lines.

Leaders like education minister Professor Chandrashekher, RJD state president Jagadanand Singh, former agriculture minister Sudhakar Singh and RJD MLA Chetan Anand went beyond the party line with their stand by and large suiting the BJP.

Chandrashekher got the maximum headlines while batting on the bouncy pitch of Hindutva in Bihar by criticising the Ramcharitmanas and comparing it with potassium cyanide.

While addressing a gathering during an event to discuss Hindi Sahitya September 14, Chandrashekher said: "It is similar to how we serve 55 types of tasty cuisine and mix one potassium cyanide in it. When I point out such things, they blame me and say I am against Hindu and Sanatan Dharma but when

Mohan Bhagwat says, no one has an objection to it."

Chandrashekher gave a statement against the Ramcharitmanas, and Manu Smriti in January this year and said that these books spread hatred in the society. Since then, he is regularly making statements against Ramcharitmanas.

Chandrashekher, despite being the education minister says he feels powerless as KK Pathak, the additional chief secretary, is making policies for the department and hence he is making statements on Ramcharitmanas to achieve his micro interest and target CM Nitish Kumar.

RJD state president Jagadanand Singh, claimed on September 6 that the country became a slave due to people who put Tika on their foreheads. He added that they were making these efforts again.

Jagadanand Singh is close to Lalu Yadav but his son was forced by Nitish Kumar to resign from the post of agriculture minister. This may have been in the mind of Jagadanand Singh when he made such a statement.

Sudhakar Singh, the son of RJD state president Jagadanand



Singh and former agriculture minister, has compared Nitish Kumar with Shikhandi and a night guard. His statement created a huge uproar among JD-U leaders. When he was the agriculture minister, he said that all employees and officials are thieves and he is a king of

thieves. Sudhakar Singh was pointing out corruption in the department.

RJD MLA Chetan Anand has opened a front against the party's Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha and slammed him for his poem 'Thakur Ka Kuan'. He connected it with Rajput pride and said

that Manoj Jha is being duplicitous (Doglapan) in the name of socialist values.

Manoj Jha, the Rajya Sabha MP and very close to Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav, during his speech on the women reservation bill in the special session of Parliament, cited a poem Thakur Ka Kuan September 22.

All four leaders of the RJD have their own micro interests which have given issues to the BJP to target opponents.

The BJP is facing huge anti-incumbency in the 2024 Lok Sabha election as opposition parties are regularly pointing out failures in the policies the Narendra Modi government made in the last 9 and a half years. Issues like depositing Rs 15 lakh in the bank accounts of every individual, providing jobs to 2 crore people every year, failing to control price rise of essentials and hence the saffron leaders have little face to go before the public and inform people that the Narendra Modi government has done well in one sector and it is directly benefiting the common people of the country, Anand said.

Bihar: 6,146 dengue cases reported in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 1: Bihar is witnessing an alarming rise in dengue cases, with 6,146 cases reported in September; the highest for the month in the last five years, according to the data.

The state had reported 6,421 cases this year; of which 6,146 were reported only in September; three times the 1,896 registered in September last year. As many as 416 cases were reported in the state Friday, with Patna recording the most at 177, followed by Munger at 33, Saran (28), Bhagalpur (27) and Begusarai (17).

According to the National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control of the Union Health Ministry, seven dengue deaths have been reported in Bihar till September 17 this year. As per the health department's data, a total of 13,972 cases were reported last year. As many as 295 people were undergoing treatment at 12 government hospitals till September 30, including 127 at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College



and Hospital in Bhagalpur, 39 at VIMS in Pawapuri and 28 at Patna Medical College and Hospital.

Dr Manoj Kumar, a renowned medical practitioner in the state, told PTL, "There is no need to panic as dengue cases always increase during this season. Keeping homes and surroundings dry and clean and body covered helps curb the spread of the disease. Mosquito repellents and nets must be used and all possible breeding sites should be detected and eliminated."

Patna District Magistrate Chandrasekhar Singh said the administration is keeping a close watch on a daily basis and spraying and fogging are being conducted, while awareness camps on vector borne diseases are also being organised.

Two yrs of Kheri violence but justice eludes victims

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Oct 1: It will be two years Tuesday (October 3) since the Lakhimpur Kheri violence where eight persons, including four farmers were killed, under the Tikunia police station.

However, the case seems to be moving at a snail's pace and the victims wait endlessly for justice.

Politicians have moved on and lost interest in the case. Shockingly, so far, only four out of 171 witnesses have got their statements recorded before court in the case against Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Akay Mishra Temi, who is one of the accused in the matter.

Ashish was arrested October 9, six days after violence broke out during a farmers' protest against three agri-reform laws (since repealed) and the then UP deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

According to the UP Police FIR, four farmers were mowed down by an SUV in which Ashish Mishra was seated. Following this, the person who was driving the SUV and two BJP workers were allegedly lynched by angry farmers. The FIR said that a journalist also died in the violence.



- According to the UP Police FIR, four farmers were mowed down by an SUV in which Ashish Mishra was seated.
- Following this, the person who was driving the SUV and two BJP workers were allegedly lynched by angry farmers
- The FIR said that a journalist also died in the violence

Additional district judge (I) Sunil Kumar Varma, district court, Lakhimpur Kheri, is hearing the case and the first witness recorded his statement in the court in January 2023. Advocate Suresh Singh, representing farmers in the court, said that the case is being listed for hearing once in every 8-10 days.

"The trial began on January 12 this year as a large number of discharge applications came up before the court from both sides

- prosecution and defence," he said.

Several public servants are also witnesses in the case, who were posted in Lakhimpur Kheri when the violence took place.

"The then DM, SDM, ADM, SP, ASP, S-I and others are witnesses in the case," said Singh.

Jagjit Singh, father of one of the farmers who died in the violence, was the first witness of the prosecution to appear before the court January 12, 2023. He is also a complainant in the case. Singh said, "Trial of the case is going on at a satisfactory pace. There is a legal process to conduct a trial. It must be followed." "It will take four to five years to complete the trial in the case," he added.

Summons are issued to witnesses to appear before the court on a particular date, but there is no guarantee that the witness will appear. In such a scenario, notice is issued again and a new date is fixed for the witness to appear. Jagjit Singh, the first witness in the case to record a statement in court, is not satisfied with the pace of trial. "Justice delayed is justice denied. We want the trial to be expedited. If it goes on at this pace, it will take several years to complete," he said.



MATTER OF FAITH: Devotees perform 'tarpan' on the second day of Pitru Paksha, at a ghat in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

J&K inmates shifted to UP jails

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 1: Prisoners from different jails of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) are being shifted to the jails of Uttar Pradesh as a precautionary measure and security concerns.

In one such move, a prisoner Jaweed Ahmad Darr from Baderwah jail of Jammu was shifted to Ambedkar Nagar jail of the state Saturday.

Similarly, over 100 prisoners related to anti-national and terror activities lodged in prisons of J&K have been shifted to jails of Uttar Pradesh after the Centre nullified Article 370 and Section 35A and declared Jammu and Kashmir as two different Union Territories in August 2019.

The UP prisons officials said it was a routine shifting of prisoners.

Although senior police and administrative officials remain tight-lipped over the issue, it is believed the step has been taken for security reasons.



■ In 2019, around 26 prisoners from Jammu and Kashmir were shifted to Agra central, 24 inmates were shifted to Lucknow district jail and 20 others were transferred to Bareilly district jail

■ Similarly, more prisoners from the J&K jails were shifted to other UP jails

"It is just a routine shifting of prisoners from Jammu and Kashmir jails to UP prisons as a precautionary measure," stated DG prisons S.N. Sabat while confirming the move.

The recent shifting of J&K prisoners came to the fore when a team shifting Jaweed Ahmed Darr to Ambedkar Nagar jail took a night halt in Sitapur's Sidhauri police station.

Police personnel involved in the process said over 100 pris-

oners from different jails of J&K were to be shifted to jails of Uttar Pradesh and other northern states.

In 2019, around 26 prisoners from Jammu and Kashmir were shifted to Agra central, 24 inmates were shifted to Lucknow district jail and 20 others were transferred to Bareilly district jail.

Similarly, more prisoners from the J&K jails were shifted to other UP jails.

Mandatory for UP schools to have playgrounds for kids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj, Oct 1: Every school in Uttar Pradesh that seeks recognition will now need to have a minimum playground size for the establishment of private primary and upper primary schools in the state.

A directive issued by Special Secretary (Basic Education) Yatindra Kumar was sent to the Director of Basic Education, outlining changes to the terms and conditions for granting recognition to schools from class 1 to class 8 within the state, as stated by a senior official from the state's Basic Education Department.

According to the new guidelines, primary schools located within urban areas must have a playground measuring at least 500 square meters, while upper primary schools within urban areas require a playground of 1000 square meters.

For schools situated in rural areas, the Basic Education Department will only grant recognition if the playground measures a minimum of 1,000 square meters for primary schools and 2,000 square meters for upper primary schools.

Previously, there were no stringent regulations concerning the size of sports fields required for granting recognition to primary and upper primary schools in the state, officials said.



cmik

UP govt to launch 'Har Ghar Solar Abhiyan' from today



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 1: In order to promote solar energy in the state, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is going to organise 'Har Ghar Solar Abhiyan' in Lucknow and Varanasi for the entire month starting from October 2, marking the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The aim of this campaign is to promote use of solar energy and make efforts to achieve the target set by the Uttar Pradesh government under the Solar Energy Policy 2022 of Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) which aims to achieve 6000 megawatts of solar rooftop plant installations (residential/commercial).

Information regarding the application process and installation of net meter will be provided soon. UPNEDA Director Anupam Shukla said that the first boot camp under 'Har Ghar Solar Abhiyan' will be organised at Vikas Bhawan in Lucknow and near the Municipal Corporation office in Varanasi.

UP BJP's new tactics to woo Dalits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 1: To increase its Dalit outreach ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh is mulling a proposal of taking members of the Scheduled Caste (SC) communities on 'Panchteerth'.

"We are working out modalities in this regard and are awaiting the nod from the party leadership. This will be our gift to Dalits," said a senior BJP functionary on condition of anonymity. The five 'Panchteerth' destinations include Ambedkar's birthplace at Mhow (in Madhya

Pradesh), the three-storeyed house in London where he stayed while studying at the London School of Economics, Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, where Ambedkar embraced Buddhism, 26 Alipur Road in New Delhi, where he died, and the site in Mumbai where Ambedkar was cremated.

The BJP leadership is said to have tasked its SC Morcha to draw a blueprint for the execution of the ambitious idea that could potentially help the saffron outfit bolster its outreach among Dalits, who account for around 21 per cent of the total electorate in the country.

UP sees 9% reduction in murder cases, 16% in robbery

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 1: Murder cases in Uttar Pradesh have dropped by 9 per cent in the past six years, while robberies have come down by 16 per cent during the same period.

During the meeting, the top five and bottom five districts in terms of taking prompt actions and curbing these cases were presented. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed them to take strong action against officers of districts with poor performance.

The spokesman said if their

reports were not found satisfactory in the next month's meeting, further action will be taken.

The spokesman said that Mahoba, Shravasti, Sitapur, Jalaun and Kaushambhi districts have seen a rise in criminal cases.

The Chief Minister has directed officials of these districts to take strict measures and control them. In cases of murder, strong action has been taken in Amroha, Jhansi, Jalaun and Hardoi, while the performance of Chandauli, Auraiyya, Lalitpur and Banda has been rated as 'poor'.

The Chief Minister has is-



■ According to the data released by the state government, a total of 1,921 murder cases were registered in Uttar Pradesh in the past eight months

■ Of them, 1,322 were filed as first information reports (FIRs), final reports were submitted in 90 cases while 509 cases were still under investigation

■ The report highlighted a significant decrease in heinous crimes such as murder, robbery, dacoity and rape over the past six years in the state

in the past eight months, out of which charge sheets were filed in 589 and final reports were submitted in 20, while 180 cases were under investigation.

Over the past eight months, there has been a 24.61 per cent decrease in robbery cases in the state. Out of 2,222 accused involved in the above cases, action was taken against 2,118 accused and 104 accused were wanted, leading to continuous raids to apprehend them.

Similar cases have increased in Maharajganj, Lalitpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Balrampur, and Kasganj districts.

improve their performance.

Similarly, 789 cases of robbery were registered in the state



New Delhi Government employees under the banner of National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS) stage a protest demanding restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi



Activists during a demonstration on the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, in Dharamshala



Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in a special cleanliness programme 'Ek Taarikh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath' (Shramdaan) under the 'Swachhta hi Seva' campaign ahead of Gandhi Jayanti, in New Delhi



Thousands of people gather for a march to support the opposition against the governing populist Law and Justice party in Warsaw, Poland. Polish opposition leader Donald Tusk seeks to boost his election chances for the parliament elections on October 15, leading the rally in the Polish capital



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu with Union Minister Kiren Rijiju flags off the Tawang Marathon in Tawang



Crisis Response Team (CRT) of Jammu and Kashmir Police during a special operation in the forest area along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway ahead of the festive season, near Jammu



AAP workers participate in a protest against the alleged blocking of funds of MGNREGA job card holders of West Bengal by the central government, near Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Kolkata



A woman reacts during the All-National minute of silence in commemoration of Ukrainian soldiers killed in the country's war against Russia on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine

of the day quote

Since there was no dedicated institute for preparation of defence exams in Delhi earlier, the number of officers from Delhi in the armed forces was significantly low. With the AFPS, the Indian Army will have top officers from the national capital soon

Manipur: An uncaring government must immediately remove CM Biren (Singh) and not let Manipur burn any more. Shutters down on the internet is no solution. Stop campaigning and deal with Manipur now!

The Indian Railways utilised 59 per cent of its total capital expenditure in the first six months of the financial year 2023-24

SHORT TAKES

Maken appointed new treasurer

New Delhi: The Congress Sunday appointed its senior leader Ajay Maken as the new treasurer, replacing Pawan Kumar Bansal. Maken is considered a close confidant of Rahul Gandhi and was without any post ever since he resigned as Congress general secretary in charge of Rajasthan a few months ago.

Vice Admiral Sobti takes charge

New Delhi: Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti Sunday assumed charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff. He succeeds Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, who retired after more than 38 years of illustrious service, officials said.

Two doctors die in Kerala

Kochi: Two young doctors died Sunday when the car they were travelling in plunged into the river Periyar at Gothurath near here, police said. Advait (29) and Ajmal (29), both working at a private hospital in the district, died in the accident that occurred at around 12.30 am.

Afghan embassy shuts down

New Delhi: The Afghanistan Embassy in India has announced that it was ceasing its operations from October 1 onwards, citing lack of support from the Indian government in serving its interests.



We welcomed women's reservation because it is a sapling planted by us. You (BJP) did not support us at that time so it could not be passed completely. It was passed only in Rajya Sabha, but could not be passed in Lok Sabha

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

CONTROLLING AIR POLLUTION

The Graded Response Action Plan -- a set of anti-air pollution measures implemented in Delhi-NCR during the winter -- came into effect Sunday



CBI arrests 4 for killing 2 Manipuri youths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Oct 1: Four people were arrested by CBI in connection with the kidnapping and killing of two Manipuri youths, and the government will ensure the maximum punishment for them, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said here Sunday.

The four, including the wife of the main accused, were taken "outside the state" by a special flight, Singh said. Officials of the chief minister's secretariat said two minor girls, aged 11 and 9 years, were detained in connection with the case but they were released later. The two are daughters of the main accused.

To protest against the arrests and demand their release, several tribal organisations based in Churachandpur called for bands of varied duration from Monday. The killing of the two youths - Phijam Hemanjit, a 20-year-old man and Hijam Linthoingambi a girl of 17 years of age - had gone missing on July 6. Photos of their bodies surfaced on September 25 leading to violent protests mainly by students.



"The CBI arrested four people from Henglep area of Churachandpur district for the murder of the two youths. They were outside the state by a special flight," the chief minister told a press conference. He, however, did not disclose where the four accused had been taken.

During the operation leading to their arrest, personnel of the Army, paramilitary forces such as BSF, CRPF and the state police played a major role, the chief minister said. A team of CBI officials, led by the agency's Special

Director Ajay Bhatnagar, has reached Manipur and started investigating the killings on September 27.

"As the saying goes, one may abscond after committing the crime, but they cannot escape the long hands of the law. We are committed to ensuring maximum punishment, including capital punishment, for the heinous crime they have committed," Singh posted on X, shortly before holding the press conference. The government will support

the CBI in its investigation and all those involved in the killing of the two youths will be arrested, the chief minister said. Photographs of the bodies of the two youths went viral on social media on September 25.

Following this, violent protests by students rocked the state capital on September 26 and 27. A mob tried to attack the ancestral house of the chief minister on the night of September 28, but security forces foiled the attempt.

Another mob also vandalised the deputy commissioner's office in Imphal West district of the state which has been rocked by ethnic strife for nearly five months. In several international fora, the strife in Manipur was wrongly interpreted as a religious crisis or of majority community targeting minority community. This has confused the people of this nation and the state," he said.

Singh also asserted that the nearly five-month-long violence in the state is "not an ethnic strife" but caused by terrorist groups which are based in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Cocaine worth ₹300cr seized



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Banihal/Jammu, Oct 1: Police have recovered 30 kg of cocaine worth Rs 300 crore in international market from a vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, a senior police officer said on Sunday, claiming to have busted a narco-terror module.

According to the official, two Punjab residents were arrested following the recovery of one of the biggest narcotic haul this year from Banihal area along Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

Earlier, the recovered narcotics was believed to be heroin but after investigation it turned out to be cocaine. "At about 10.30 pm on Saturday, Ramban police led by Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma intercepted one vehicle at Railway Chowk Banihal coming from Kashmir towards Jammu and recovered about 30 kg cocaine, having an approximate value of Rs 300 crore in international black market and apprehended two persons," Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh said.

He said the successful recovery resulted in the busting of a narco-terror module. A case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered at Banihal police station

and investigation set into motion, Singh said.

"This operation was developed on intelligence generated by SSP Ramban and her team who have been continuously waging war against drug smugglers and peddlers," the ADGP said. He said a large number of notorious peddlers and smugglers have already been booked by the team of Ramban police.

"A total of 104 cases (under NDPS Act) have been registered in 2022 while 36 such cases were registered in 2023 till date following the recovery of 2,500 kg poppy straw, 10 kg charas, 200 grams heroin and 200 tablets,"

Singh said, adding 158 accused have been arrested and three detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in NDPS Act.

Banihal Station House Officer Mohd Afzal Wani identified the arrested smugglers as Sarabjeet Singh of Jalandhar and Honey Basra of Phagwara in Punjab. While three kilograms of the narcotic was found hidden on the top of the vehicle, 27 kgs were recovered from their luggage, he said.

Wani said the smugglers tried to escape when signalled to stop and were chased and subsequently arrested. The officials said the high-grade cocaine was smuggled from across the border and being taken from north Kashmir to Punjab.

EARLIER, THE RECOVERED NARCOTICS WAS BELIEVED TO BE HEROIN BUT AFTER INVESTIGATION IT TURNED OUT TO BE COCAINE. BANIHAL STATION HOUSE OFFICER MOHD AFZAL WANI IDENTIFIED THE ARRESTED SMUGGLERS AS SARABJEET SINGH OF JALANDHAR AND HONEY BASRA OF PHAGWARA IN PUNJAB.

2 doctors save baby on flight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: A baby with congenital heart disease developed severe breathing issues during a Ranchi-Delhi flight when two co-passengers, both doctors, came to the child's rescue.

IAS officer Dr Nitin Kulkarni, also a doctor by training and a doctor from Ranchi Sadar Hospital gave oxygen supply using a mask meant for adults and other drugs as emergency medical assistance.

After the flight landed after an hour, a medical team took the baby under their care and provided oxygen support. The parents were taking the baby to AIIMS, Delhi for treatment of the baby's heart condition. On Saturday, twenty minutes into the Indigo flight, the air crew made an emergency announcement seeking medical assistance from any doctor on board for a baby in distress.

Kulkarni, presently the principal secretary to the Governor of Jharkhand and Dr Mozammil Pheroz from Sadar Hospital, Ranchi came forward to save the child. "The mother was crying as the baby was gasping for breath. I and Dr Mozammil took over care of the baby. Oxygen was supplied through an adult mask as somehow no baby mask or cannula was available," Dr Kulkarni said.

"We checked the medical records. The baby suffered from a congenital heart condition, patent ductus arteriosus (PDA). They were going to AIIMS for it," he said. He said that injection Theophylline was given from the drugs kit. The parents were carrying injection Dexona, which proved very helpful, he said. The baby showed some signs of improvement after the injections and oxygen and heartbeat was being monitored with a stethoscope. Lack of an oximeter made it difficult to assess the oxygen saturation status, Kulkarni said.

AFSPA extended in 4 Assam districts

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant, besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the forces if they shoot someone dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 1: The Assam Police Sunday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA has been extended in four districts of the state for six more months.

At the Assam Police Day 2023 celebrations here, DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the 'disturbed area' tag, which allows enforcement of the AFSPA, has, however, been withdrawn



from four other districts. "From today, only four districts in Assam will have AFSPA. These are Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo," he said.

The AFSPA has been withdrawn from Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao with effect from October 1, Singh said. The Assam government had last extended the 'disturbed area' notification under the AFSPA for another six months with effect from April 1 in these eight districts.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and

arrest anyone without any prior warrant, besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the forces if they shoot someone dead. "Assam has reached a peaceful stage after passing through a volatile phase during the last 30-40 years. Due to the hard work of Assam Police, Army and para military forces, we have this peaceful atmosphere. I thank all of them," the DGP said.

During this period, the maximum contribution was received from lower-ranked personnel like the constables of all forces, he said. "I would like to say that we cannot forget the contributions of the home guards and VDP (village defence party). We have around 25,000 VDPs and 10,000 home guards," Singh said.

He also said that Assam Police is continuously working towards improving the overall law and order situation of the state.



Muslim devotees take part in a procession celebrating Eid Milad-Un-Nabi, in old city of Hyderabad, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Kannada actor held for mowing down woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 1: Kannada film actor Nagabhushan S S has been arrested, as a speeding car allegedly driven by him rammed into a couple, killing a 48-year-old woman, and critically injuring her 58-year-old husband, police said Sunday.

The incident occurred at Vasanthapura Main Road here on the night of September 30. According to the police, Prema S and Krishna B were walking on the footpath, when the accused, driving his car from Uttarahalli towards Konanakunte Cross, allegedly knocked them down, before crashing into an electric pole. They said he was driving the car in a "rash and negligent" manner.

The severely injured couple were rushed to a private hospital. While the woman succumbed to her injuries on the way to the hospital, her husband is undergoing treatment. The incident took place at Kumaraswamy layout traffic police limits here.

Officials rushed to the spot and arrested Nagabhushan. The actor has featured in several movies, especially in comic roles. Police said a case has been registered and the car has been seized for further investigation. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, South) Shiva Prakash Devaraju later said Nagabhushan has been let out on a station bail after executing a bond, and he will be called for further statements and investigation.



Manoj Sinha eyeing UP poll

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Manoj Sinha has been a political bird and had missed the bus narrowly to become the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 2017. Being a loyalist of the Prime Minister and having cordial relations with the Home Minister, Amit Shah he was given the Independent charge in the central government. But after his loss in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, he was sent to J&K as Lt. Governor. Now he is keen to get back to active politics. Sinha has now conveyed to the BJP leadership that he is keen to contest from his old constituency Ghazipur even though he was defeated last time. He has been saying that J&K Assembly polls can be conducted within the next six months any time.

Speculation is also rife that Sinha has been offered Ghaziabad instead. He may be allowed to go only after the J&K polls.

Why Modi omitted Morarji Desai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to all his predecessors while making his last speech in the old Lok Sabha building from Nehru to Dr Manmohan Singh. He chose his words very carefully about each one of them and their contribution in the making of India during the past 75 years. But Modi made no mention of Morarji Desai who held the PM's post between 1977 and 79 in his long speech. Morarji Desai was the Chief Minister of the joint state of Maharashtra and Gujarat in the early 50s and represented Surat in the Lok Sabha. Yet, Modi

omitted his name completely as if he was not the Prime Minister. This came as a shock to those listening to him and wondered why he did so. Was it because Morarji Desai ordered firing on those opposing Bombay as the Union Territory in which 105 people were killed or was it because he opposed Indira Gandhi whom Modi takes in high esteem? Or because Morarji hated Indira Gandhi so much that he virtually wound up the country's top espionage agency's external operations? The mystery may unfold in the days, months or years to come.

Wheels within wheel

Even as INDIA is crawling to emerge as a force to take on the mighty BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha polls, four parties have formed a ginger group within the alliance. It

transpires that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Samajwadi party leader Akhilesh Yadav and NCP supremo Sharad Pawar have formed a group of their own. It transpires that this ginger group has been successful in torpedoing Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's dream of becoming a convener of the INDIA alliance.

Bitter chapter begins in NCP

One are the days when there was some shambles of bonhomie after estranged nephew Ajit Pawar walked away with 40-odd MLAs leaving NCP supremo Sharad Pawar high and dry. The NCP workers were utterly confused as Supriya Sule, Lok Sabha MP and daughter of Sharad Pawar made a statement that there is no split and

it's all one family. Even senior Pawar sent some conciliatory gestures in public domain. Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar maintained a low profile and went along with the public posturing. But the days of niceties are over and it's clear that split in the NCP is a hard reality. Sharad Pawar will have to work hard to retain his legacy. Ajit Pawar is gearing up to take on his uncle and there is no going back.



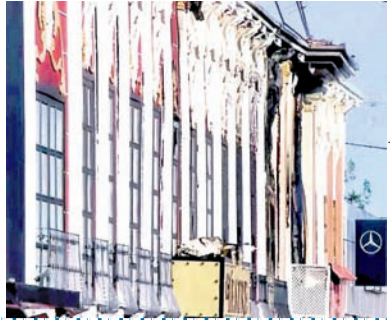
international



I have a good sense of what the British people's priorities are. I'm going to set about delivering for them
RISHI SUNAK | UK PM

NIGHTCLUB FIRE KILLS 13

At least 13 people have been killed in a fire in a nightclub in Murcia in southeast Spain, emergency services said Sunday, adding that rescuers were still searching for people unaccounted for after the blaze



of the day quote

The international community clearly bans North Korea's nuclear and missile development and provocations
CHOE SON-HUI | NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Unless we act now, the 2030 agenda could become an epitaph for a world that might have been
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The waste is being brought illegally and the complaint is a step toward taking Germany to the European Court of Justice
ANNA MOSKWA | MINISTER FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT, POLAND

Terror attack in Turkey

AGENCIES

Ankara, Oct 1: Two attackers detonated a bomb in front of Turkish government buildings in Ankara Sunday in an assault that left both of them dead and two police officers wounded, in what authorities called the capital's first terrorist attack in years.

CCTV footage obtained by Reuters showed a vehicle pulling up to the Interior Ministry's main gate and one of its occupants quickly walking toward the building before being engulfed in an explosion, while the other remains on the street.

The blast killed one of the terrorists and authorities "neutralised", or killed, the other, the interior minister said of the incident that rattled a central district that is home to ministerial buildings and nearby parliament.

In a speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session hours later, President Tayyip Erdogan called the morning attack "the latest attempt" to inflict terror on Turks.

The bomb on Ataturk Boulevard was the first in Ankara since 2016, when a spate of deadly attacks gripped the country. Video afterward showed a Renault cargo vehicle parked there, windows shattered and doors open, amid debris and surrounded by soldiers, ambulances, fire trucks and armoured vehicles.

A senior Turkish official told Reuters the attackers had hijacked the vehicle and killed its driver in Kayseri, a city 260 km (161 miles) southeast of Ankara, before carrying out the attack. One of the injured officers suffered shrapnel injuries, he added.

"Two terrorists came with a light commercial vehicle in front of the entrance gate of the General Directorate of Security of our Ministry of Internal Affairs and carried out a bomb



Members of the Turkish Police take cover as an unexploded bomb is detonated in front of the Interior Ministry following a bomb attack in Ankara

- TWO ATTACKERS DIED, TWO OFFICERS INJURED
- FIRST SUCH ANKARA BLAST SINCE 2016
- ERDOGAN TO OPEN NEW SESSION OF PARLIAMENT NEARBY

Those who threaten the peace and security of citizens have not achieved their goals and never will
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT OF TURKIYE

attack," Ali Yerlikaya, the interior minister, said on social media platform X.

He added the two officers were slightly injured in the incident at 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT).

"Our struggle will continue until the last terrorist is neutralised," he said, echoing condemnation by other Turkish officials.

PAST ATTACKS

Police said they carried out controlled explosions for "suspicious package incidents" in other parts of Ankara. Authorities did not identify any specific militant group.

The incident comes almost a year after six people were killed and 81 wounded in an explosion in a busy pedestrian street in central Istanbul. Turkey blamed Kurdish militants for that.

During a series of bloody incidents in 2015 and 2016, Kurdish militants, Islamic State and other groups either claimed or were blamed for several attacks in

major Turkish cities. In March 2016, 37 people were killed in Ankara when a bomb-laden car exploded at a crowded central transport hub.

Ankara's chief prosecutor launched an investigation on Sunday into what it also called a terrorist attack.

Turkey's parliament is expected to consider ratifying Sweden's bid to join NATO in coming weeks, after Turkey had raised initial objections and delayed enlargement of the bloc.

Erdogan did not mention Sweden or NATO, but told members of parliament that agreeing a new constitution was a priority for the new session. The parliament speaker said its agenda would not surrender to terror.

Charles Michel, European Council president, said he strongly condemned what he called the terrorist attack, while EU Commissioner for Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi said it supports Turkey "in its fight against terrorism".

UN mission arrives in Nagorno-Karabakh

AGENCIES

Yerevan, Oct 1: A United Nations mission arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday, Azerbaijan media reported, as a mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from the region continued following a lightning Azerbaijani military offensive last month.

Azerbaijan's prosecutor general issued an arrest warrant for ex-Nagorno-Karabakh leader Arayik Harutyunyan. Harutyunyan led the breakaway region, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but was largely populated by ethnic Armenians, between May 2020 and last month, when the separatist government said it would dissolve itself by the end of the year after a three-decade bid for independence.

Azerbaijani police arrested one of Harutyunyan's former prime ministers, Ruben Vardanyan, Wednesday as he tried to cross into Armenia along with tens of thousands of others who have fled following Baku's 24-hour blitz last week to reclaim control of Nagorno-Karabakh. Harutyunyan and the enclave's former military commander, Jalal Harutyunyan,

Armenia has asked the World Court to order Azerbaijan to withdraw all its troops from civilian establishments in Nagorno-Karabakh and give the United Nations access

are accused of firing missiles on Azerbaijan's third-largest city, Ganja, during a 44-day war in late 2020. The clash between the Azerbaijani military clash and Nagorno Karabakh forces led to the deployment of Russian peacekeepers in the region.

The arrest warrant announcement by Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev reflects Azerbaijan's intention to quickly and forcefully enforce its grip on the region following three decades of conflict with the separatist state.

While Baku has pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, many have fled due to fear of reprisals or losing the freedom to use their language and to practice their religion and cultural customs.

British troops may be sent to Ukraine



ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 1: Britain's new defence secretary has suggested that British military training of Ukrainian soldiers, which currently takes place at UK bases, could move into western Ukraine.

In an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph*, Grant Shapps said he was in discussions with the British army about "eventually getting the training brought closer and actually into Ukraine as well".

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was quick to rule out speculation of an imminent deployment of British soldiers to Ukraine. Shapps' suggestion was not for the "here and now", Sunak told reporters, but a possibility "for the long term".

"There are no British soldiers that will be sent to fight in the current conflict. That's not what's happening," Sunak said.

Russian politicians immediately criticised the proposal. Former President Dmitry Medvedev, who is deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, claimed Shapps was actively pushing "towards a Third World War". The British minister "will be turning his instructors into a legal target for our armed forces, knowing perfectly well that they'll be mercilessly destroyed — not as mercenaries, but as NATO specialists," Medvedev wrote on social media.

Since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine more than 19 months ago, Medvedev, a law school graduate, has emerged as one of the

most hawkish Russian officials, regularly issuing blustery remarks that combine Latin mottos and legal expressions with four-letter words.

Observers have interpreted Medvedev's rhetoric, which sounds tougher than the statements of even old-time Kremlin hardliners, as an apparent attempt to curry favour with Putin. Yan Gagin, advisor to the head of the Russian-occupied part of eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, also dismissed Shapps' idea but without Medvedev's fiery warnings.

More than 23,500 recruits from Ukraine have received combat training at army bases across the UK since the start of 2022, receiving instruction on skills that include weapons handling and battlefield first aid. Earlier this year, Britain's government committed to training another 20,000 recruits.

The training is part of a broader package of support for Ukraine that includes a pledge of 2.3 billion pounds (\$2.8 billion) of anti-tank weapons, rocket systems and other hardware this year. Shapps, who took over as defense secretary from predecessor Ben Wallace in August, said he also spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in recent days about Britain's Royal Navy helping to defend commercial vessels in the Black Sea. He did not provide details.

He added that UK defence companies should consider setting up production in Ukraine.

SHORT TAKES

Fresno to ban caste discrimination

Washington: Fresno in California has become the second US city to ban caste discrimination after the City Council unanimously passed a resolution by including two new protected categories in its municipal code, according to a media report. Earlier in February, Seattle outlawed caste discrimination, becoming the first US city to do so, followed by the US state of California, where a bill was passed in September by the state assembly for the same. The move comes amid a nationwide civil rights movement, led mostly by South Asian Americans who come from caste-oppressed backgrounds, NBC reported Friday.

3 terrorists, 4 soldiers killed in Pak gunfight

Islamabad: At least three terrorists belonging to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan were killed while four Pakistani soldiers lost their lives in a gunfight in the country's restive Balochistan province, according to an official statement. The incident happened September 28 in Zhob area of the province which is near to the country's border with Afghanistan, the statement issued by Pakistan military's media wing Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Saturday said.

Migrant boat washes ashore in Israel

Jerusalem: A rubber boat washed up on a beach in Israel Sunday with no one on board, only what appeared to be the belongings of would-be migrants. Israeli authorities said they found the dinghy along the Mediterranean coast near the city of Netanya with nothing but a messy pile of personal items, food, water and travel documents, including three from Somalia. Police said they were searching the waters nearby for signs of survivors and released a photograph of the boat. What looked like clothing, an air pump and several makeshift, inflatable lifebuoys were among the items that covered the boat's floor.

Kosovan govt calls on Serbia to pull troops

Pristina: Kosovo Saturday demanded that Serbia withdraw its troops from their common border, saying it was ready to protect its territorial integrity. Tensions between the two countries have been high since last Sunday when Kosovo police fought around 30 heavily armed Serbs who stormed the Kosovo village of Banjska and barricaded themselves in a Serbian Orthodox monastery. Three attackers and one police officer were killed.

24 Pak beggars trying to travel to Saudi for begging held in Multan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Oct 1: Twenty-four alleged Pakistani beggars disguised as pilgrims were offloaded from Saudi Arabia-bound flights and arrested for trying to travel to the Gulf Kingdom to indulge in begging, according to a media report Sunday.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) late Saturday night offloaded eight alleged beggars in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims from a Saudi Arabia-bound flight at the Multan airport, Dawn newspaper reported.

This was the second incident in as many days at the Multan airport in Punjab province. Two days ago, the FIA offloaded 16 persons, including a child, 11 women and four men, from a Saudi-bound flight at the Multan airport. They were travelling on Umrah visas. The Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that can be undertaken at any time of the year. According to a statement issued by FIA immigration officer Tariq Mehmood after the second incident, it transpired during the immigration that the group was travelling to Saudi Arabia for the "purpose of begging".

Biden vows Ukraine support, urges Republicans to stop 'games'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 1: President Joe Biden said Sunday that American aid to Ukraine will keep flowing for now as he sought to reassure allies of continued US financial support for the war effort. But time is running out, the president said in a warning to Congress.

"We cannot under any circumstances allow American for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said in remarks from the Roosevelt Room after Congress voted late Saturday to avert a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding package that dropped assistance for Ukraine

in the fight against Russia. "We have time, not much time and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency," he said, noting that the funding bill lasts only until mid-November. Biden urged Congress to negotiate an aid package as soon as possible. "The vast majority of both parties — Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House — support helping Ukraine and the brutal aggression that is being thrust upon them by Russia," Biden said. "Stop playing games, get this done."

But many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more dif-



difficult as the war grinds on. Republican resistance to the aid has been gaining momentum in the halls of Congress.

Voting in the House this past



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, is presented a mitt made of beaver pelt by Montreal Lake Cree Nation Chief Joyce McLeod on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in La Ronge, Saskatchewan

week pointed to the potential trouble ahead. Nearly half of House Republicans voted to strip \$300 million from a defense spending bill to train Ukrainian soldiers and purchase weapons. The money later was approved separately, but opponents of Ukraine support celebrated their growing numbers. Then, Saturday, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., omitted additional Ukraine aid from a measure to keep the government running until November 17. In doing so, he closed the door on a Senate package that would have funnelled \$6 billion to Ukraine, roughly one-third of what has been requested by the White

House. Both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the stopgap measure, with members of both parties abandoning the increased aid for Ukraine in favor of avoiding a costly government shutdown. Biden said that deal was made to keep the government running and he worked to reassure US allies the funding would be there. "Look at me," he said turning his face to the cameras at the White House. "We're going to get it done. I can't believe those who voted for supporting Ukraine -- overwhelming majority in the House and Senate, Democrat and Republican -- will for pure political reasons let

more people die needlessly in Ukraine." The latest actions in Congress signal a gradual shift in the unwavering support that the United States has so far pledged Ukraine in its fight against Russia, and it is one of the clearest examples yet of the Republican Party's movement toward a more isolationist stance. The US has approved four rounds of aid to Ukraine in response to Russia's invasion, totaling about \$113 billion, with some of that money going toward replenishment of US military equipment that was sent to the frontlines. In August, Biden called on Congress to provide for an additional \$24 billion.

of the day quote

The number of resolutions of stressed assets under the insolvency law is likely to touch 300 this year



RAVI MITTAL | CHAIRPERSON, IBBI

India's fast-growing civil aviation market has the scope to have 130-150 more wide-body planes as airlines expand their operations and there is also the potential for more such aircraft to be deployed in dense domestic routes



VIKRAM RAI | CEO, GE AEROSPACE (SOUTH ASIA)

The company sees solar as a growing market and reach an inflection point in the next 2-3 years in terms of cost, as demand for clean energy sources is going to rise, where Luminous Power aims to be a leading company in this transformation journey here



PREETI BAJAJ | CEO, LUMINOUS POWER

SHORT TAKES

Top firms' mcap dips

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of five of the top 10 most valued firms declined by ₹62,586.88 crore last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys taking the biggest hit, amid an overall bearish trends in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark fell 180.74 points or 0.27 per cent, and the Nifty declined 35.95 points or 0.18 per cent. In the ranking of the most valued firms, Reliance Industries remained at the top followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance.

India-B'desh FTA

New Delhi: India and Bangladesh have discussed preparations to start talks for a free trade agreement between the two countries to promote economic ties, an official statement said Sunday. It was discussed during an official-level meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) between India and Bangladesh, which was held last week in Dhaka. The meeting "discussed a host of bilateral issues such as removal of port restrictions, ground work on commencement of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), harmonization of standards, and mutual recognition of standards, supply of essential commodities to Bangladesh," the commerce ministry said.

Gas price for RIL cut

New Delhi: The price of natural gas produced from difficult areas like deepsea KG-D6 block of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Sunday was cut by a steep 18 per cent, in line with softening of benchmark international gas prices, an official notification said. However, the price of gas that is largely used for making CNG for fueling automobiles or piping to households kitchens for cooking purposes will remain unchanged due to a price cap that is set at 30 per cent less than market rates such as that paid to Reliance.

JLR to bring 8 BEVs

New Delhi: Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) aims to launch eight battery electric vehicles (BEVs) in India by 2030, according to a senior company executive. The company currently sells one electric model -- Jaguar I-Pace -- in the country. The British automaker, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors since 2008, aims to become a net-zero carbon business globally by 2039.

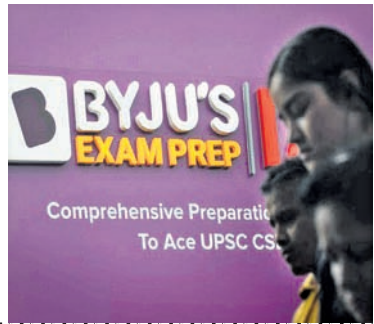


India is the most natural place to invest, and to expand as there is a huge opportunity and growth rate in the blue/grey collar market

SEAN BEHR | FOUNDER AND CEO, FOUNTAIN

BYJU'S SETS BREAK-EVEN TARGET

Edtech major BYJU'S has set the target to become profitable by March 2024 on account of consolidation and restructuring of the organisation and settlement on \$1.2 billion loan, sources aware of the development said. The company has undertaken exercise to reduce workforce by about 3,000-3,500 this month by ending duplication in roles across the organisation



Festive rush drives record PV sales

Passenger vehicle despatches rose to record levels in September as the dealers prepare for the festive season which kicks in a big way from October 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose to record levels in September as automakers dispatched stocks to dealers in order to cater to the robust demand in the ongoing festive season.

The industry despatches stood at 3,63,733 units last month, the best ever in a month. The previous best was reported in August 2023 with despatches of 3,60,700 units.

"This is the highest ever September of course, in any year in the Indian passenger vehicle history. It is also the highest ever in any month so far," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava told reporters in a virtual press meet.

Last month also witnessed robust demand in western and southern states due to various festivals which see increase in car sales, Srivastava said.

Another reason is better availability of cars due to chip supplies stabilising, he added.

Last month Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Toyota reported their best ever monthly wholesales as they ramped up sup-



And it is the first time that in nine months till September, the industry passenger vehicles sales have crossed the 30-lakh unit mark, which means that we are on course to reach 40-lakh unit mark both for the financial year as well as the calendar year

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING AND SALES), MSI

plies to dealers in order to cater to the robust demand owing to the ongoing festive season.

Mahindra & Mahindra also reported the highest ever wholesales of SUVs at 41,267 units last month, a growth of 20 per cent over 34,262 units in September 2022.

Srivastava said the wholesales were also the best ever for the passenger vehicle industry in the April-September quarter.

MSI said its total wholesales

increased 3 per cent year-on-year to 1,81,343 units in September, its best ever in a month. The country's largest carmaker had dispatched 1,76,306 units to dealers in the same month last year. Total domestic passenger vehicle sales rose to 1,50,812 units last month, up 2 per cent from 1,48,380 units in September 2022.

In the April-September period, the company's total sales crossed the 10-lakh sales mark.

GST mop-up rises 10% to over ₹1.62 lakh-crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: Helped by improved compliance, GST collections increased by 10 per cent to over ₹1.62 lakh crore in September, crossing the ₹1.6 lakh crore mark for the fourth time during current financial year.

Gross GST revenue collected last month was ₹1,62,712 crore. Of this, Central GST was ₹29,818 crore, State GST was ₹37,657 crore, Integrated GST was ₹83,623 crore (including ₹41,145 crore collected on import of goods) and cess was ₹11,613 crore (including ₹881 crore collected on import of goods).

The revenue in September 2023 was 10 per cent higher than the GST revenue of ₹1.47 lakh crore in the same month last year, the finance ministry said in a statement Sunday.

"During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. It is for the fourth time that gross GST collection has crossed ₹1.60 lakh crore mark in FY 2023-24," it said.

Gross GST collection in the first half (April-September) of FY24 stood at ₹9,92,508 crore, an increase of 11 per cent from the year-ago period.

Average monthly gross col-



lection in April-September FY24 was ₹1.65 lakh crore, 11 per cent higher than the year-ago period, it said.

As the normal period of limitation for FY17-18 ended on September 30, some of this increased collection could be linked to businesses having settled issues with payment of taxes for the said period, KPMG Indirect Tax Head Abhishek Jain said.

While ₹1.6 lakh crore plus seems to be the new normal, this could see a further uptick with the festive season round the corner, he said.

According to Deloitte India partner M S Mani, the September GST collections augur well for the coming months of the festive season and is in line with the other high frequency indicators which reflect an uptick in the economy.

'TROUBLING PATTERN' Labour-intensive sectors' exports hit hard

India's share in global exports in labour-intensive sectors declining in last 5 years, says FIEO report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: India's labour-intensive export sectors such as apparels, marine products, plastics, and gems and jewellery are showing a "troubling pattern" as the country is experiencing a decline in global market share across these segments during the last five years, a FIEO report has said.

Apex exporters body Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) also said that a note of caution is warranted regarding a distinct spike in export growth of roughly \$40 billion as this particular surge is likely attributed to a rerouting of crude oil trade routes via India to Europe.

This phenomenon may not be sustainable in the coming years, it said. It added that the most "pressing concern" regarding the negative export growth is the "poor" performance of labour-intensive sectors.

In a country like India, these sectors hold immense significance not only for their job creation potential but also for their substantial contribution to net high-value addition.



"Addressing this challenge requires a proactive approach that delves into the underlying factors contributing to the loss of market share. It calls for a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics at play, ranging from maintaining the competitive advantage, reducing the production costs and increasing efficiency to quality and innovation," the report said.

Elaborating on the importance of promoting traditional sectors, FIEO said that the exports of mobile phones, which amounts to \$10 billion, has a net value addition of about \$1-2 billion.

On the other hand, \$10 billion worth of exports of traditional sectors would have a net value addition of over \$9 billion, it added.

"An analysis of sector-wise export performance for the last five years reveal the troubling pattern that India is experiencing a decline in global market share

across labour-intensive sectors," the organisation said, adding that apparels, knitted garments, marine products, plastics, gems and jewellery sectors have raised concerns due to their modest growth rates ranging from 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

Notably, the global trade in knitted garments expanded by 6 per cent, whereas India's growth remained at a mere 2 per cent.

In woven garments, despite a global trade growth rate of about 2 per cent, India's export growth has consistently been below 1 per cent for years, while Bangladesh and Vietnam growing at 6 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, impacting India's share.

Similarly, India's aspiration to be a global pharmacy leader faces challenges, it said, adding, despite the ambition, India's growth has not matched demand, lagging at 9 per cent while the global market grew by 12 per

FPIs turn net sellers after six months of investment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: After sustained buying in the last six months, FPIs have turned net sellers and pulled out of over ₹14,767 crore from Indian equities in September, primarily due to dollar appreciation, steady rise in the US bond yields, and a spike in crude oil prices.

According to data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have sold shares to the tune of ₹14,767 crore in September.



The latest outflow came after FPI investment in equities had hit a four-month low of ₹12,262 crore in August. Before the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying Indian equities in the last six months from March to August and brought in ₹1.74 lakh crore during the period.

The selling by FPIs was countered by domestic institutional investors (DII) buying.

On the other hand, FPIs invested ₹938 crore in the country's debt market during the period under review.

With this, the total investment by FPIs in equity has reached ₹1.2 lakh crore and over ₹29,000 crore in the debt market so far this year. In terms of sectors, FPIs were buyers of capital goods and selected financials.

Firms brace for impact as EU's carbon levy begins

EMISSION REPORTING PHASE OF EU'S CARBON TAX REGIME STARTS FROM OCTOBER 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: Indian companies from seven sectors such as steel, cement, and hydrocarbons, which export to the European Union will have to start reporting their carbon emissions to comply with the provisions of EU's carbon tax regime.

The compliance with the European Union's (EU) carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) is in two parts - a requirement of filing data from October and later imposition of the tax from 2026.

CBAM will translate into a 20-35 per cent tax on select im-

ports into the EU starting January 1, 2026.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the emission data is to be reported quarterly and the deadline for submission for the first quarter (October-December 2023) by the EU-based importer (called declarant) is January 31, 2024.

Indian firms must share emission data in the format prescribed by the EU with the declarant much before this date, it said.

The EU has proposed strict penalties for non-submission or incomplete data, which may pose challenges for many medium and small-sized firms.

GOVT INTERVENTION

The government is holding consultations with the domestic industry to see their preparedness for complying with this regime.

The transition phase of CBAM starts October 1, 2023, and runs



until December 31, 2025.

During this time, Indian firms must provide extensive production and emission data for products sent to the EU. The tax phase begins January 1, 2026, with more items being added, and by 2034, all items will be included in CBAM.

"Most Indian exporters are unprepared for CBAM. Many are hoping for a last-minute deal between the Indian government

and the EU that allows them to continue business as usual. Only a few have undergone emission audits for their facilities," GTRI Co-Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Small firms often purchase steel or aluminium from larger firms and use them to create export products. These small firms will require emission data from the large firms.

"However, it appears that many large Indian firms are reluctant

CBAM will impact India's \$8.2 billion exports of iron ore pellets, iron, steel, and aluminium products to the EU exported by over a thousand large, medium and small firms. India's 27 per cent export of these products goes to the EU

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

to share this emission data with smaller ones. This reluctance could lead the EU to calculate taxes based on default or maximum values. Additionally, the failure to submit data may result in penalties, which could be imposed starting now," he added.

To deal with this tax, GTRI suggested that the government designate existing import, excise, and GST duties as carbon taxes for steel and aluminium.

"This can offset the tax liability in the EU. If done properly, it

will reduce the final amount to be paid in the EU by the tax already paid in India," GTRI said.

It also asked for using a calibrated retaliation mechanism (CRM) to respond to EU actions with precise calculations, as previously done with the US tariffs on Indian steel and aluminium.

In March 2018, when the US imposed import duties on steel and aluminium, India responded by increasing tariffs on 29 specific US products.

This retaliation involved precise calculations, ensuring that India collected equivalent revenue from US products as the US did from Indian steel and aluminium.

"The CRM offers several advantages, including rapid implementation. India can easily adjust product lists and tariff levels to mirror the actions of the EU or any other partner country precisely," he said.

Best-ever single day show

Indian sportspersons bag 15 medals, beating the previous best of 11 achieved in 2010



DEFINING MOMENT: Tajinderpal Singh Toor coils up before hurling the iron ball at the Asian Games, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

Hangzhou, Oct 1: On a day when steeplechaser Avinash Sable and shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor won gold medals here Sunday at the Asian Games, there were also a handful of other

Indian athletes who also brought honour to India by winning silver and bronze medals in their respective events. Yes, there were failures also, but then there were a number of success stories scripted by Indian athletes. Incidentally, India won 15 medals

Sunday. This is the best-ever single day medal haul in the Asian Games by India. The previous record of 11 medals in a single day was in 2010.

The athletes bagged a total of nine medals in all. There were medals also in golf, boxing, shoot-

ing and badminton. With the medal haul Sunday, India have so far 52 medals in this edition of the Asian Games. Prior to the Asian Games, the slogan was to cross the magic figure of 100 in the medals tally. India are well on the way of achieving

that with 52 medals (13 gold, 20 silver and 19 bronze) so far.

It could have been more for India, but they missed out on a number of medals narrowly. Like in golf, India also missed out on a bronze by a whisker.

In the 1,500m for women, India's Harmilan Bains won a silver while Ajay Kumar Saroj and Jinson Johnson won silver and bronze respectively in the men's 1,500m. In men's long jump Murali Sreeshankar won silver while Jyothi Yarraji also emulated the feat by bagging a silver medal in the women's 100m hurdles. Initially Yarraji had won the bronze in her event. However, the Chinese athlete who finished second in the event was disqualified and Yarraji's medal was elevated to silver.

In the women's discus throw, India's Seema Punia won the bronze medal to make it a memorable day for Indian athletes. In women's heptathlon, Nandini Agasara also finished with the bronze medal. Agasara's season-best 5.94m long jump helped her achieve a podium finish.

Earlier, the toast of the nation in the last edition, heptathlete Swapna Barman's one 'last shot' at glory at the Asian Games turned into a nightmare as she struggled with injuries to virtually go out of medal reckoning after the javelin throw event.

The defending champion, who boasted of a personal best of 52.55m in javelin throw, managed a throw of just 45.13 in the penultimate event of the gruelling two-day competition. It was clear that Barman was not in her elements.

MEN IN GREEN LOOK TO END 31-YEAR WAIT

It's been seven years since the Pakistan cricket team last visited their arch-rivals' home - for the World T20 in 2016. Now that they have arrived, they would look to win the ODI World Cup to make a statement.

Most of the players, apart from Salman Agha and Mohammad Nawaz who were part of the Pakistan team in the 2016 WT20, have set foot on Indian soil for the first time. Pakistan received a rousing reception on their arrival in Hyderabad, which left the players in awe.

Although, it's their first journey to India, the conditions would be quite similar to Pakistan and they would hope to use it to their favour.

Pakistan last won the showpiece event way back in 1992 under the leadership of Imran Khan. So they will be eager to end their 31-year wait for their second title. However, it's easier said than done.

They will definitely face stern challenges from the likes of Australia, who recently played a three-match series here, defending champions England, in-form South Africa and New Zealand, and last but not the least... their arch-rivals and hosts India. The absence of young Naseem Shah, one of the key bowlers for Pakistan, has put a huge burden on the team's title hopes. Although, they replaced him with the experienced Hasan Ali, his form is also a cause for concern. Ali



went for 66 runs in just 7.4 overs at an economy of 8.60 in their first warm-up game against New Zealand. Not only Ali, but all the other bowlers, including Haris Rauf and Nawaz were expensive too as Pakistan lost to the Kiwis by wickets despite scoring 345/6. The batters are in good touch, especially skipper Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq as well as Iftikhar Ahmed. However, their bowling, including the spin department is a big worry heading into the World Cup. Pakistan will kick-off their campaign against the Netherlands, October 6 in Hyderabad.



HOLDING THE KEYS TO SUCCESS
Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan & Shaheen Shah Afridi

66 We don't get results as individuals, we get results as a team. There are ups-and-downs always but making changes does not help the team unity. We have nine matches to win before we can win the World Cup. Although we have not played in India before, we are not taking too much pressure

BABAR AZAM

Indian shuttlers finish 2nd best

1st team medal for country after the 1986 Seoul Asiad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 1: Injured HS Prannoy's absence hurt India as they went down fighting 2-3 against badminton powerhouses China to sign off with their first-ever silver medal in the men's team championships at the Asian Games here Sunday.

After World No. 7 Prannoy was ruled out due to a back injury, Lakshya Sen produced a gutsy show in the first singles and doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then bossed over their opponents to put India 2-0 ahead.

The onus was then on Kidambi Srikanth to ensure gold for India, but he failed miserably. He lost his match despite having multiple chances to close out the first game. China then easily won the remaining two matches to maintain their dominance at the Asian Games.

Sen played superbly in the first match. He recovered from a mid-game slump to erase a five-point deficit in the decider and put India ahead with a 22-20, 14-21, 21-18 win over World No. 6 Shi Yuqi in an 83-minute opening slugfest.

World No. 3 men's doubles pair of Satwik and Chirag then went on a smashing spree to outclass World No 2. Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang 21-15, 21-18 in 55 minutes.

Srikanth, however, squandered an 18-14 lead and multiple game points in the first game to go down 22-24, 9-21 against All England champion Li Shifeng. The scratch pair of Dhruv Kapila



Lakshya Sen gave India a great start with a fabulous victory

PTI PHOTO

and Sai Pratheek Krishna Prasad then lost 6-21, 15-21 to World No. 8 Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi, while Prannoy's replacement Mithun Manjunath, ranked 53, went down 12-21, 4-21 against World No. 20 Weng Hong Yang in the third singles.

The last time the Indian men won a badminton medal in the team championships was at the 1986 edition in Seoul where Sen's mentors Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar played a crucial role.

Error-prone Aditi slips to silver

POOR FINAL DAY SHOW COSTS INDIAN GOLFER GOLD AFTER LEADING ON 3 SUCCESSIVE DAYS

AGENCIES

Hangzhou, Oct 1: Aditi Ashok's fortunes tumbled on the final day as she carded a topsy-turvy 73 to sign off with a silver for India's first medal in women's golf at the Asian Games here Sunday. Coming into the final day with a commanding seven-stroke lead, Aditi saw the advantage evaporate as she stumbled upon four bogeys and a double bogey against a lone birdie to slip to the second position.

The 25-year-old Indian ended her campaign with a four-day aggregate of 17-under 271 as Thailand's Arpichaya Yubol held her nerves to produce her week's best card of 64 and claim the coveted gold medal.

Women shooters bag silver

The Indian triumvirate of Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak and Rajeshwari Kumari claimed the silver medal in the women's trap team event, adding to the Indian shooting contingent's best-ever show at the Asian Games. The Indian team put up a score of 337 to take home the silver medal behind China's Qingnian Li, Cuicui Wu and Xinqiu Zhang, who combined to shoot a Games record score of 357 to finish on top of the podium.

The Indian team finished last Sunday in a five-team field to crash out of equestrian cross country event after rider Ashish Limaye was eliminated here at the Asian Games. The Indian team consisting of Vikas Kumar, Apurva Dabhade and Limaye



SILVER LINING: The shooting trio of Rajeshwari Kumari, Manisha Keer and Preeti Rajak celebrate Sunday after winning the silver in the women's trap event

PTI PHOTO

finished with a total penalty score of 1070.80 which was significantly higher than other competitors.

Archers shine

Seasoned Jyothi Surekha Vennam led the charge as Indian compound archers lived up to their reputation, topping the qualification and also grabbed the No. 1 seeding in women's and mixed pair team events at the Asian Games here Sunday. World Champion Ojas Deotale and 2014 Asian Games silver medallist Abhishek Verma secured third-fourth place finish as India took the second seeding in men's team compound qualifiers.

The 27-year-old Jyothi set the tone in the first half of the session when she edged her South Korean rivals to top the qualification with 704 points, five clear of So Chaewon. Reigning World Champion Aditi Swami (696) secured the fourth spot and became the second Indian to make the cut for the elimination round.

Winning start

A day after the Indian men's squash team secured a thrilling victory against Pakistan to clinch the gold medal, the mixed doubles teams won their respective pool matches at the Asian Games. In Pool A, the pair of Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Singh

Sandhu defeated the South Korean duo of Jaeyin Yoo and Hwayeong Eum 2-0, recording an 11-2, 11-5 win in 22 minutes. On the other hand, the pair of Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh crushed the pair of David William Pelino and Yvonne Alyssa Dalida from the Philippines 2-0.

Spikers beaten

The Indian women were knocked out of contention for the Round of 12 stage in volleyball in the ongoing Asian Games. The eves were outplayed by their Chinese adversaries 9-25, 9-25. It was the second loss for the eves in the group.

Indian eves held by stubborn Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 1: The Indian women's hockey team were held to a 1-1 draw by South Korea but the Savita Punia-led unbeaten side still continued to lead their group in the Asian Games here Sunday.

Navneet Kaur (44th) scored the equaliser for the higher-ranked India after Cho Hyejin (12th) had put South Korea ahead at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium here.

Thanks to the draw, the Indian team, currently ranked sixth in the world, held onto the top spot in Pool A by goal difference over No. 12-ranked Korea. The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semifinals.

Both teams looked to score from the word go but the Koreans had the first opportunity of the match when Cho Hyejin shot at the goal. However, Deep Grace Ekka made a fine save to keep India from going behind. However, the Koreans took the lead when Cho converted a stroke.

After conceding the goal, the Indians applied sustained pressure, but the goal continued to elude them. In the second and third quarters, the Indian eves earned a number of penalty corners, but failed to convert. This will certainly be cause for concern for the coach and the support staff as the matches will only get tougher from here on.

Finally it was Navneet's field goal that ensured a point for India from the match.

Parveen seals Olympics spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 1: World Championship bronze medallist boxer Parveen Hooda assured India of a medal and also grabbed a Paris Olympic quota by moving into the 57kg semifinals in the Asian Games here Sunday. Parveen defeated Uzbekistan's Sitora Turdibekova by unanimous verdict in the quarterfinal.

However, Nikhat Zareen, competing in the women's 50kg category, had to settle for bronze after losing to Rakast Chuthamat of Thailand. It was a huge upset considering that Nikhat is ranked high above the Thai girl and is the current World Champion.

The Thai girl won 2-1 on split decision in the semifinal contest. Zareen had won the first round, but her rival emerged the



PACKING A PUNCH: Parveen Hooda (in red) lands a right hand on the head of her Uzbek opponent

PTI PHOTO

victor in the two following rounds. Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine Lamboria, however, crashed out of the 60kg contest after conceding a second round RSC (referee stops con-

test) to North Korean boxer Won Ungyong in her quarterfinal bout.

Parveen, the reigning Asian champion was in her elements from the word and dominated the entire bout.

Spurs edge out 9-man Liverpool

AGENCIES

London, Oct 1: Tottenham Hotspur snatched a controversial 2-1 win against nine-man Liverpool as Joel Matip's last-gasp own-goal ended the Reds' resistance and the visitors had a goal disallowed that the referees' body admitted should have stood. Liverpool had Curtis Jones and Diogo Jota sent off as Ange Postecoglou's side shattered Liverpool's unbeaten start to the Premier League season and extended their own thanks to the gripping climax in north London. Jones was dismissed in the first half before the goal for Liverpool was incorrectly disallowed for offside by VAR.

Tottenham took the lead through Son Heung-min's opener and Cody Gakpo equalised just before half time.

Tata Steel win Friendship Cup

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 1: Tata Steel XI beat Officers XI 2-1 to win the Friendship Cup football tournament 2023 at the Odisha Football Academy Stadium here Sunday.

Four teams participated in the tournament. Tata Steel XI was led by Rajiv Seth (project director at Naval Tata Hockey Academy), Leaders XI was led by Dr Arun Sahoo (MLA, Nayagarh), Officers XI was led by Debidutt Biswal (PCCF & Head of Forest Force, GoO), and Saswat Mishra (Principal Secretary, MSME, GoO), and Media XI was captained by Soumyajit Pattnaik (Chief Editor, Kalinga TV).

Among the dignitaries present on the festive occasion were Pradip Kumar Amat, Minister of



Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Bikram Keshari Arukha, Finance Minister, Tusharkanti Behera, Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Sports & Youth Services and Home and Niranjan Pujari, Minister of Health and Family Welfare department of the Odisha government.

In the semifinals, Officers XI defeated Leaders XI 2-0 while Tata Steel XI defeated Media XI 4-1. The man of the match award for the first match went to Ramaswamy of Officers XI while in the second semifinal Debashish Nayak of Tata Steel X won the player of the game award.