



RAIMA'S REGRET

Raima Sen admits that she should've taken on more popular roles, understanding the reach and appeal of mainstream cinema

LEISURE P2



10 DEAD IN ROOF COLLAPSE

The roof of a church collapses in northern Mexico during Sunday Mass, killing at least 10 people and injuring around 60

INTERNATIONAL P10



PARUL, PRITI IMPRESS

Parul Chaudhary and Priti claim silver and bronze medals respectively at the Hangzhou Asian Games

SPORTS P12

Govt mulls intel gathering posts along China border

AGENCIES

Mago (Arunachal Pradesh), Oct 2: Border posts of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) along the India-China frontier from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh will have an additional team of intelligence officers for surveillance and information gathering. A highly placed source said the Central government has approved a proposal for establishing the set-up that will be known as the Border Intelligence Post (BIP).

The move bears significance in view of the increased Chinese activities along the border and transgressions by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). A stand-off between the Indian Army and the PLA in Ladakh has been going on since June 2020. Each of the BIPs will be manned by four-five officials of the Intelligence Bureau and protected by ITBP personnel, the source in the know of the development said on the condition of anonymity.

Those personnel who would be

deployed at the BIPs will keep an eye on activities across the border and share updates with the higher authorities and the government.

The source, however, refused to disclose the amount sanctioned by the central government for the project citing its sensitive nature.

Mago is the first village close to the border with China in the Chuna sector in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district. An all-terrain motorable road was built in the village only in 2020. There are around 180 border outposts (BOPs) of the ITBP along the entire India-China border and the establishment of 45 more was sanctioned recently.

20 Army soldiers were killed in a clash with the PLA in June 2020 in Ladakh's Galwan Valley. On December 9 last year, PLA troops intruded in Yangste in Arunachal Pradesh which led to a clash between the soldiers of the neighbouring countries and resulted in injuries to both sides.



BLOOMS OF JOY: Farmers pluck water lily from a pond in Nadia district of West Bengal, Monday

PTI PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

NIA's most wanted terrorist arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police Monday arrested one of NIA's most wanted terrorists Mohammad Shahnawaz, accused of having links with an ISIS module, along with his two associates and seized incriminating material including those suspected to be used in IED fabrication, officials said. Shahnawaz was nabbed in Jaipur in Delhi, while Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf and Mohammad Arshad Warsi were arrested in Lucknow and Moradabad, in Uttar Pradesh, respectively, they said, adding the three have been remanded in police custody for a week. All three have done engineering. Shanawaz had escaped from the custody of Pune Police and was living in Delhi, they said. He carried a reward of ₹3 lakh.

WHO okays 2nd malaria vaccine

London: The World Health Organisation authorised a second malaria vaccine Monday, a decision that could offer countries a cheaper and more effective option than the world's first shot against the parasitic disease. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the UN health agency was approving the new malaria vaccine based on the advice of two expert groups, recommending its use in children at risk of the disease. Oxford University developed the new three-dose vaccine with help from the Serum Institute of India. "As a malaria researcher, I used to dream of the day we would have a safe and effective vaccine against malaria. Now we have two," Tedros said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Is it true that the govt is busy developing a vaccine to save the Vaccine War?

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
MAX	29.9°C 28.8°C
MIN	25.6°C 25.0°C
Humidity	97% 92%
Rainfall	13.8mm 4.4mm
Forecast	Cloudy sky with light rain

Bihar caste survey out

OBCs, EBCs NEARLY 2/3 OF BIHAR'S TOTAL POPULATION: SURVEY DATA

AGENCIES

Patna, Oct 2: The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar Monday released findings of its much-awaited caste survey months ahead of the 2024 Parliamentary elections, which revealed that OBCs and EBCs constitute a whopping 63 per cent of the state's total population.

The data which could spur demands for similar caste-based census elsewhere is a key agenda of the Opposition INDIA bloc which may well help Kumar and the alliance in the forthcoming elections in the Hindi heartland where caste politics plays a major part.

According to the data released here by Development Commissioner Vivek Singh, the state's total population stood at a little over 13.07 crore, out of which the Extremely Backward Classes (36 per cent) were the largest social segment followed by the Other Backward Classes at 27.13 per cent.

Backward caste politicians have long claimed that the population of castes they represented numbered far more than the conventional wisdom based on the 1931 census, which was the last time a caste headcount was conducted and released.

The survey also stated that Yadavs, the OBC group to which Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav belongs, were the largest

CONG FOR NAT'L CASTE CENSUS

The Congress Monday welcomed the Bihar government's move to release the findings of a caste census and called upon the Centre to immediately conduct a similar exercise at the national level to ensure social justice and provide a firm foundation for social empowerment programmes. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the caste census of Bihar has proved that 84 per cent of people in the state are OBCs, SCs and STs and their share should be according to their population.

OPPN DIVIDING SOCIETY: MODI

In a sharp attack on the Congress without naming it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said the opposition party has played with the emotions of the poor and divided the country on caste lines for six decades -- a "sin" which it is committing now as well. Modi's statement came hours after the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar released findings of its caste survey months ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, which revealed OBCs and EBCs constitute a whopping 63 per cent of the state's total population.

in terms of the population, accounting for 14.27 per cent of the total.

Dalits, also known as the Scheduled Castes, accounted for 19.65 per cent of the total population in the state, which is also home to nearly 22 lakh (1.68 per cent) people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Those belonging to the "unreserved" category, which denotes the proverbial "upper castes" who dominated politics till the Mandal wave of the 1990s comprise 15.52 per cent of the total population.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said Monday, "A meeting will soon be convened of all the nine political parties with an elec-

toral presence in the state legislature and the facts and figures will be shared with them."

RJD president Lalu Prasad also issued a statement declaring the survey will set the tone for "a nationwide caste census which will be undertaken when we form the next government at the Centre".

Both Prasad and Kumar have played an instrumental role in the formation of the INDIA coalition, which affirmed its commitment to holding a caste census at a meeting it held in Bangalore recently.

That the survey would form part of the politics in the run-up to general elections was made quite clear by other leaders too.

WOMAN ASI'S DEATH Hubby cries murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 2: The mystery surrounding the unnatural death of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of police Alish Narmi Lugun in Rourkela took a new turn Monday when her bereaved husband lodged an FIR alleging that the 30-year-old police officer had been done to death, even as the Uditnagar police claimed to have arrested two persons in connection with the incident.

A senior police official, who spoke requesting anonymity, said that Amit Patra and Gourirani Bibhar have been taken into custody following investigation into Lugun's death. They have been booked for attempt to murder (IPC Section 307) and dacoity (IPC Section 495) and were produced before a local court for remand, Monday.

Rourkela SP Mitrabhanu Mohapatra said the post-mortem of the deceased police woman, who was an Inquiry Officer in the assistant collector Sushmita Minz missing case, was performed Monday. "The reports will be available in a day or two," he said adding that the police will investigate the case from 'all possible angles' once the reports were available.

Meanwhile, husband of the deceased ASI Sanjay Lakra, who filed an FIR seeking investigation into her death, cast doubt over the veracity of the awaited post-mortem report and alleged that

his wife had been murdered. "My wife was beaten to death. I don't believe in the outcome of the post-mortem report."

According to reports, ASI Lugun Sunday night responded to a call in her PCR van alerting her about some people assaulting the staff of a private bus Raza Gold. The attackers were the occupants of a private car who intercepted the bus at Hanuman Vatika after the bus allegedly hit their car. The SP said the arrested duo had assaulted the bus driver who received injuries on his head.

It is suspected that Lugun fell down after she was pushed violently while trying to control the situation. She fell unconscious and was taken to a hospital where she was declared 'brought dead'.

Minz death probe intensifies

The Investigating Officer in the Sushmita Minz death case, Vanita Majhi, Sunday inspected Room No 201 of Radhika Regency Hotel where the deceased assistant collector lived. She also checked the CCTV footage and questioned the hotel staff to ascertain the movement of the deceased before her death.

Majhi said Minz was alone when she came out of the hotel. She made it clear that ASI Lugun was not the personal security officer to Minz.

The police have issued notice to Minz's kin to appear before the IO and asked her husband to produce divorce proceeding papers.

Minor drowns in Baramunda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: A Class VIII student drowned in a pond in Baramunda area here Monday.

The boy was identified as Om Prakash Pradhan, a student of Baramunda Municipal Corporation High School. He lived in an orphanage, they said.

Prakash, along with his three friends, had been to the pond near Nilakantheswar Temple for a bath, during which he slipped into deep water and drowned. His friends immediately called the locals for help.

The boy was rescued and rushed to a nearby health facility where he was declared 'dead on arrival', police said, adding that an investigation was underway.

Meanwhile, a team of ODRAF and Fire Services personnel Monday fished out the body of a youth who had drowned in the reservoir near Damadamani shrine in Choudwar area of Cuttack Sunday. The deceased was identified as Anshuman Nayak of CDA Sector 7 area of the Silver City.

Poverty: Couple kills 3 daughters

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Oct 2: A migrant labourer and his wife killed their three daughters as they could not raise them because of poverty in Punjab's Jalandhar, said police Monday.

They confessed their crime hours after the bodies of three sisters were found inside a trunk in their house in Kanpur village, they said.

Sushil Mandal and his wife Manju Devi, both daily wagers, gave their daughter milk mixed with pesticides Sunday and later they stuffed their bodies inside the trunk.

The couple reported the girls -- Kanchan (4), Sakshi (7) and Amrita (9) -- missing the same night at Mag Sudan Police Station, a police official said. They had five children, police said.

Speaking to reporters, Jalandhar Rural Senior Superintendent of Police Mukhwinder Singh Bullar said they scanned nearby CCTV cameras and found that the girl did not come out of the house.

During questioning, the couple confessed that they poisoned them as they could not bring them up because of poverty and concocted the story of girls going missing after killing them, police said.

Nobel prize for mRNA Covid vax researchers

AGENCIES

Stockholm, Oct 2: Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman won the Nobel Medicine Prize Monday for work on messenger RNA (mRNA) technology that paved the way for groundbreaking Covid-19 vaccines.

The pair, who had been tipped as favourites, "contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times," the jury said.

In honouring the pair this year, the Nobel committee in Stockholm broke with its usual practice of honouring decades-old research.

While the prize-winning science dates back to 2005, the first vaccines to use the mRNA technology were those made by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna



against Covid-19. Kariko of Hungary and Weissman of the United States, longstanding colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, have won a slew of awards for their research, including the prestigious Lasker Award in 2021, often seen as a precursor to the Nobel.

Unlike traditional vaccines which use a weakened virus or a key piece of the virus' protein, mRNA vaccines provide the genetic molecules that tell cells what proteins to make, which simulates an infection and trains

- In honouring the pair this year, the Nobel committee in Stockholm broke with its usual practice of honouring decades-old research
- Kariko's and Weissman's mRNA technology is now being used to develop other treatments for diseases and illnesses such as cancer, influenza and heart failure

the immune system for when it encounters the real virus.

The idea was first demonstrated in 1990, but it wasn't until the mid-2000s that Weissman and Kariko developed a technique to control a dangerous inflammatory response seen in animals exposed to these molecules, opening the way to develop safe human vaccines.

The pair will receive their

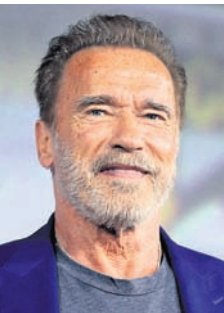
Nobel Prize, consisting of a diploma, a gold medal and a \$1 million cheque, from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

Last year, the Medicine Prize went to Swedish paleogeneticist Svante Paabo, who sequenced the genome of the Neanderthal and discovered the previously unknown hominin Denisova.

The Nobel season continues this week with the announcement of the winners of the Physics Prize Tuesday and the Chemistry Prize Wednesday.

They will be followed by the much-anticipated prizes for Literature Thursday and Peace Friday. The Economics Prize winds things up Monday, October 9.

leisure



ARNOLD RECALLS HIS SECRET AFFAIR WITH HOUSEKEEPER

Actor and politician Arnold Schwarzenegger has recalled the incident when he had a secret affair with his housekeeper Mildred Baena. Their extramarital tryst resulted in a child named Joseph, who was born five days after the ex-California governor welcomed his son Christopher with his ex-wife Maria Shriver.

TOM HANKS WARNS FANS ABOUT HIS FAKE AI AD

Elvis actor Tom Hanks has hit out at an advert for a dental plan that he appears to feature in, insisting the replica is fake and he didn't authorise the use of his virtual doppelganger. "BEWARE!! There's a video out there with an AI version of me," Hanks wrote on Instagram.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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accuracy • reliability • trust
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ARIES
So, busy bee, you finally realise you've been ignoring your near and dear. And now, it's going to cost you a lot of effort to make it up to them. Dinner at the finest restaurant, a trip to the theatre, shopping at a posh boutique... be ready to splurge, says Ganesh!

TAURUS
Your vision today will have a hue of green as you will draw to money like a fly to sweets. Taste the power of money with fortune as the monkey on your back. You may buy a pendant or a necklace today and your haggling skills will save you from being swindled, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will spend the day safeguarding sentiments of others and it is in your own interest. For most part of the day, probably the entire day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes. Today, having a successful career will be only thing on your mind.

CANCER
You are a master of deception, and your sugar-coated comments play a pivotal role in your methods. Today, you will be able to smell trouble from a distance, and will know when to take a U-turn.

LEO
Ever been surprised at your own abilities? Today you shall be, says Ganesh. With the perfect blend of amicable gestures and lack of inimical actions, you are poised to become the cynosure of all occasions. The day will bring to the fore your flexible nature, moderate views, and your mature mannerisms in a cocktail that is as heady as the best blend.

VIRGO
Children will ring in applause and praises - in the classroom and off it too! Processing logic and reasoning will improve too. Ganesh asks you to keep calm and enjoy the joy ride, irrespective of anything that happens during the day.

LIBRA
Some days are full of new ideas. Today is one such day as you radiate diligence and intelligence. Consider it an auspicious moment to begin new business schemes, especially if you happen to be self-employed. Today, you will be able to think at a level higher and clearer than the rest. But, as happens when you focus more on work, it comes at the cost of family time. Maintain a balance, advises Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Dig in deep and keep yourself in the hunt, says Ganesh. Karma matters, but don't give much thought to the outcome. In matters of joint ventures, adopt a wait-and-watch approach today.

SAGITTARIUS
Be ready to receive advice - unasked and unwarranted. Don't overlook it either, as these suggestions can be worthy of consideration. But let the last word rest in your hands and look deep inside for the right verdict.

CAPRICORN
The most intimidating of ventures can prove successful if fortune favours you; you will be fortunate today, says Ganesh. Those of you dealing in stocks and shares can expect a profitable day ahead, but don't forget to give credit to your spouse; it will be their luck working wonders for you.

AQUARIUS
Bursting with new ideas, you want to make the world a better place! You will give your best in a team and will come up with great schemes and solutions. At gatherings and social dos, says Ganesh, you will remain your charming self, impressing people with an amazing social grace.

PISCES
Home is where the hearth is, in which the troubles you need to deal with today are smouldering. Running away from your problems will simply have you out of breath; it would be wiser to take a stand and find solutions to petty conflicts without losing your perspective.

PARIS FASHION WEEK RUNWAY LOOK

Ash garners mixed reviews

Mumbai: Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who has lately been in the news for her role in Mani Ratnam's Tamil epic drama Ponnin Selvan, has drawn mixed reactions to her walking the ramp at the ongoing Paris Fashion Week. The former Miss World walked the ramp at the iconic fashion event along with international model and media celebrity Kendall Jenner, Chinese actor Gong Jun and acclaimed British actress Helen Mirren at the L'Oreal Paris show.

The walk happened on a runway near the Eiffel Tower. Aishwarya was dressed in a golden shimmering gown and looked her brightest, but that did not impress everybody on the Net.

A user wrote on social media, "What has happened to her face?" Another commented, "That



dress doesn't go well with her body type." People on the Internet also addressed her rudely. Many people, however, rose to her support as they called her stint at the show a memorable one. They also celebrated her appearance with Jenner, the video of which is going viral on the Internet. Meanwhile, Navya Naveli, Shweta Bachchan's daughter who's been lately appearing with grandpa Amitabh Bachchan in commercials, made her Paris Fashion Week debut this season. Navya walked the ramp gracefully in a red mini dress.



'Wish I'd taken on more mainstream films'

Mumbai: Raima Sen, with her youthful charm, has been in the limelight for over two decades now. Descended from cinema legends, she's the daughter of the iconic Moon Moon Sen and the granddaughter of the illustrious Suchitra Sen. Yet, while her cinematic heritage is undoubtedly rich, her contributions to both Bengali and Hindi cinema can't be overlooked. Raima is happy with her role as a journalist in the much-anticipated film, *The Vaccine War*.

During a recent media interaction, the topic of mass appeal versus longevity in the industry came up. Raima was asked if she ever felt she missed out on the mainstream popularity that some of her contemporaries enjoyed.

Raima responded by acknowledging that her Bollywood trajectory did lean more towards the serious cinema after *Godmother*, she also mentioned doing mainstream Hindi films like *Parineeta*, *Honeymoon Travels Pvt. Ltd.*, and *Manorama Six Feet Under*. She admitted to wishing she'd taken on more popular roles in Bollywood, understanding the unparalleled reach and appeal of mainstream cinema. Nevertheless, she's content with her career choices, emphasizing the value of versatility and being an all-rounder in the industry.

Raima's confident that her selective approach and commitment to her craft will keep her actively engaged in cinema for at least another decade.

Movies on Mahatma screened on birth anniv

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Indian Infotainment Media Corporation, Mumbai in association with Odia Language Literature and Culture Dept, Govt of Odisha, hosted the Gandhi Panorama, a one day International Festival of Films on Gandhiji and his principles. The festival where short films on the Father of the Nation were screened at Utkal Rangamancha, GKCM Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar. The event was graced by Culture Minister Ashwini Kumar Patra, Director Dilip Routrai and Joint Director Subodh Chandra Acharya. Among others, Chairman of Gandhi



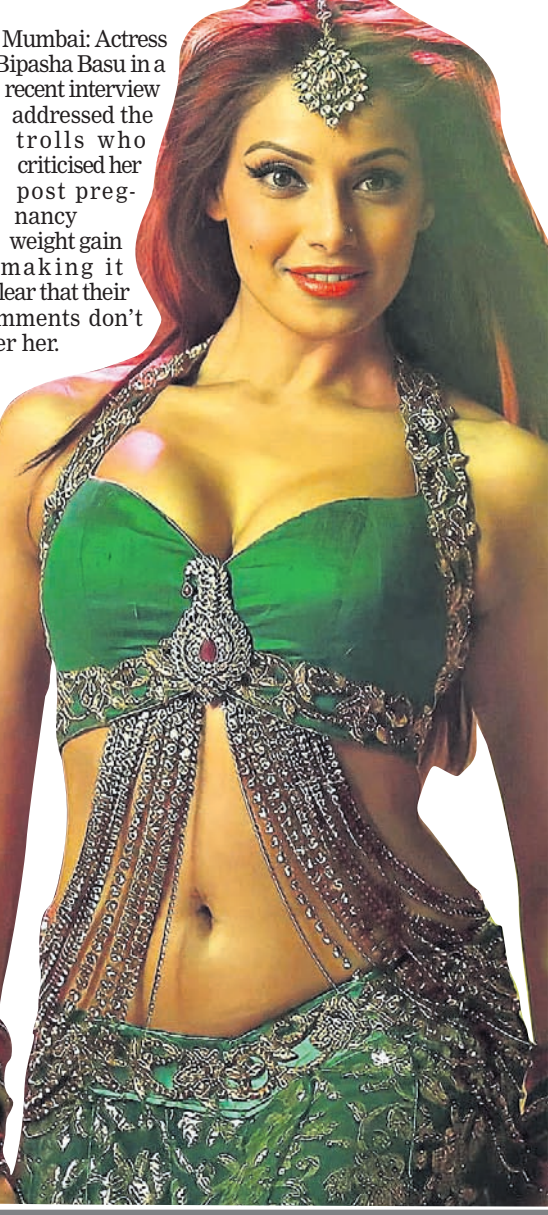
Panorama Devendra Khandelwal and Secretary Organising Committee Gandhi Panorama, Ms Ketki Kapadia were also present. The inauguration ceremony also included felicitation of noted Gandhians Rina Routray, Birupakhya Tripathy and Jayanta Das by the esteemed guests. Several short films and documentaries on Mahatma Gandhi were screened. The event was graced by many members of the civil society and school children as well.

Bipasha on trolls body-shaming her

Speaking to media about facing body-shaming, the *Race* actress stated, "I would like to tell them to please keep trolling. It's completely fine because I'm not bothered."

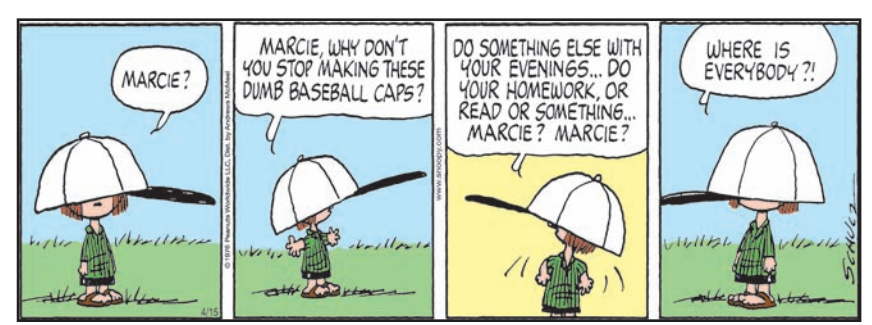
Bipasha and Karan both became parents for the first time with Devi on November 12, 2022, and emphasised that their daughter is their top priority. The Jism actress concluded, "Devi's my number one when it comes to everything and anything. Whether my eyes are open or shut, it's always her. Every time I step out, I just want to run back home and be with her. Everything in my life now revolves around her... Karan is number three, I'm number two and Devi is number one."

While Bipasha and Karan often share photos and videos of their daughter, they have chosen to keep her away from the public eye and have not revealed a clear image of Devi yet.



Mumbai: Actress Bipasha Basu in a recent interview addressed the trolls who criticised her post pregnancy weight gain making it clear that their comments don't bother her.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

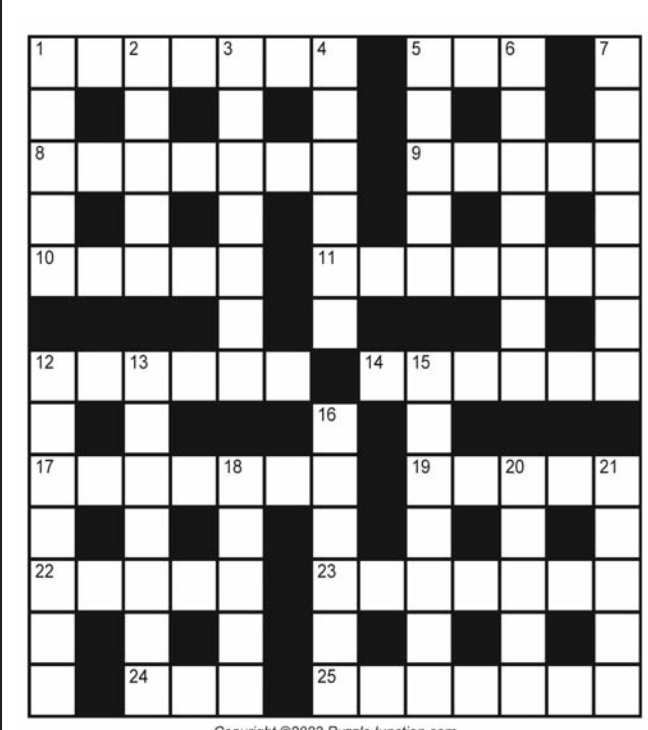


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
1 Salad greens
5 Fire remnant
8 Italian dumpling
9 Picture puzzle
10 Lassitude
11 Mining tram
12 Type of scholar
14 High standards
17 Mountain sheep
19 Wanderer
- Down**
22 Chess pieces
23 Worship
24 Film director's cry
25 Bluepoints
- Across**
4 Forge user
5 Chef's wear
6 Braasier
7 Abandons
12 Bawls out
13 Produce type
15 Fragile
16 Deep blue
18 Outbreak
20 Wavelike design
21 Exploits

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

AT LORD'S ABODE

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla near Srimandir Lion's Gate in Puri after paying obeisance to the sibling deities, Monday. District Collector Samarth Verma is also seen



PEOPLE CONNECT PROGRAMME

Oppn misleading people: Naveen

While Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik highlighted the govt's achievements in food security, disaster management, sports, IT and attracting investments, the Opposition BJP sought white papers on industrialisation, employment generation, farmers' income and irrigation facilities in the state



BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during party's 'Jan Sampark Padayatra' in Badagada area of Bhubaneswar, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Opposition BJP and Congress are misleading the people with false information, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik alleged Monday, maintaining that they have been rejected earlier and the same would happen again.

Addressing party workers while launching BJD's 'Jan Sampark Padayatra', Patnaik alleged that the state's opposition parties were conspiring to stall the developmental projects surrounding the Srimandir in Puri and the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar.

"They are misleading people with false information. Whenever an election ap-

proaches, they adopt such practices, but are always rejected by the people," he said.

Claiming that people are well aware of the "anti-people" and "anti-development" policies of the opposition, he said, "People will never forgive them."

As part of the 'padayatra' or march, which has been launched with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state, the BJD will reach out to people in all 314 blocks of the state. The programme will con-

“They (opposition parties) are misleading people with false information. Whenever an election approaches, they adopt such practices, but are always rejected by the people”

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

tinue till October 11.

Highlighting the achievements of his government, Patnaik said the BJD is working for the empowerment of women, poor, youth, SCs and STs.

"However, the opposition parties are not happy with the de-

velopment works undertaken in the state," he said.

The Chief Minister said the state is witnessing a transformation, which has enhanced the self-confidence of the people.

"Odisha has set a benchmark for other states in food security,

disaster management, sports and IT. The state has secured second position in the country in attracting investments," he said.

While the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) has brought a revolution in the state's healthcare sector, the government's school transformation programme helped to reduce the gap between state-run and private schools, he added.

Patnaik, the chief of the BJD, urged party workers to reach out to the people with the development works undertaken by his government.

Dismissing the Chief Minister's claim, the BJP asked the government to publish white papers on industrialisation, employment generation, farmers' income and irrigation facilities.

"In the name of development, the BJD is doing propaganda. During its 23 years' rule, the state has gone 23 years backward," state BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal alleged.

"Anti-people leaders are there within the BJD. Those who are involved in rape and murder are part of the ruling party," he claimed.

Senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra claimed Patnaik's statements were not based on facts.

"The five-time chief minister is very much acquainted with the strategies to win elections," he said, without elaborating.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BABY SWAPPING CHARGE

DNA samples collected to ascertain parenthood

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Blood samples of a woman and a one-week-old girl were collected for DNA testing Monday, as the woman's family had alleged that his newborn son was swapped with a girl child at Capital Hospital here.

DNA testing will be done at the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFCL), Deputy Superintendent of Capital Hospital Dhananjaya Das said.

A DNA test is conducted to decide, among others, whether an individual is a biological child of another.

Pranakrushna Biswal, a man from Kendrapara district, September 26 lodged a complaint with the hospital authorities and the police that his wife had given birth to a boy the previous night but he was swapped with a girl child.

Biswal had stated that he was informed about the birth of a boy by an attendant.

Following the complaint, the hospital conducted an investigation which found that the attendant concerned had given the wrong information to the family by mistake.

The authorities have also suspended the female attendant for allegedly giving false information to Biswal's family about the birth of a boy.

"Biswal did not agree to the

STORY SO FAR

▶ Pranakrushna Biswal, a man from Kendrapara district, September 26 lodged a complaint with the hospital authorities and the police that his wife had given birth to a boy the previous night but he was swapped with a girl child

▶ Biswal had stated that he was informed by an attendant about the birth of a baby boy

▶ Following the complaint, the hospital conducted an investigation which found that the attendant concerned had given the wrong information to the family by mistake

probe findings. Following an order of a local court, samples of his wife and the girl have been collected for DNA matching to ascertain the truth," Das said.

Biswal said he would accept the result of the DNA test.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is a genetic code carrying information from both parents to their children. It is a unique code for everybody, as people receive different sets of genes from their parents.

As the Biswal family has not accepted the baby girl yet, she is under the care of the hospital.

Delhi HC: Adaptation of scriptures protected

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The Delhi High Court has restrained several entities from reproducing and disseminating content belonging to Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, established by ISKCON founder Srila Prabhupada, saying while there can be no copyright in religious scriptures, their adaptations which are 'transformative works' like Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana or BR Chopra's Mahabharata are entitled to protection from piracy.

Justice PM Singh, while dealing with the Trust's lawsuit, said copyright would vest in original parts of works which preach, teach or explain the scripture and the piracy of such copyrighted works of the plaintiff cannot be permitted. "Defendant Nos.1 to 14 shall stand restrained in any manner from printing, reproducing, communicating, disseminating any part of the plaintiff's works to the public either in print form or in audio-visual form or in electronic form including through websites, mobile applications, weblinks, Instagram posts or any other posts on the social media as would result in the infringement of Plaintiff's copyright," the court ordered.

It directed Google LLC and Meta Platforms Inc to take down the infringing works from their platforms while ordering suspension and blocking of the offending links by the authorities.

The plaintiff submitted that it has copyright in all works of spiritual teacher Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada who simplified the religious books and scriptures and made it easy for the common man to understand them.

"There can be no doubt that the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is one of the most revered ancient scriptures in the world. The Bhagavad Gita along with the other scriptures like Bhagavatam which are written about by the Author (Prabhupada) are all public domain works." "There can be no copyright claimed in the scriptures. However, any adaptations of the said work including providing explanation, summary, meaning, exegesis/interpretation or creating any audio visual works for eg, television series like Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana or BR Chopra's Mahabharata; dramatic works created by drama societies based on scriptures etc, being transformative works, would be entitled to copyright protection - being original works of the Authors themselves," said the court.

GANDHI JAYANTI

1st critical edition of Bapu's 'Poorna Swaraj' to hit stands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: A new book, touted to be the first critical edition of "Poorna Swaraj: Constructive Programme: Its Meaning and Place", sets the backdrop for readers to understand Gandhi's thoughts on making an ideal society.

The book, authored by Mahatma Gandhi with a comprehensive contextual introduction by academic Dhananjay Rai, aims to open a window to his vision of attaining real and complete independence or 'Swaraj' for India.

It is scheduled to be released October 30. Today marks the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. "There is a celebration of philosophy proper (Hind Swaraj/Swaraj) and the neglect of philosophy practical (Constructive Programme). It is to be stated categorically that philosophical proper is unattainable without philosophical practical - both constitute Poorna Swaraj. "In absence of philosophical practical, philosophical proper remains a mere scholastic exercise since the former makes it an attainable ideal," writes Rai in the intro-

duction of the book.

For the unversed, a small booklet, titled 'Constructive Programme: its meaning and place', which Gandhi wrote on the train from Sevagram to Bardoli, appealed to all Congressmen and others engaged in the freedom struggle to address as many as 18 issues.

These 18 programmes, which became Gandhi's framework for the new India he wished to see after Swaraj, include communal unity, removal of untouchability, prohibition, khadi, basic education, labour, advan-

ce, vas and knowledge of health and hygiene.

"More than just a way to bring back the Constructive Programme's importance, this book draws attention to eight-

een programmes in the text for public discussion and action by showing its history, philosophical values and theoretical contribution have developed over time," read the book's description.

According to publisher Penguin Random House India, the amazingly relevant and thought-provoking, 'Poorna Swaraj', is a must-read for students and scholars of history, social science, politics, and Gandhian studies.

According to publisher Penguin Random House India, the amazingly relevant & thought-provoking, 'Poorna Swaraj', is a must-read for students and scholars of history, social science, politics, and Gandhian studies

6 districts to receive heavy rainfall: IMD

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday issued heavy rainfall warning for six districts of the state.

"Sunday's well marked low pressure area weakened into a low pressure area Monday morning and now lies over southwest Jharkhand and adjoining north Chhattisgarh with associated cyclonic circulation extending up to mid-tropospheric levels," IMD's regional centre said in its mid-day bulletin.

AT LEAST 4 PLACES RECORD HEAVY RAINFALL OF OVER 100MM DURING PAST 24 HOURS

Issuing Orange Warning which is valid up to 8:30am of Tuesday, the IMD said heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) may occur at some places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Deogarh and Angul.

It has issued Yellow Warning of heavy rainfall of 7 to 11cm for the districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore,

Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh.

In its forecast from 8:30am of Tuesday to 8:30am of Wednesday, the IMD issued Yellow Warning of heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) for the districts of Bargarh, Subarnapur, Bolangir, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Angul, Deogarh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal and Jajpur.

During the past 24 hours, fairly

widespread rainfall occurred over the districts of Bargarh, Rayagada, Dhenkanal, Subarnapur, Boudh, Sambalpur, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Kendrapada.

The state received an average rainfall of 16mm.

At least four places recorded heavy rainfall of over 100mm. Highest 114mm was recorded at Padampur in Bargarh district and Padmapur in Rayagada district, followed by 109.6mm at Kankadahad in Dhenkanal district and 108.8mm at Subarnapur; the IMD said.



RAIN PAIN: Commuters negotiate a waterlogged Rasulgarh-Bomikhal Road after rain lashed Bhubaneswar, Monday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Public toilets across country wallow in neglect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: As India marks nine years of the Swachh Bharat Mission on Gandhi Jayanti, a new survey has found that most Indians feel that there has been no improvement in the state of public toilets and that they would rather visit a commercial establishment to use toilets instead of a public facility.

The survey by community social media platform LocalCircles also found that even in cities like Mumbai, Delhi or Bangalore, going to public toilets, unless managed by reputed organisations like Sulabh International, is generally a nightmare.

The survey was carried out in 341 districts of India to find



68% OF RESPONDENTS SAID THEY WOULD RATHER VISIT A COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT AND USE THE TOILET THERE INSTEAD OF VISITING A PUBLIC TOILET

out the state of public toilets and understand what people do when they are outside and need to use a toilet. The survey received over 39,000 responses. About 42 per cent urban

Indians believe availability of public toilets in their city/district has improved but 52 per cent of respondents indicated that there has been 'no improvement' in the state of public toilets.

LocalCircles' survey

■ 42% Indians believe availability of public toilets in their city/district has improved, while 52% indicated that there has been 'no improvement' in the state of public toilets

■ 37% found public toilets were 'average/functional', 25% described them as 'below average/barely functional', 16% found them 'terrible' and 12% found the public toilets 'so bad, went but came out without using'

■ 69% of those surveyed were men, while 31% were women

'terrible' and 12 per cent found the public toilets 'so bad, went but came out without using'.

"However, even in cities like Mumbai, Delhi or Bangalore, going to public toilets, unless managed by organisations like Sulabh International or having a system of pay to use, or a highly efficient civic body managing them, is generally a nightmare," the survey results showed.

The big issue that a large number of people have reported on LocalCircles in the last three years has been lack of hygiene, cleanliness and maintenance of public toilets in their area, district or city.

The survey said 68 per cent respondents surveyed said they would rather visit a commer-

cial establishment and use the toilet there instead of visiting a public toilet.

When the survey delved into the reason for such a preference, it found that only 10 per cent surveyed rated public toilets in their city/district as well maintained while the majority 53 per cent confirmed that they are in poor or unusable state.

About 37 per cent of those surveyed said they are just in functional state but not well maintained. In the survey, 69 per cent respondents were men while 31 per cent respondents were women. About 47 per cent respondents were from tier one, 31 per cent from tier two and 22 per cent respondents were from tier three and four districts.

CRYPTO PONZI SCAM

OPID court rejects bail pleas of accused



tained about Rs 31.23 crore and cash deposit of Rs 2.10 crore was transacted in the relevant period (between 2021 and 2023)," said EOW sources.

Accused Ratnakar, who is very close to prime accused, Gurtej, had also huge number of down line members below him in pyramid scheme. He used to lure the members publicizing various ponzi schemes of the STA token through his YouTube channel and institution 'Learn to Earn' located at IRC village in Nayapalli area of the City.

"It came to surface that he had been promoting STA token with other co-accused under the Banner 'Learn 2 Earn'. In this regard, he has also spent about Rs 1.42 lakh in an event to promote STA token in Hotel Presidency, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar," EOW sources added.

Ratnakar has reportedly invested more than Rs 60 lakh out of the ill-gotten money in purchasing plots in capital City.

"On scrutiny of his personal accounts maintained in several banks at Talcher and Bhubaneswar, including account in the name of Learn2 Earn, it was ascertained that a total transaction of Rs 1.3 crore has taken place in the above mention accounts in the relevant period," claimed EOW.

head of STA token, Gurtej Singh Sindhu, 40, from a hotel in Rajasthan in August this year.

The STA token operating on pyramid structure had collected more than Rs 1,000 crore from thousands of members mainly in the states like Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Assam. Many gullible people from Bhadrak, Balasore, Bhubaneswar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kendrapada and Keonjhar districts have reportedly invested around Rs 30 crore in the ponzi scam.

The accused Nirod Kumar had used his referral link to add 21,000 down line members in the pyramid scheme under him and in the process had amassed huge amount of wealth.

"On scrutiny of his three numbers of accounts, it was ascer-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The bail applications of two prime accused in the 1,000 crore crypto ponzi scam have been rejected by the designated Court under the OPID Act, Cuttack. The accused were earlier arrested in August this year by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in connection with a case (19/23) registered June 13, 2023.

The EOW of state police Monday informed in a press note that the OPID court rejected the bail pleas of Nirod Kumar Das, the Odisha head of Solar Techno Alliance (STA) token, and Ratnakar Palai, one of the up line members of the sham company, September 16 and 23 respectively. The EOW had earlier arrested the mastermind of the multi-crore scam and the India



SAFETY CAMPAIGN: Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani flags off a 'Surakhya Sachetanta Abhijan Rath' from the premises of Cuttack Rural Superintendent of Police office, Monday

CP, Bakul Foundation launch Daan Utsav

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Bakul Foundation launched Daan Utsav or the 'joy of giving week' here Monday in partnership with Commissionerate Police's Basti Ku Chala Abhiyan.

On the first day, some 300 volunteers went to 50 slums of the City in 25 groups to conduct various fun and learning activities for more than 2,000 kids. These programmes will continue for a week till October 8.

Daan Utsav is a festival observed to celebrate the values of charity and volunteering. People celebrate it individually at home, at the community level



at schools and colleges. No organisation has exclusive rights over the festival though it has recently become popular among volunteer organisations and civil society groups.

Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Kumar Singh, joining the volunteers at the Bakul Library said, "Through the Basti Ku Chala Abhiyan, the police is trying to create goodwill in slums

through welfare activities focusing on children."

If the children's energies are channelised in the right direction, and they are given a positive learning environment, they would stay away from crime, said Singh, adding, "That is why, the Commissionerate Police is bringing children from slums every week to spend time at the Bakul Library and has also set up a Library in Ishaneswar Basti."

For the kids, the volunteers conducted activities like ice breaking games, art and craft exercises and story creation games to stir their creativity while also having fun.

'Shram Daan' by CIPET

Bhubaneswar: The Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET): IPT Bhubaneswar organised a cleanliness programme "Shram Daan" on the premises of Shikhar Chandi Temple here, Sunday. The programme was organised on the occasion of Swachhata Divas CIPET principal director and head Pramod Kumar Sahoo along with staff, faculties and students were present at the venue. Sahoo gave a brief introduction on the programme and its purpose. Later, all participated in the cleaning activities. A plantation programme was also held on this occasion.



CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

In my army service record my wife name Subhasree Puhan and DOB is wrongly mentioned as name- Subhashri and DOB 04 July 1990, whereas her actual Name and DOB is Subhashree Puhan and 10/08/1990, kindly record her actual name and DOB for all future purposes, Army No- 14672745X- Gajanan Poi, Ex Serviceman, At/Po- Sarasankha, Dist- Balasore, Via- Soro, Odisha- 756045.

I, Dibakara Maharana S/o Late Brundaban Maharana, address At- Achuli, PO/PS- Purushottampur, Dist.- Ganjam, PIN- 761018, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. A-4 Date 16.09.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Dibakar Maharana for all future purpose.

Guj, CM pay tributes to Babu & Shastri

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary here Monday.

Remembering Babu, the Chief Minister said, "His ideals of non-violence, peace, tolerance and unwavering dedication to the cause of India's freedom struggle will continue to inspire generations to come."

While paying tributes to Shastri, he said, "Shastri Ji was a great freedom fighter and statesman who captured the true spirit of India in his slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' which continues to be an inspiration for all of us."

On Gandhi Jayanti, Governor unveiled a statue of Babu in New Abhishek Hall of Raj Bhavan. He also paid homage to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri while urging all to remember his legacy and commit to build a stronger and more prosperous India.

Governor and Chief Minister offered flowers to the statue of Gandhi at state Assembly. On



this occasion, Assembly speaker Pramila Mallick, deputy speaker Rajinikanta Singh, Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha, Health Minister Niranjan Pujari, Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat and Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain were also present.

Information and Public Relation department held a photo exhibition on Gandhi at Soochana Bhawan here.

Meanwhile, several educational institutions also held programmes to mark the day.

The DAV School at Unit VIII remembered Babu and Shastri through the hymn 'Vaishnav Jana' and 'Ramdhun' and termed them as the great sons of Mother India. An 'all faith prayer' was also organised on this occasion.

Diplomatic Fusion Forum at Mother's Public School

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Mother's Public School hosted the inaugural edition of Diplomatic Fusion Forum (DFF) here Monday with participation of members of the G20 consultancy to spread awareness on global issues and help foster global harmony.

From the G20 consultancy, Kalyanee Paranjape, Meenakshi Ajith and Shivani Kowadkar shared invaluable insights into critical global issues and strategies for enhanced international cooperation.

Advocating for collaboration in international politics over completion, Kalyanee Paranjape, who is a strategy consultant in the G20 secretariat at the



External Affairs Ministry, underlined the importance of individual effort in driving global development.

Another delegate from the G20 secretariat, Meenakshi Ajith highlighted the challenges facing the member nations in domains of climate and environment. She stressed the need to strike a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability.

Daylight exposure may help treat type 2 diabetes

Exposure to natural light may help treat and prevent type 2 diabetes, according to a small study.

The research, presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Germany from October 2-6, carried out a range of metabolic tests on a group of people with type 2 diabetes when they were exposed to natural light and when they were exposed to artificial light and compared the results. "The misalignment of our internal circadian clock with the demands of a 24/7 society is associated with an increased incidence of metabolic diseases, including type 2 diabetes," said Ivo Habets of Maastricht University, the Netherlands, who co-led the research. "Natural daylight is the



strongest zeitgeber, or environmental cue, of the circadian clock, but most people are indoors during the day and so under constant artificial lighting," said Habets.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study involved 13 participants with an average age of 70 years who stayed in research facilities, which allowed their light ex-

posure, meal, and activity patterns to be tightly controlled.

They were exposed to two lighting conditions during office hours (8 am to 5 pm) in a randomised cross-over fashion: natural daylight from windows and artificial LED lighting.

There was a gap of at least four weeks between the two interventions, each lasting 4.5 days. During

the natural daylight intervention, the light intensity was usually highest at 12:30 pm, with an average reading of 2453 lux.

The artificial light was a constant 300 lux. Evenings were spent in dim light (less than 5 lux), and the sleeping period (11 pm to 7 am) in darkness. The participants were provided with standardised meals, meaning they ate the same food in both interventions.

Blood sugar levels were continuously recorded by monitors worn on the upper arm, and a range of other tests were performed on the final day and a half of each intervention.

The study found that blood glucose levels were within the normal range (4.4-7.8 mmol/L) for longer during the natural daylight intervention than in the artificial light intervention.

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Course-changing rivers spark fears

Residents of Rayagada town and adjacent areas blame local administration for rapid soil erosion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Oct 2: With both the Jhanjabati and the Nagavali rivers changing courses rapidly, people in this town are living in mortal fear. Jhanjabati incidentally is a distributary of the Nagavali river. Both the rivers are located on two sides of this town.

Initially, residents of this town thought the presence of the two rivers as a 'blessing'. They get their drinking water from the rivers and also water for irrigation of farmlands. Not any more now. With both rivers changing directions and coming closer to the residential land mass, people feel that if steps are not taken immediately for course correction, they will lose their properties and other belongings.

Locals pointed out that ram-



pant illegal sand and stone mining from the banks are the main reason for the rivers to change their courses. They said that because of illegal mining, erosion is taking place at a rapid pace. They also pointed out that substantial quantity of land has already been gobbled up by the

two rivers. Slum dwellers of this town are very apprehensive as they feel they will suffer the most if soil erosion is not prevented. Their problems increase during the monsoons when both the rivers are in spate.

Locals have approached the district and the block adminis-

tration to implement preventive measures against erosion. However, nothing has been done so far. A delegation of residents met the additional district magistrate Monday here and submitted a memorandum on this issue. The Jhanjabati river merges with the Nagavali near

the Majhgharia temple and then meanders towards Andhra Pradesh. It is the Jhanjabati which is giving sleepless nights to people. As it is changing direction, lives of residents in this town, Halua panchayat and the adjoining areas have come under serious threat. Lives of people living in the villages under Gumma, Halua and Tadama panchayats have also been seriously affected.

Residents pointed out that due to soil erosion, frequency of landslides in the vicinity of the two rivers is increasing. The localities close to this town that have been affected by landslides are Katlaguda, Sirikana, Siriguda and Jaramguda.

People are now hoping that the government steps in and implements measures to prevent soil erosion by the two rivers.

2 bikers killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Oct 2: Two bikers were killed Monday after a truck ran over them at Biranchipur Square about 500 metres from Nandipada police station in Keonjhar district. The deceased bikers were identified as Indramani Sethi, 40, and Rabinra Peda, son of Kuni Peda of Sulagadia village under Bhadrak Rural police limits.

Reports said that Indramani accompanied by Rabinra was returning home on his bike after handing 'Dwitya Osha' offerings at his sister's house at Bhatakarua village under Hatadihi block in Bhadrak district when the mishap happened.

The two were travelling on State Highway-No 53 when a truck coming from the opposite direction hit them at Biranchipur Square. The truck after hitting the two-wheeler ran over the two as they were writhing in pain.

Both Indramani and



Rabinra lay in a pool of blood while the driver fled the scene with his vehicle. Locals informed the cops who arrived on the spot and sent the two injured to Anandapur hospital. However, doctors declared both dead on arrival.

Later in the day police handed over the bodies of the deceased to the respective family members after post-mortem. They also initiated a probe into the accident. Efforts are on to locate the truck and arrest the driver.

MKCG under NHRC scanner

COMPLAINTS FILED OVER MEDICAL CARE, POOR ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought a complete report on the allegation of medical negligence, irregularities and poor administration at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Bhubaneswar.

The NHRC issued the reminder to the Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, District Magistrate, Ganjam and Superintendent of Police, Ganjam to file an additional report in light of the complainant's comments within four weeks.

The commission in its order passed September 25 said it would be constrained to invoke its co-

ercive powers U/S 13 of PHR Act 1993 if the persons concerned failed to submit the complete report within four weeks.

Petitioner Rabinra Kumar Mishra, a rights activist, had addressed to the commission September 20 last year that proper work was adversely affected for over four hours in several wards of the hospital following a clash between house surgeons and nursing staff over examination of a patient in the Casualty department. He also alleged that the mutilated body of one admitted patient Anant Rout, a farmer of Pitatali village in Ganjam district was found in the drain of the hospital.

Mishra also alleged that deaths have been reported in the past due to slabs falling off ceilings and portions of walls collapsing. He said that the right to health, right to live with dignity and right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India has been violated by the hospital authorities. Mishra had sought the intervention of the NHRC in the matter.

In the light of complaint, the commission had called for ad-

ditional report in July and in pursuant to same various communications received including a letter of September 8 last from Under Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare addressed to superintendent, MKCG Medical College and Hospital. However, no actual report has been submitted, taking complainant comments into account.

The commission issued a fresh reminder to the officials for filing of additional report in light of comments filed by the complainant within four weeks failing which 'this Commission will be constrained to invoke its coercive powers U/S 13 of PHR Act, 1993'.

The NHRC further stated that the additional/complete report as directed by the commission in the matter be sent latest by November 2 next for further consideration by the commission.

It also said any communication by public authorities in this matter may please be sent to the commission through the HRCNet Portal (<https://hrcnet.nic.in>) by using id and password already provided to the public authorities.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: Guests flagging off an awareness vehicle on cyber safety at the Circuit House ground in Nabarangpur, Monday. MP Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Collector Kamal Lochan Mishra, SP S Sushree, SDC advisor Pradip Majhi, Nabarangpur MLA Sadashiv Pradhani, his Dabugaon counterpart Manohar Randhari and Nabarangpur Municipality Chairman Kunu Nayak were present on the occasion



CLEANLINESS DRIVE: Students of Sundargarh Government Women's College participating in a cleanliness drive on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Monday

92-year-old mom murdered by man

AGENCIES

Phulbani, Oct 2: A man allegedly killed his 92-year-old mother and then set her body on fire after a heated exchange in Kandhamal district, police said Monday. The incident took place Sunday at Khajurisahi near Badimunda village. The deceased has been identified as Manjula Nayak and the accused as Samir Kumar Nayak, aged about 45, said Kalyanmoyee Sendha, inspector-in-charge, Tikabali police station.

According to the police, Samir was released from jail a week ago after undergoing imprisonment for three years after being convicted in a criminal case. There are several other cases still pending against him. He had a quarrel with Manjula over some domestic issues Sunday night while both were alone at their house, police added.

It is suspected that Samir killed his mother in a fit of rage by strangulating her and to eliminate the evidence, he set the body on fire inside the house. The villagers apprehended the accused and handed him over to the police, officials said.

Financial benefits for RSP employees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 2: A tripartite agreement which was signed Monday will result in financial benefits to employees of some of the departments of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP). The agreement was signed at the office of the RLC between the management of RSP, Rourkela Shramik Sangha (RSS) the recognised workers' union of the steel major and the regional Labour Commissioner.

This agreement will benefit the employees of the hot strip mill (2), new plate mill, blast furnace (95) and coke oven battery (6), CCD (new) and CPP (1). Employees who are in the fol-

lowing clusters, A, B and C respectively will get financial benefits of ₹700, ₹750 and ₹800 respectively. Apart from that, staff working in the mining department and employees belonging to clusters A, B and C will get health allowances of ₹500, ₹550 and ₹600 respectively.

"I am thankful to the Director in-Charge of RSP and other top officials, especially from the Departments of Personnel and Finance. Finally, we have achieved one of our long standing demands, which will benefit the workers. This was a legal demand and ultimately it has been accepted by the management," said general secretary of RSS, Prasant Behera.



Central team reviews scrub typhus treatment

Sambalpur: A four-member central team visited Monday, the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla to take stock of the situation regarding the scrub typhus cases being treated there. Currently seven scrub typhus patients are undergoing treatment at the hospital. The central team visited the ward where the scrub typhus patients are being treated and examined the treatment process. They also discussed with the doctors at the hospital regarding the medicines being used to treat the patients. They suggested that blood testing of the patients must be done on a regular basis. The central team also asserted on the importance of tests once the patients start recovering. They added that patients should be released only after obtaining a 'negative' report. The superintendent of VIMSAR, Professor Dr Lal Mohan Nayak along with all department heads were present during the visit of the central team. The members of the central team comprised of Professor of Medicine, Dr Sameer Gulati, public health deputy director Dr Tushar Nale, Microbiology specialist, Dr Dhara B Shah, and EICS officer, Dr Arushi Ghai.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
Tender Notice No. : 41/ET/SBP/ENGG/2023-24, Dtd. 27.09.2023	
e-Tender No. : 24-eT-SDENS-SBP-23	
Name of the work: TSR(P)-33.546 KM IN DEOGAN ROAD (DFR)-TITLAGARH (TIG) SECTION & TSR(P)-10.265 KM DEOGAN ROAD (DFR)-TITLAGARH (TIG)-THERUBALI (THV) SECTION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/SOUTH OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.	
Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 10,46,24,492.27, Bid Security: ₹ 6,73,200/-, Completion period: 18 (Eighteen) Months.	
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. on 30.10.2023.	
No manual offers sent by post/courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tender.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : http://www.ireps.gov.in	
The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.	
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) PR-633/O/23-24 Sambalpur	

Notice of Lodgement of Petition of Appeal to the Respondent (RULE 8 (I) & (II) of ORDER XIX, S.C.R. 2013) IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION CIVIL APPEAL NO. 3124 OF 2016

(Appeal by Special Leave granted by this Court's Order dated the 18th March, 2016 in Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No.11174 of 2012 from the Judgment and Order dated the 24th June, 2011 of the HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY, MAHARASHTRA IN WP No. 644 OF 2011).

PARSEE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY LTD. ...Petitioner(s) / Appellant(s)

VERSUS

ANAHITA H. ENGINEER AND OTHERS ... Respondent(s)

To, KASHMIRA M. BODHANWALA, RESIDING AT 673, FARIDUN MODI HOUSE, 2nd FLOOR ROAD NO. 12, DADAR, PARSIS COLONY, DISTRICT - MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA (PROCESS ID: 164300/2023) C. A. NO. 3124/2016/III R. No. 2 (b)

TAKE NOTICE that the Appellant above-named has on 03rd March, 2012 filed in the Registry of the Supreme Court, Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No. 11174 of 2012 from the Judgment and Order of the High Court above mentioned and pursuant to this Court's Order dated granting Special Leave to Appeal the case has been registered as Civil Appeal No. 3124 of 2016.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you that if you wish to contest the Appeal, you may appear before this Court, within thirty days of the receipt of this Notice either in person or by an Advocate-on-Record of this Court appointed by you in that behalf and take such part in the proceedings as you may be advised.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT in default of your appearance within the time prescribed, the Appeal will be proceeded with and determined in your absence and no further notice in relation thereto shall be given to you.

Dated: 18th August, 2023

Sd/- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

'Ho' songs open doors of fame for tribal youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Oct 2: A tribal youth here in Keonjhar district has shot to fame and carved a niche for himself as a singer by belting out songs in 'Ho' language. The songs have become a rage on YouTube. Soma Purty, 24, son of a farmer and Pala artiste Gurucharan Purty of Sanabadabil village under Aseinkala panchayat of Joda block is now a household name not only in Keonjhar district, but many other places in Odisha.

Soma has struggled hard for success. Not from an affluent family, Soma really had to struggle to keep his education going.

However, adversity could not prevent him from displaying his talent as a singer. He opened his own channel on YouTube and started uploading songs in his



Soma has started getting invitations for stage shows and has already performed at Ranchi, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur and Chaibasa in Jharkhand and also at Jajpur, Baripada and Rourkela

native tongue 'Ho'. Soon his songs became a rage and he went on to sing in other Odia languages. He carved a niche for himself both in Odisha as well as in Jharkhand. Soma after completing his schooling from Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Bileipada is now pursuing graduation at Rimuli

College. His family consists of his parents, two brothers and a sister. It was difficult for Gurucharan to meet the expenses required for the education of his children, so to help out his father, Soma also worked on farmlands.

Then Soma decided to try his luck out as he loved to sing and people told him he had a natural flair for it. So he started recording his songs. However, recording meant that Soma had to shell out money. To earn money he started selling vegetables in the local markets.

Soma named his channel on YouTube as 'Purty Star'. His songs became an instant hit and soon he became famous. Even though initially he sang only songs in 'Ho', later on he tried his hand in 'Sadri' and other Odia dialects. Those songs became a hit too.

As his fame grew, Soma started getting invitations for stage shows. He has already performed in Ranchi, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur and Chaibasa in Jharkhand as well as in Jajpur, Baripada and Rourkela in Odisha.

Among Soma's most popular songs are, 'Mal Piyenge', 'Murgi Tangli', 'Baby Beautiful', in 'Ho' language and 'Dilta Deewana' in Odia. It is pertinent to mention here that many Odia celebrities have made reels while performing to Soma's songs and used them on various social media platforms.

Soma attributes his success to the blessings of his parents. His goal is to own a studio so that he can popularise songs in 'Ho'. He also wants to provide a platform for aspiring singers in the state.

FOCUS NATION

HIGHER SAVINGS NEEDED



India's highest national savings rate of about 37% of GDP was attained in 2010-11. Currently it is about 30%, which is a fall of 7% of GDP. This needs to be reversed

from non-bank finance companies. The net credit of NBFC's to households rose from Rs 21,000 crore to Rs 2.4 lakh crore just in one year, i.e. from 2021-22 to 2022-23. Financial liabilities of households to NBFCs shot up to 15.2% from a mere 2.4% the previous year. Now you can imagine the impact of those pesky calls selling you personal loans on your mobile! Does this amount to loan pushing? Are the NBFC's taking on more risk than they should? Is a loan bubble building up in the NBFC sector, which can burst with the economic downturn?

Since inflation is running high, and interest rates are high, the housing loans are under pressure. But since the EMI cannot be increased, the duration of the loan has been elongated by the lender. There are stories wherein some loan duration has been extended to 40 years. How will these be fully repaid?

The fall in net financial savings is alarming, and there is no solace in saying that it simply reflects more willingness of households to take on personal and housing loans. The aggregate savings of the economy is also 7 percentage points below its peak. A high savings rate is essential to sustain high growth. The falling savings rate is further compromised due to the voracious appetite of government borrowing, both at the Centre and at the state levels. Almost the entire household financial savings gets pre-empted by the sovereign and sub-sovereign borrowing requirement. India now hopes to garner fresh dollar loans of around \$20 billion into the sovereign debt market, thanks to India's inclusion in the JP Morgan bond index.

But the need to reverse the fall in savings rate and net financial savings is dire. That also requires a lower and stable inflation rate and a tighter control of fiscal borrowing.

The writer is a noted economist.
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It is a truism that reduction in poverty needs higher economic growth, which can create jobs and incomes. India's per-capita income at \$3000, or about Rs 2.4 lakh per annum is the lowest among all G20 countries. Compared to the two largest economies, it is respectively one fifth, and one twentieth of per-capita incomes of China and the US. To get to a reasonable development status, India's national income must rise at 7 to 8% in real terms (i.e., after adjusting for inflation) every year for at least a couple of decades. This growth in national income must also be relatively evenly spread and not causing further inequality.

One of the most important requirements for high income growth is the national rate of savings. This is that part of national income, which is set aside, for investing into the future. That investment goes toward building new factories, infrastructure or more importantly into strengthening education, research, innovation and entrepreneurship. India's highest national savings rate of about 37% of GDP was attained in 2010-11. Currently it is about 30%, which is a fall of 7% of GDP. This needs to be reversed. Of the 30% aggregate savings, roughly 20% comes from households. That includes small and tiny businesses, often unincorporated and in the informal sector: Keep in mind that the aggregate savings of all households come from the relatively better off, i.e., rich people. Poor people cannot afford to have high savings. Their entire income goes to meet their consumption needs. When consumer items like food, milk, transportation, children's education and medicines become expensive, that eats into their income. If their (nominal) income is rising slower than the rate of inflation, then that further cuts into their savings.

India's aggregate household savings has traditionally been divided half and half into financial and non-financial sav-

ings. The latter is the money put into buying real estate or gold. The former is that part of the savings which go toward bank deposits, mutual funds, bonds, pensions and insurance. As the financial sector deepens, and the trust of the people in finance increases, then they choose to park more of their savings away from gold and real estate. Gold is seen as protection against inflation. India has the highest demand for gold in the world. Gold imports result in an outgo of precious foreign exchange. During 2021-22, gold imports cost the country \$46 billion, which thankfully went down to \$35 billion during 2022-23. But household savings continue to tilt toward non-financial savings which must be reversed. If people are buying less gold but more of real estate, that is seen as confidence and building assets. However, it is still less productive than financial savings which are intermediated by the banking system and capital markets, toward real investment like new factories and infrastructure. When financial savings go down, then the supply of loanable funds go down causing interest rates to go up. The lack of domestic financial savings can be made up by the inflow of foreign capital, either as equity or foreign loans. But the

latter creates dollar indebtedness for the country, which is not desirable.

Net financial savings of households are the net of their financial liabilities, which are basically loans. The net financial savings of households have fallen to 5.1% of the GDP in 2022-23, which is the lowest in almost fifty years. This is alarming. It fell from 11.5% in 2020-21 to 7.2% in 2021-22 and to the present 5.1%. During the same period, financial liabilities (which are usually roughly three-fourth of financial savings) have risen steeply. Households borrow from banks as well as non-banks. If financial liabilities rise alongside financial savings, the net financial savings as a percentage of the GDP would remain roughly constant. But the fact that there has been a steep fall in the net financial savings, means financial liabilities have risen more sharply. Indeed, during July 2022 to July 2023, the financial liabilities of households rose from Rs 36 lakh crore to Rs 47 lakh crore. The previous year too there had been an increase of a whopping 76%. And the borrowing spree in not from banks, who have been relatively prudent. Bank credit to personal loans, credit cards, housing and vehicles has risen. But the biggest increase has been



Ajit Ranade

WHEN FINANCIAL SAVINGS GO DOWN, THEN THE SUPPLY OF LOANABLE FUNDS GO DOWN CAUSING INTEREST RATES TO GO UP

Peso Vs Dollar

The 'pink tide' that swept across much of Latin America in the past few months installing Leftist governments in Brazil, Chile and Colombia looks like receding in Argentina which will elect its President later this month. An anti-incumbent streak that lifted the Left could soon swing the election in this South American country the other way. The Left government is struggling hard to survive the onslaught launched by a Rightist politician, Javier Milei, economist and former TV pundit. The current Economy Minister Sergio Massa is trying to convince Argentines to elect him President. But, Milei, a self-proclaimed "anarcho-capitalist" and Right-wing populist upset the calculations of all pollsters by receiving the most votes in last month's national primaries. With nearly 35 per cent votes in his kitty in the primaries against Massa's 25 per cent, he is now billed to win the presidential race.

The main issue that is swaying the minds of the voters is the high inflation that has soared to 124 per cent and the current dispensation is making all efforts to rein it in without much success. The popular sentiment is echoed by a young voter who said these days her family can afford beef only once a month and that too the family members take only bits of it. Everything is now very expensive. The high inflation rate is, in large part, a product of the government's devaluation of the local currency, the peso, by nearly 20 per cent. Inflation in August was particularly high for food items, which increased 15.6 per cent from July with the price of some quality of beef soaring by as much as 40 per cent. The real increase that consumers saw in retail outlets was even higher.

In this backdrop, the youth and a large number of the male population are gravitating towards Milei who has said the answer to Argentina's inflation woes is to adopt the US dollar as its official currency. Massa is opposed to it and is telling the people the dollar will turn out to be a mirage, while the remedy lies in proper adjustment of the Argentine currency - peso. However, an exultant Milei could gauge the popular mood well and in a symbolic gesture he signed his autograph on 500-peso bills, which are worth less than \$1 in the black market. By this he sought to send the message across to the voters that the local currency has irrevocably depreciated over the past year.

Massa's challenge is to find a balance between the response to the crisis he has been unable to provide as finance minister and promising that he could deliver as President. But, this is an uphill task as the people have, by and large, been disenchanted with the established parties of either the Left or the conservatives.

In many liberal democracies in Europe and Asia, the failure of established parties to deliver is turning the voters, especially the youth, towards Right-wing politics in the hope of getting a new solution without having any clear idea about the end result. The same seems to be influencing the electorate of Argentina. That the economic measures Massa is taking are not making much impact on the people is clear from his vote share in the primaries. His only silver lining is that the women voters are not happy with the Rightist rhetoric of Milei on the issue of abortion which the latter oppose tooth and nail. There are signs that the women are sinking their differences and trying to rally behind Massa.

Milei's promise to shutter the central bank, slash the size of the government and dollarize the economy is getting traction among the electorate. It is likely that there would be a need for a run-off in November. A candidate needs 45 per cent of the vote, or at least 40 per cent with a 10-point lead to win outright in the first round. Whatever happens in the election on October 22, Milei is in an advantageous position.

WISDOM CORNER

- Happiness is your nature. It is not wrong to desire it. What is wrong is seeking it outside when it is inside. RAMANA MAHARSHI
- I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy. KAHLIL GIBRAN
- Within you there is a stillness and sanctuary to which you can retreat at any time and be yourself. HERMANN HESSE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1849:** Edgar Allen Poe was seen in public for the last time. The Baltimore, Maryland-based American poet and author, best known for his poem The Raven was found sick and delirious on the streets and taken to Washington College Hospital, where he died a few days later. He was 40 years old at the time of his death. Poe was one of America's earliest practitioners of the short story, and is considered the inventor of the detective fiction genre, as well as a significant contributor to the emerging genre of science fiction.
- 1863:** American president Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. The holiday has been celebrated annually since that year. It originated as a day of thanksgiving and harvest festival, with the theme of the holiday revolving around giving thanks and the centerpiece of Thanksgiving celebrations remaining a Thanksgiving dinner.
- 1952:** The first British atomic weapons test, called Hurricane, was successfully conducted aboard the frigate HMS Plym. With the success of Operation Hurricane, Britain became the third nuclear power, after the United States and the Soviet Union. During the Second World War, Britain commenced a nuclear weapons project, code-named Tube Alloys, but the 1943 Quebec Agreement merged it with the American Manhattan Project. Several key British scientists worked on the Manhattan Project, but after the war the American government ended cooperation on nuclear weapons. In January 1947, a cabinet sub-committee decided to resume British efforts to build nuclear weapons, in response to an apprehension of American isolationism and fears of Britain losing its great power status.
- 1990:** After four decades of Cold War division and with pressure from the German chancellor Helmut Kohl, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to a unified Germany within NATO, leading to Germany's reunification this day in 1990. As part of the reunification, East and West Berlin of the two countries were also de facto united into a single city, which later eventually became the capital of this country. The reunited state is not a successor state, but an enlarged continuation of the 1949-1990 West German state. The enlarged Federal Republic of Germany retained the West German seats in the governing bodies of the European Economic Community (EC) (later the European Union/EU) and in international organizations including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations, while relinquishing membership in the Warsaw Pact and other international organizations to which East Germany belonged.

LOL

Bank robber

A bank robber pulls out gun points it at the teller, and says, "Give me all the money or you're geography!" The puzzled teller replies, "Did you

mean to say 'or you're history?'" The robber says, "Don't change the subject!"



SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Jargons difficult to comprehend



Shivaji Sarkar

A HIGH INFLATIONARY INDIAN ECONOMY, WITH OIL AND DOLLAR PRICE SURGING, GRAPPLES TO KEEP ITS LEVEL

Statistics about India's growth are interesting. Various contrary figures indicate a queer pitch. While global financial services group Nomura upgrades India's rating over "strong macro," startups see 72% funding fall in January-September; top 75 Indian brands see 4% dip in value even as India Inc. is worried over the staggering growth in illicit trade.

Not less interesting are the stock market figures. As number of IPOs, new equities hit multi-year high on good valuations and pricing, Sensex continues its selling spree on cues, losing over 2200 points in less than a week. Like Nomura, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs also upgraded India to "overweight" from neutral "on the back of strong macro-economic fundamentals." Nomura, however, says there could be some cyclical slowdown in the next few months. Still there is "long-term structural attractiveness of India." The jargons are not easy to comprehend.

Amid these, Abu Dhabi's International Holding Company

(IHC) exits two energy companies-- Adani Green Energy and Adani Energy Solutions, earlier was known Adani Transmission. The IHC is selling the stakes of Rs 7700 crore it invested in these two companies. It will clock a loss of Rs 1831 crore in Adani Green and Rs 2545 crore in Adani Energy.

A FICCI report on India's illicit flows of 5% of GDP based on data from United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNDOC) and Global Financial Integrity by Ford Foundation has caused jitters among Indian businesses. The report says, "Trade-based money laundering in India soared to a whopping \$674.9 billion for the 10-year period from 2009 to 2018, which reflects the magnitude of illicit trade that has emerged as a major threat to the country's economy and security."

"Based on UNDOC estimates, when the Indian economy surpassed the \$3 trillion mark in 2021, the quantum of money laundering in the country can be estimated at \$159 billion which is around 5% of the GDP. This ac-

centuates the magnitude of the problem driven by the rise in illicit markets (trade, illegal drugs, arms) and non-market actors."

It cites recent data provided by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) to illustrate India's substantial trade gap due to mis-invoicing and highlights the growing illicit trade. Smuggling in India report 2021-22 identified 437 instances of duty evasion totalling Rs 3,924 crore, which was a 40% jump from the corresponding figure of Rs 2,810 crore in 2020-21.

Currently India's illicit trade gap as estimated by Global Financial Integrity (GFI) is 20%, or about \$300 billion when the country's economy reaches the \$5 trillion-dollar mark. FICCI has flagged this as a major concern as its study shows that illicit trade is directly linked with organised crime and terrorism. Counterfeiting and illicit goods in India pose significant risks, including financial risks, public health threats in the case of fake pharma products and intellectual property issues as well, the report points out.

Similarly, a study by leading data, insights and consulting company Kantar reveals that 75 Indian brands' valuation declined by 4% to \$79 billion this year. This is in addition to the losses of value of "100 most valuable global brands" in 2022-2023. The overseas contribution for the top 30 Indian brands accounts for 31% of branded value, compared with 47% for Japan, 59% of UK, and 85% for France.

As the US interest rates firm up, the foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are selling Indian equities leading to a continuous fall in the Sensex. The US bond yields have become lucrative. The US Fed decision has helped it get back global investments and causing fund crunch for countries like India. A high inflationary Indian economy, with oil and dollar price surging, grapples to keep its level.

This is not to say India lacks the strength as Nomura and Morgan Stanley point out. However, to strike a continuous growth and gains, India has to gird up and move beyond mere projections.

Entrenched in corruption

Sir, This refers to "Scandals in China," Orissa Post, Oct 2. As new cases of corruption keep getting unearthed every now and then in all aspects of the Chinese government, including law enforcement, healthcare, and education, the problem gets deeply ingrained in the Chinese system and society. In addition to undermining the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) legitimacy, corruption worsens economic disparity, degrades the environment, and promotes civil unrest. Several members of the CCP, who hold the majority of power in the country, are reportedly embroiled in corruption. Since 2012, the anti-corruption effort, which has prioritised the judiciary, banking industry and law enforcement, has implicated almost 3 million officials. Essentially, the root of corruption stems from China's highly centralised and unified power system. At each level, power is highly concentrated and the chief official has great decision-making power. His subordinates and the people can hardly keep him in check amid the lack of transparency. It is extremely difficult to prevent corruption at its root — even if ideological education work is ramped up, the relay race of corruption cannot be completely contained. However, the biggest challenge to China's future political and economic stability is widespread corruption. At least 3 per cent of GDP is lost to bribery, kickbacks, theft, and waste of public monies.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Navigation hazards

Sir, Two young doctors drowned when their car carrying a five-member group fell into an overflowing river in Ernakulam district, Kerala. As they were not familiar with the route, they were traveling following the directions using Google Maps. The locals could save three of the passengers. A study reveals that many a times people get involved in such accidents while travelling, following the directions of Google Maps which sometimes show wrong routes and put passengers life in danger. Though navigation map does help in hassle free driving sometimes it can lead drivers to death too. There may be dangers of fallen trees and electric posts on the roads which the map may not show resulting in fatalities, especially during heavy downpour, when drivers use such routes. Hindrances in GPS signal can also lead to danger.
M Pradyu, KANNUR

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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Chouhan's emotional speech amid speculation on party's CM face

THE MP CM'S NAME HAS NOT FIGURED IN THE FIRST TWO LISTS OF 78 CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED BY THE BJP FOR THE UPCOMING POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 2: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan turned emotional at an event on home turf Budhni in Sehore district and told the women in the gathering they would never get a "brother" like him and would miss him when he is not around.

Speaking at an event last week in Khargone, Chouhan had turned emotional similarly and had said he had no greed for any post and would be happy if his "flesh and bones could come of use to people."

"Meri behno, aisa bhaiya tumhe milega nahi. Jab main chala jaunga, tab tumhe yaad aaunga (sisters, you will not find a brother like this. When I leave, you will miss me)," he said at an event in Ladhul in his Assembly seat Budhni Sunday.

Assembly polls are set to be held at the end of the year in the state.

His efforts to strike an emotional chord with the public with such statements come at a time when there is speculation about whether he will be chief minister if the BJP wins in the state.

His name has not figured in the first two list of 78 candidates



announced by the BJP for the upcoming polls.

Incidentally, the 78 names include those of Union Ministers Narendra Sinmgh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste, as well as Indore strongman Kailash Vijayvargiya, all political heavyweights and contenders for the chief minister's post.

In several of his recent speeches, Chouhan has claimed he runs a family and not a government.

During a press conference in August, when asked if Chouhan would be chief ministerial face of the party, Union Home minister and key party strategist Amit Shah had counter questioned the media on why it was doing the "party's work (choosing persons for posts)."

Shah had further said the need

during election time was to take the development works of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Chouhan to the electorate.

Senior journalist and political commentator Rasheed Kidwai said Chouhan's statement at Ladhul indicates his days as CM are numbered.

"There is no plausible explanation for his exit because the BJP has been talking about the Shivraj model and crediting the (state government's) Ladli Behna scheme (in which more than a crore eligible women get ₹1,250 per month) as a game changer," Kidwai said.

Chouhan, while addressing the gathering at Ladhul, had also said he changed the definition of politics in MP.

"I have changed the definition of politics in Madhya Pradesh. You have seen Congress rule for years. Have you ever seen them caring for the public," Chouhan had asked the crowd.

Chouhan has been CM since 2005, with a break between December 2018 and March 2020 when Kamal Nath was on the top post heading a Congress government.

The poll schedule for MP has not been announced as yet.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi performs 'sewa' during a visit at the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Monday. PFI PHOTO

Uma Bharti uses pressure tactics to regain lost glory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 2: Former Union Minister Uma Bharti, who has been sidelined in state as well as Central politics, is making all effort to get back into the frame using different tactics at different times.

The firebrand Hindutva leader, who is known for her straightforwardness, does not hesitate to hit out at the top leadership of the BJP, even Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She does not hesitate to point out that the saffron party was brought to power in Madhya Pradesh in 2003 under her leadership after ousting the 10-year-old Digvijaya Singh government.

However, since then a lot has changed in the political scenario in the state as well as in the centre leadership of the BJP.

With an eye on the forthcoming Madhya Pradesh elections Bharti started building pressure on the state BJP and she got ample opportunity to express her anger over the state government's liquor policy. Not only did she take to the streets to protest along with her supporters, but also warned that the BJP would bear the cost of the policy.

Bharti was miffed when her loyalist Pritam Lodhi was removed from the BJP's primary membership citing his anti-party activities; however later he was not only re-inducted into the party but also given a ticket for the forthcoming Assembly elections.

However, Bharti got an indi-

rect rap from Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he said that some people were hatching a conspiracy to divide women for their own benefit on the 'Women's Reservation Bill'.

Though, Modi's remark during his last visit to Bhopal was aimed largely at the Congress and especially the Gandhi family, but he also gave an indirect message to all those raising their voice for an OBC quota within the BJP.

During his speech, Modi had also said that it's a "new and energised BJP", apparently sending a message to his party colleagues that everything would be decided by the top leadership. Political observers say that the BJP does not give much attention to Bharti's pressure tactics because they know that she lost her aura after she quit the BJP, formed her own political party and lost the election in 2008. Later, she went back to the BJP and served as a Union Minister in Modi's Cabinet.

Senior journalist Milind Ghatwai says, "Bharti has been trying to create a space for herself and regain her former glory, not by targeting the Opposition but by her own party and colleagues, some of whom like Chief Minister Chouhan are used to her temperamental outbursts and prefer to steer clear of her."

Though Bharti has announced that she won't be contest the forthcoming Assembly elections, she's repeatedly made it clear that she hasn't taken political 'sanyas'.



Rural women up ante against drug peddlers

THIS CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY POLICING IS GAINING GROUND IN MANY DISTRICTS ESPECIALLY IN THE BORDER DISTRICTS OF GURDASPUR, PATHANKOT, TARN TARAN, FEROZEPUR AND AMRITSAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 2: With the Punjab Police motivating villagers to play a crucial role to trace and help identify drug traffickers, women-led groups in the rural areas have joined hands to ensure community protection from the alarming rise in drug abuse among the youth.

Armed with lathis and torches, the women volunteers became active as dusk falls by resorting to the age-old practice of "thikri pehra" (community policing) to catch drug peddlers.

By erecting multiple checkpoints and roadblocks at the village entry points, they stop all ve-



hicles and search them thoroughly by using torches. On being satisfied about the person's identity, he or she is allowed to enter the village.

On suspicion, they use mobile phones to communicate and on catching a drug peddler; they make a video and put it on social media before calling the police.

This concept of community policing is gaining ground in many districts especially in the border districts of Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Amritsar. It is invoked under the provisions of a British-era law - The Punjab Small Town Patrol Act of 1918 that empowers villagers to guard themselves.

Often videos of youngsters taking drugs went viral and the 'thikri pehra' volunteers tracked down the peddler and handed them over to the police.

"All able-bodied men and women inhabitants perform patrol duty in all villages day and night. In the night when the womenfolk are free from routine household chores, they prefer to perform community policing for the future of the youth," villager Bhagwant Kaur told IANS.

She said on suspicion they immediately informed the local police station. "And if someone flees in a vehicle, we immediately inform villagers positioned at the next checkpoint," she

added. Kaur along with a group of 8-10 women mans a roadblock on the outskirts of a village near Nakodar in Jalandhar district.

According to her, chitta (synthetic drug) is the most prevalent in the area.

"Thikri pehra" is to provide security and safety to the residents at the local level and relieve the police from the ever increasing burden," said another villager Rani Balbir. "It has been proving its relevance in present times, be it the war against Covid-19 or drugs," she added.

According to villagers, a number of teenagers become drug peddlers for a quick buck. They have been peddling drugs in small quantities which helps them get bail even after the seizure of drugs.

A first-year college student Pavitar Singh told IANS. "Students make between ₹25,000 and ₹35,000 a month by trafficking 'chitta'. For them, establishing a network is easy, as long as they procure quality drugs and, of course, their age is on their side to avoid suspicion. Even locals deployed at the thikri pehras know them personally."

Several households have lost their breadwinners to the drugs scourge. Maqboolpura, a village on the outskirts of Amritsar

town, is known as the "village of widows" as a majority of drug abuse victims hail from there.

But seizure of drugs by the BSF and Punjab Police shows how the state is becoming a base for a multi-million dollar narcotics trade.

Police records show 19,093 drug smugglers, including 2,778 big fish, were arrested in the past 14 months.

Inspector General of Police Sukhchain Singh Gill in his media briefing on September 4 said 14,179 first information reports (FIRs) of which 1,717 related to commercial quantity were registered.

He said the police have recovered 1,400 kg heroin after carrying out cordon and search operations in drug-affected areas. Additionally, 147.5 kg heroin was recovered by the Punjab Police from the seaports of Gujarat and Maharashtra, taking the total effective recovery of heroin to 1,548.27 kg in just 14 months.

Apart from the big-haul of heroin, Gill said police have also recovered 871.82 kg opium, 446.30 quintals of poppy husk, and 90.59 lakhs tablets, capsules, injections and vials of pharma opioids from across the state. The police have also recovered ₹13.96 crore drug money.

Gurdaspur's novel initiative to curb stubble burning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 2: Stop stubble burning and get special treatment at government offices. The Gurdaspur district administration has come up with this novel idea to curb crop residue burning, one of the major reasons behind the alarming spike in air pollution in the national capital region in October and November.

Farmers who abstain from stubble burning will be recognised as environment protectors ('vatavaran de rakhe') and given appreciation certificates. By showing it, they can avoid queues at government offices.

Not just farmers, villages which report zero stubble burning in the harvesting season will also get the 'vatavaran de rakhe' certificates and will be prioritised for any development project.

The window for sowing wheat, a Rabi crop, is very short after paddy harvest. Hence, farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear the crop residue and prepare the sowing of the next crop.

With about 31 lakh hectares of paddy sowing area, Punjab produces around 180 lakh to 200 lakh tonnes of paddy straw every year. Of this, 120 lakh tonne is dis-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

posed of through in-situ and ex-situ management methods.

Gurdaspur Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal, the brain behind the 'vatavaran de rakhe' initiative, said the aim is to motivate farmers to refrain from burning paddy stubble which leads to air pollution.

"The 'vatavaran de rakhe' certificate holders will enjoy certain privileges at government offices they visit for any work. The certificate holder will not have to wait in a queue. If they come to meet me or any government of-



cial for any work, they will not have to wait," he said.

If any village reports zero stubble burning, it will get funding for any development project on a priority basis, the deputy commissioner said, adding the certificates will be given in November.

Aggarwal said that he was getting positive responses from farmers for this initiative.

Gurdaspur district alone generates 10 lakh tonnes of stubble and the administration has made plans to manage the same through in-situ (mixing crop

residue in fields) and ex-situ (using stubble as fuel) methods. It identified 55 hotspots and initiated a massive awareness campaign to curb stubble burning.

The district administration has made efforts to tie up with some companies to collect stubble to be used as fuel. Efforts are also being made to set up stubble pellet units which can be used by brick kilns for fuel, Aggarwal said.

In the 2022 Kharif season, Punjab had seen a 30 per cent drop in stubble burning over the previous year.



President Droupadi Murmu pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his birth anniversary, at Rajghat in New Delhi



Activists of Sanyukt Kisan Morcha raise slogans during a protest demanding waiver of loans on farmers, purchase of vegetables on Minimum Support Price and pension scheme for farmers, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



Army personnel briefs students about a weapon during an event of 'Veer Gatha', at Fort William(Eastern Command headquarters) in Kolkata, West Bengal



An aerial acrobatics team the Canadian Snowbirds performs during the Pacific Airshow at Huntington Beach, California



Bihar Forest and Environment Minister Tej Pratap Yadav rides a bicycle to create awareness among people on environment in Patna



Commuters on a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall, in Ranchi, Jharkhand



A toy train runs on the Kalka Shimla Heritage Rail track after installation of plate girder bridge near Summerhill railway station where bridge and rail track was totally damaged due to landslides August 14



Jews wearing prayer shawls pray during the weeklong Jewish holiday of Sukkot, at the Western Wall, in the Old City of Jerusalem. The holiday commemorates the Israelites 40 years of wandering in the desert and a decorated hut is erected outside religious households as a sign of temporary shelter

national

of the day quote

Farmers are getting their payments on time. We are building schools and hospitals. We never complained that there was a shortage of funds. At present, every single penny is being spent on you

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

Today, as we remember Gandhiji, one is painfully aware of how far this country has strayed from the ideals of love, compassion and tolerance that he laid his life down for

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

Goa has maintained communal harmony for ages. But there are some people who are trying to disrupt it. People get disturbed with such instances and hold protests outside police stations

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Raj: Major train tragedy averted

New Delhi/Jaipur: Alert loco pilots of the Udaipur City-Jaipur Vande Bharat Express Monday averted a big tragedy as they stopped train in time after they spotting ballast and vertical rods on the railway track, officials said. According to North Western Railway officials, Monday between the Gangrar and Soniyana railway station, the loco pilots spotted ballast and vertical iron rods on the railway track, applied emergency brakes and stopped the train before the hurdle.

Quake hits Meghalaya

Shillong: An Earthquake of Magnitude 5.2 shook Meghalaya and nearby states Monday evening, the National Centre for Seismology said. There was no immediate report of any loss of life or damage to property. The tremor occurred at 6.15 pm in North Garo Hills district in the northeastern state at a depth of 10 km. The epicentre is around 3 km from Resubelpara, the district headquarters.

Maha hit and run claims 5 labourers

Buldhana: Five labourers were killed and as many others injured after being run over by a truck on a highway in Maharashtra's Buldhana district Monday, police said. The accident took place at around 5.30am when the labourers were sleeping in makeshift huts along the side of a service road being constructed in Wadner Bholji village of the district, a senior police official told PTI. A truck plying on the road ran over the labourers, he said. Three persons died on the spot and two others succumbed to injuries in hospital, the official said.

Encounter breaks out

Rajouri/Jammu: An encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces late Monday evening during a search operation in the forest area of Kalakote in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. The Army along with police had cordoned off the Broh and Soom forest belt in the Kalakote area early Monday following information about suspicious movement, they said. The search operation turned into an encounter late in the evening when the terrorists hiding in the area opened fire on the forces in an attempt to break the cordon, the officials said. Security forces retaliated and an exchange of fire between the two sides was underway.



Karnataka has built four dams to impound water, Tamil Nadu did not make much effort to save the Cauvery water and only two dams have been built

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | FORMER K'TAKA CM

NAXAL INCIDENTS DOWN BY 52 PER CENT IN CH'GARH

The incidents of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) have declined by 52 per cent in Chhattisgarh in the last five years and 589 villages have been freed from clutches of the menace, the state government said Monday



TMC workers hold protest at Rajghat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee along with party leaders and workers sat on a dharna at the Rajghat here on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary Monday demanding the release of funds for West Bengal by the Centre. The Lok Sabha member, accompanied by party leaders including MPs, MLAs and state ministers who had arrived from West Bengal to take part in the protest, paid tributes to Gandhi at the memorial and sat in protest for two hours, sporting black armbands and displaying placards, after which they were escorted out by security personnel.

accused the BJP-led NDA government of withholding Rs 15,000 crore in dues to the state under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and PM Awas Yojana.

The demonstration was held for about two hours, after which the TMC leaders were escorted out by security personnel. Banerjee addressed the media outside Raj Ghat but loudspeakers were used by police to ask the TMC leaders and supporters to move out of the area.

"Our leaders peacefully protesting for the rights of the people were abruptly asked to leave by the police. All Shri Abhishek Banerjee asked for was ten minutes, but was ungracefully refused. What is the BJP-led Central Government scared of?" the Trinamool Congress said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

They also shared a video of a police official asking the TMC leaders to leave. The party leaders alleged that derogatory remarks were made by an IPS officer about the peaceful protest and that women leaders were "manhandled" by police.

The party claimed that over 50 lakh letters have been brought by the protesters from West Bengal that are addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the non-payment of dues.

TMC sources said letters will also be brought from BJP-ruled Assam, Goa, Tripura and Meghalaya highlighting alleged corruption in central schemes.

The TMC lashed out at the central government for "stopping" it from holding a "peaceful protest" and alleged that the protesters were heckled and manhandled by the security personnel



Women take part in 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign to pay tribute to the martyrs of the country, in Nagaon district, Assam

24 dead in a day at Maha hosp

AGENCIES

Nanded, Oct2: Twenty-four deaths, including that of 12 infants, were reported between September 30 and October 1 in a government hospital in Nanded, a top Maharashtra health official said Monday.

"In the last 24 hours, 24 deaths have been reported at Nanded government Hospital and Medical College (GMCH). Out of these, 12 are infants who were referred here by some local private hospitals. The remaining deaths are of adults for various reasons," Dr Dilip Mhaisekar, Director, Medical Education and Research, Maharashtra, told PTI.

Dean Dr S R Wakode of Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital told reporters the 12 infants comprise six males and six females, adding that most were in the 0-3 day age group and had "very low weight". "There are 142 admissions in the paediatric department, of which 42 are still critical. Oxygen as well as ventilator facilities are there. The patients are from neighbouring districts, including Hingoli, Parbhani and Washim. Some are from villages in neighbouring Telangana," he said. As per



Speaking on the issue, Congress leader and former chief minister Ashok Chavan said the Eknath Shinde government must make arrangements for medical staff as well as funds for the Nanded GMCH on priority

The dean has also said posts continue to remain vacant after the transfer of some nurses, while there is also a shortage of medical officers, the Congress leader claimed

condition, the statement said. Speaking on the issue, Congress leader and former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan said the Eknath Shinde government must make arrangements for medical staff as well as funds for the Nanded GMCH on priority. Chavan said the hospital has 500 beds but some 1,200 patients are admitted at present. The hospital has received Rs 12 crore funding in this year's District Planning Development Committee (DPDC), while the state government has also sanctioned Rs 4 crore additional funds, the statement from the collectorate said. The dean has also said posts continue to remain vacant after the transfer of some nurses, while there is also a shortage of medical officers, the Congress leader claimed.

When asked if the Haffkine Institute has not supplied medicines to the hospital, he said he was unaware of such minute details. The state state government has already given Rs 25 lakh worth of medicines to us, Dr Wakode said. Incidentally, in a 24-hour period between August 12 and 13, a total of 18 patients had died in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa in Thane district, creating a furore across the state".

NIA CARRIES OUT RAIDS AT 62 PLACES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested a top Maoist leader as it carried out raids at 62 locations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the CPI (Maoist) conspiracy case, an official said.

The day-long searches, which were conducted mostly in Andhra Pradesh, also led to the recovery of weapons, cash and incriminating documents, a

spokesperson of the federal agency said.

Chandra Narasimhulu, a state executive committee member of the Pragathi Seela Karmika Samakya (PKS), was arrested from Satya Sai district of Andhra Pradesh, the spokesperson said.

A pistol with 14 rounds was seized from the location and an amount of 13 lakh was seized from one of the premises in Kadapa district, the NIA said, adding Maoist literature and documents were seized from

other locations.

The raids covered 53 locations in Guntur, Palanadu, Vijayawada, Rajhmundry, Prakasam, Bapatla, Eluru, East Godavari, D R Ambedkar Konaseema, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Nellore, Tirupati, Kadapa, Sathya Sai, Anantapur and Kurunool districts in Andhra Pradesh.

Nine locations were raided in Telangana's Hyderabad, Mahabub Nagar, Hanumakonda, Ranga Reddy and Adilabad districts.

Six killed in violence over land in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Deoria (UP), Oct 2: Six persons including five of a family were killed Monday in violence over land in Fatehpur village of Rudrapur area here, police said.

The incident took place in the Lehda Tola locality in the morning, they said, adding that 14 people have been detained so far. Two companies of the PAC have been deployed in the village, a senior official said. Opposition Samajwadi Party and Congress attacked the Yogi Adityanath

government over the incident and demanded a high-level probe into the matter.

Former district panchayat member Prem Yadav, 50, was attacked with sharp-edged weapons and killed by his rival Satyaprakash Dubey and his family when he went to his house, Special DG, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar said.

In retaliation soon after, Yadav's supporters from Abhaipur attacked Dubey's house and brutally killed Dubey and five of his family, including children.

HISTORY OF SMUGGLING IN GUJARAT

History and geography are like a perennially copulating couple, too intertwined to separate, and yet the helmine of history unfolds only when the sensuous contours of geography are defined.

Thus it is that the recent spurt in narcotics seizures on the Arabian sea washed-Kutch coastline has one drawing back the curtains on a colourful part of a clandestine past of the Saurashtra-Gujarat shores. Half a century of reporting a state has helped firm up an uncanny insight into the innards of the underground, the clandestine and the cash sleaze trail.

It emanates from this sandy soil, travels half-way around the earth and returns back to base. The history of clandestine trade on, what was then the Kathiawar coast, goes back to the times when Bombay was

a mere fishing village and Surat and Karachi thriving ports.

Surat was the chief port of the Moghul Empire and northern India's gateway to the Afro-Asian maritime world. It held sway into the days of the East India Company.

The thriving maritime trade from both Surat and Karachi were threatened by growing sea piracy, cradled by the Kathiawar shores. The seeds of what is today a hydra-headed pure, unadulterated black money trade, were sown then.

Times changed, Surat declined, the British left, Saurashtra and Kutch became states in independent India and later merged into Gujarat after Bi-lingual Bombay state was divided to carve out Maharashtra. Nevertheless, the kindred ties of the clandestine and their global tentacles endured, chang-



ing business to cater to altering needs. Smugglers ruled the roost from Kutch to Daman and thereon to Bombay. If Mumbai had its Haji Mastan's, Karim Lalas and Vardarajan Mudaliar, Daman had its Sukar Naran Bakhia, the Saurashtra coast also had its Haji Haji Ismails, to name just a very few of them. I had met Bakhia while he was behind bars in the government hospital in Daman. Such was the clout they wielded. And those who followed in the trade still do.

All lights in Jam Kambhaliya town of Saurashtra, would close shut so that the ship-to-shore signals of the contraband landing crafts could be clearly visible.

In the seventies while gold remained the flavour of a long extended smuggling season, electronic goods began making their entry on the scene.

After the switch from gold smuggling to electronics, it was the same conduit (characters, changed as did the fronts) which reverted to narcotics and also to arms.

The turn to narcotics came about by a chance development elsewhere. In the early eighties, Burmese warlord Khun Sa operating in the Golden Triangle (a part of Burma, Laos and Thailand) was attacked and forced to flee leaving behind a crop estimated to yield 50 tonnes of opium. Through a circuitous route this crop found its way

to Pakistan where refining units sprang up overnight to convert it into heroin.

The refining agent required for this conversion, Nitrous Anhydride was smuggled into Pakistan from Madhya Pradesh via North Gujarat. The heroin found its way to the Kutch-Saurashtra coast.

Even after the Pakistan based refineries dried up, heroin from the North-East began vending its way to this part of Gujarat coast turning it into an international transit point.

The narcotics consignment would be taken from the coast to small atolls in the sea and there from by non-conference sea-liners onto Somalia into the waiting arms of its warlord, Mohammed Farrah Aidid and thereon to the Mafia for global distribution. Every business deal has to have a return payment.

international



The government will increase distribution to rural areas to address a supply issue sparked by a hike in the price of imported rice
MOHAMAD SABU | MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY OF MALAYSIA

MUSK SLAMS TRUDEAU

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has slammed Canadian PM Justin Trudeau for trying to crush free speech in his country. He reacted after the Canadian gov't made it compulsory for online streaming platforms to register with the government for "regulatory controls"



of the day quote

Mass illegal immigration harms each and every one of us. No one benefits from this, except criminal groups who get rich at the expenses of the most fragile and use their strength even against the governments

GIORGIA MELONI | ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

New Zealand will contribute to the leadership of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) again in the Sinai Peninsula

ANDREW LITTLE | NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE MINISTER

China and Australia's relations have stabilised, improved and developed under the joint efforts of both countries

WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Plane crash kills Indian tycoon, son

Johannesburg: An Indian billionaire and his son were among the six individuals killed when their private plane crashed near a diamond mine in southwestern Zimbabwe after experiencing a technical fault, according to media reports. Harpal Randhawa, the owner of RioZim, a diversified mining company producing gold and coal as well as refining nickel and copper, along with his son and four others was killed when the plane crashed in the Zvamahande area of Mashava, iHarare, a news and media website in Zimbabwe, reported. The Cessna 206 aircraft, owned by RioZim, was en route from Harare to the Murowa diamond mine when the tragic incident occurred on Friday.

Spanish nightclub fire: Two missing

Madrid: Authorities in the southern Spanish city of Murcia said Monday that two people believed to have been in a nightclub where 13 others died in a fire are still missing and that the club was operating without a permit. The town hall's announcement on X, formerly known as Twitter, came after Francisco Jiménez, the central government's official for the region, earlier said all the missing had been located and no more bodies had been found.

Spain's king begins talks

Madrid: King Felipe VI Monday began a new round of talks with Spanish political party leaders with a view to choosing the person in the best position to gather enough support in Parliament to form the country's next government. All signs indicate that king will call on acting Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to try to do so following the failure by Alberto Núñez Feijóo, head of the conservative opposition Popular Party, to win sufficient parliamentary support last week.

Two killed in bear attack

Calgary: An attack by a grizzly bear has left two people dead in a national park in western Canada, and the bear was later killed by park rangers, officials said. The attack took place on Friday in Banff National Park in Alberta Province. The Parks Canada agency received an alert from a GPS device in the park's Red Deer River valley Friday evening that indicated a bear attack was happening, agency spokeswoman Natalie Fay said in a statement.

EU convenes historic meeting of foreign ministers in Ukraine

REUTERS

Kyiv, Oct 2: EU foreign ministers convened in Kyiv for their first ever meeting outside the bloc Monday, broadcasting their support after a pro-Russian candidate won an election in Slovakia and the US Congress left Ukraine war aid out of its spending bill.

Kyiv brushed off the wobbles on both sides of the Atlantic, especially the prospect that the U.S. Congressional vote, which excluded aid to Ukraine from an emergency bill to prevent a government shutdown, represented a deeper change in policy.

"We don't feel that the US support has been shattered... because the United States understands that what is at stake in Ukraine is much bigger than just Ukraine," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters as he greeted the EU foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell. As for the election victory of pro-Russian Slovakian former Prime Minister Robert Fico, Kuleba said it was "too early to judge" the impact on politics there, noting that a new leader would still have to form a coalition.

Monday's meeting in Kyiv was touted by Borrell as an historic first, and provided striking photo opportunities for a succession of ministers in front of EU flags in the war-time capital. But it comes at an awkward time for the Western alliance that has supported Kyiv. The summer is com-



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and European Union Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell shake hands before EU-Ukraine foreign ministers' meeting, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine

- EU ministers meet in Kyiv to show support
- Germany urges allies to help Ukraine prepare for winter
- Russia says US vote a sign of war 'fatigue'
- Ukraine says it believes US backing will continue

ing to a close after a slower-than-expected Ukrainian military counter-offensive, without the major success that Western leaders had hoped to see before autumn mud clogs the treads of their donated tanks.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called for efforts to prepare Ukraine for the coming winter, including

through air defence and guaranteed energy supplies, after Russia bombed Ukraine's energy infrastructure last year.

"Last winter, we saw the brutal way in which the Russian president is waging this war," said Baerbock. "We must prevent this together with everything we have, as far as possible."

Moscow touted the congressional vote in the United States as a sign of increasing division in the West, although the Kremlin said it expected Washington to continue its support for Kyiv. The vote omitting aid funds was "a temporary phenomenon. America will continue its involvement in this conflict, in fact direct involvement," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

38 injured in Egypt fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Oct 2: A huge fire broke out early Monday at a police facility in northeastern Egypt, injuring at least 38 people before firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze several hours later, authorities said.

The cause of the fire, which ripped through the multistory police headquarters in the Suez Canal province of Ismailia, was not immediately clear. Interior Minister Mahoud Tawfiq, whose ministry oversees police forces, rushed to the site in the city of Ismailia, about 125 kilometres (77 miles) northeast of Cairo. He said a committee was set up to investigate the fire.

Hossam Abdel-Ghaffar, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry, said in a statement that 12 of the injured were treated at the site, while 26 others were taken to hospitals.

All but two suffered from breathing difficulties; seven of the injured were treated and discharged, he said.

It was not immediately clear how many police were in the building at the time. Local media reported that the police building was severely damaged in the blaze.

Videos circulating on social media show flames and black smoke pouring out of the building. The state-run MENA news agency said firefighters managed to put out the fire after several hours.



Ten dead as Mexico church roof collapses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ciudad Madero (Mexico), Oct 2: The roof of a church collapsed in northern Mexico during Sunday Mass, killing at least 10 people and injuring around 60, authorities said as searchers probed in the wreckage throughout the night and into Monday morning looking for survivors and more victims.

Approximately 30 parishioners were believed to have been trapped in the rubble when the roof caved in, officials said. Searchers crawled under the roof slabs and officials brought in dogs to help search for possible survivors.

The Tamaulipas state police said about 100 people were in the church at the time of the collapse. The state security spokesman's office said early Monday that 10 people had been confirmed dead from the collapse, which it described as likely being caused by a structural failure. The office said 23 of the 60 injured remain hospitalized, with two in serious condition.

Tamaulipas state police said units of the National Guard, the state police and state civil defense office and the Red Cross were involved in the operation. The Mexican Council of Bishops issued a statement saying that "we join in prayer at the tragic loss of life and those injured."

Bishop José Armando Alvarez of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tampico said the roof caved in while parishioners were receiving communion at the Santa Cruz church in the Gulf coast city



The Tamaulipas state police said about 100 people were in the church at the time of the collapse

Searchers crawled under the roof slabs and officials brought in dogs to help search for possible survivors

of Ciudad Madero, next to the port city of Tampico.

The diocese later posted a list of people who had been injured, including a 4-month-old baby, three 5-year-olds and two 9-year-olds. The number of young victims — police officers said three of the dead were children — may have been due to the fact that baptisms were to take place at the church.

"We lament the painful loss of people who were there celebrating the baptism of their children," Alvarez wrote. At the same time, there were signs of hope. "From underneath the rubble, thanks to Divine Providence and the work of the rescue teams, people have been pulled out alive!" Alvarez's diocese wrote in a statement posted on its social media accounts. "Let's keep praying!"

He also called on anyone who had wood to donate to bring it to the church, apparently to shore up the roof while rescue teams crawled inside.

Trump's civil fraud trial begins



REUTERS

New York, Oct 2: Donald Trump sat in a Manhattan courtroom Monday and listened to a New York state lawyer accuse him of generating more than \$1 billion by lying about his real estate empire, claims the former president called a scam.

The trial in a downtown Manhattan courtroom case concerns accusations by state Attorney General Letitia James that Trump inflated his assets and his own net worth from 2011 to 2021 to obtain favorable bank loans and lower insurance premiums.

James is seeking at least \$250 million in fines, a permanent ban against Trump and his sons Donald Jr and Eric from running businesses in New York and a five-year commercial real estate ban against Trump and the

Trump Organization.

Trump looked on with his arms crossed as Kevin Wallace, a lawyer in James' office, called Trump materially inaccurate in describing his finances to banks and insurers.

This isn't business as usual, and this isn't how sophisticated parties deal with each other, Wallace said in his opening statement. These are not victimless crimes.

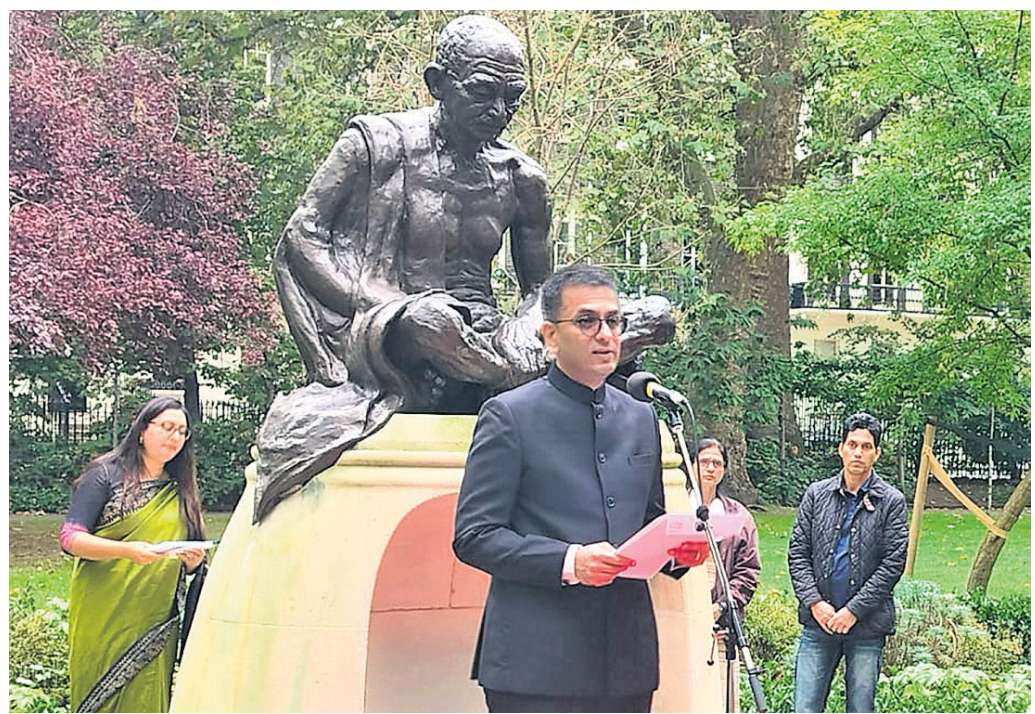
The attorney general has said Trump overvalued assets including his Trump Tower penthouse apartment in Manhattan, his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and various office towers and golf clubs, and inflated his own fortune by as much as \$2.2 billion.

Christopher Kise, a lawyer for Trump, countered in his opening statement

that the financials for Trump and the Trump organization were entirely legal. It is one of the most highly successful brands in the world, and he has made a fortune

literally being right about real estate investments, Kise said. There was no intent to defraud, there was no illegality, there was no default, there was no breach, there was no reliance on the banks, there were no unjust profits, and there were no victims. Trump holds a commanding lead over rivals for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

Trump, the frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, is accused by James of inflating his assets and his own net worth from 2011 to 2021



Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice DY Chandrachud addresses at the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, in London, UK

Over 100 dolphins dead in Amazon

REUTERS

Manaus, Oct 2: The carcasses of 120 river dolphins have been found floating on a tributary of the Amazon River since last week in circumstances that experts suspect were caused by severe drought and heat.

Low river levels during a severe drought have heated water in stretches to temperatures that are intolerable for the dolphins, researchers believe. Thousands of fish have died recently on Amazon rivers due to a lack of oxygen in the water.

The Amazon river dolphins, many of a striking pink color, are



unique freshwater species found only in the rivers of South America and are one of a handful of freshwater dolphin species left in the world. Slow reproductive cycles make their populations especially vulnerable to threats.

Scientists have not said with total certainty that drought and heat are to blame for the spike

in dolphin mortality. Researchers are working to rule out other causes, such as a bacterial infection that could have killed the dolphins on a lake formed by the River Tefé before it runs into the Amazon.

At least 70 of the carcasses surfaced on Thursday when the temperature of Lake Tefé's water reached 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit), more than 10 degrees higher than the average for this time of the year. Environmental activists have blamed the unusual conditions on climate change, which makes droughts and heat waves more likely.

China's next lunar mission to carry payload from Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 2: China's next lunar mission scheduled for 2024 will also carry a payload from Pakistan, the country's space agency has said, as the two all-weather friends step up their cooperation in the space sector.

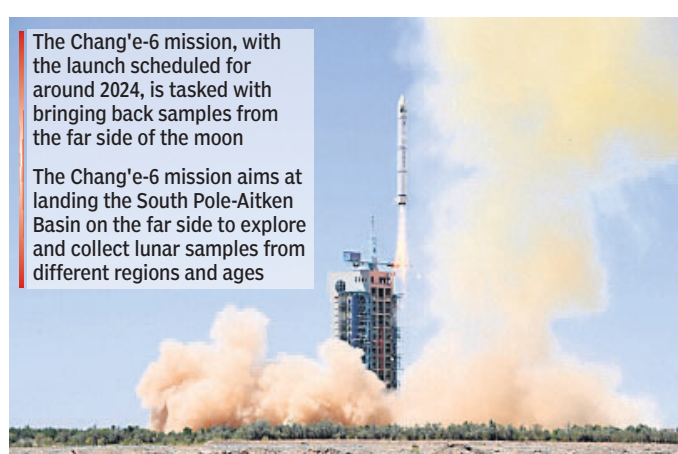
The Chang'e-6 lunar mission is currently undergoing research and development work as planned, state-run news agency Xinhua reported Friday quoting China National Space Administration (CNSA).

The Chang'e-6 mission, with the launch scheduled for around

2024, is tasked with bringing back samples from the far side of the moon. To date, all 10 lunar sampling missions conducted by humans have taken place on the near side of the moon, The Global Times newspaper reported.

The far side is generally older and contains the Aitken Basin, one of the three major lunar landforms, making it of significant scientific value, the report said, quoting CNSA.

The Chang'e-6 mission aims at landing the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side to explore and collect lunar samples from



The Chang'e-6 mission, with the launch scheduled for around 2024, is tasked with bringing back samples from the far side of the moon

The Chang'e-6 mission aims at landing the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side to explore and collect lunar samples from different regions and ages

different regions and ages.

To promote international cooperation, the Chang'e-6 mission will carry payloads and satellite projects from different countries and regions - France's DORN radon detection instrument, the European Space Agency's negative ion detector, Italy's laser retroreflector, and Pakistan's CubeSat, the CNSA said.

A CubeSat is a miniaturised satellite from Pakistan. Earlier this year, Pakistan also sent seeds to the Chinese space station, Tiangong, for research into environmentally tolerant seeds. Similarly, Pakistan is exploring

the possibility of a formal agreement to join both the Tiangong space station, as well as the more ambitious China-led base on the lunar South Pole, the Dawn newspaper reported last month.

The lunar far side is the side that faces away from the Earth and is sometimes also called "the dark side of the Moon" because so little is known about it.

To support the communications between the moon's far side and the Earth, China plans to launch its newly developed relay satellite Queqiao-2, or Magpie Bridge-2, in the first half of 2024, the Xinhua report said.

of the day quote

India's office market performance in Q3 (July-September) is a testament to the strong fundamentals of demand and the complete absence of any lasting effects of the global headwinds, except delayed decision-making

RAHUL ARORA | HEAD OFFICE LEASING ADVISORY, JLL INDIA

We saw a fairly pronounced slowdown in growth in September across countries and across products

SRIDHAR VEMBU | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, ZOHO

We are excited about our largest investment in the pharmaceutical sector till date. Our investment comes at an opportune time when India is drawing significant attention amongst the global pharma industry

GUNUPATI SWATHI REDDY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IQEST ENTERPRISES

SHORT TAKES

CIL production rises

New Delhi: State-owned CIL Monday reported a 12.6 per cent year-on-year rise in coal production to 51.4 million tonne (MT) last month. The PSU had produced 45.7 MT of coal in the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a BSE filing. The company's output in the April-September period also increased by 11.3 per cent to 332.9 MT against 299 MT a year ago, it added. CIL's offtake in September increased by 12.6 per cent to 55.1 MT compared to 48.9 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

Dunzo to restructure

Bangalore: Indian on-demand delivery platform Dunzo said Monday that one of its four co-founders, Dalvir Suri, would leave and the cash-strapped, Reliance Industries-backed startup also announced an organisation-wide restructuring from this quarter. Dunzo has been struggling to strike a funding deal in the past few months and has announced at least three rounds of layoffs, deferred or reduced salaries for some employees as well as reduced 50% of its dark stores.

Local Chromebook mfg begins

In a major boost to local production, Google joins global tech firms to expand assembly in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Google in partnership with HP has started manufacturing Chromebooks in India, the PC maker said Monday.

The Chromebook devices are being manufactured at the Flex Facility near Chennai, where HP has been producing a range of laptops and desktops since August 2020.

An HP spokesperson confirmed that the production of Chromebooks has started in India.

New Chromebooks are available online from a price range starting at Rs 15,990 apiece.

HP is one of the applicants under the government's Rs 17,000 crore production-linked incentive scheme for IT hardware.



A joint statement of Google and HP said Chromebooks are leading devices in K-12 education, helping over 50 million students and teachers across the world.

The local production of Chromebooks expands HP's India-made PC portfolio.

SBI holds 'Swachhata Hi Seva' across state

Bhubaneswar: State Bank of India (SBI) Bhubaneswar Circle has observed 'Swachhata Hi Seva - Shramdaan' initiative across Odisha. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India has launched 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign from September 15 to October 2 with the theme 'Garbage Free India' to celebrate 9 years of Swachh Bharat Mission. Under the initiative, SBI carried out cleanliness activities in two locations namely near Unit-1 Hanuman Temple and Mother's Public School. Chandershekar Sharma, Chief General Manager, SBI Bhubaneswar Circle participated in the event with other senior officials including General Managers, CDO, DGMs and SBI staffers.



BoM organises cleanliness drive

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), Bhubaneswar Zone organised "Shramdaan for Swachhata" for 1 hour as per the call of DFS, Govt of India. All the staff members of zonal office & city branches actively participated in the cleanliness drive. The officials cleaned the surroundings of their zonal office premises at Unit-IX. Alok Kumar Mishra, Zonal Manager, Sanjib Kumar Dash, Deputy Zonal Manager actively participated and guided the team in the process.



My growth projection (of India's GDP growth in FY 2023-24) is 6.5 per cent. And I think we can easily maintain this (growth) over the next few years. RAJIV KUMAR | FORMER VC, NITI AAYOG

JSW INFRA TO DEBUT TODAY

Shares of JSW Infrastructure, a part of the JSW Group, will make its market debut Tuesday, listing within two trading days after completing its Initial Public Offering (IPO) last week. The IPO of JSW Infrastructure was subscribed 37.37 times on the last day of bidding. The Rs 2,800-crore IPO had a price range of Rs 113-119 per share



GIANT LEAP

5G pushes India's global speed ranking

5G ADOPTION DRIVES INDIA'S GLOBAL SPEED RANKING 72 PLACES HIGHER TO 47TH SPOT

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 2: The mobile download speeds in India have seen significant boost with launch of 5G services, and the country has climbed 72 places higher to clinch 47th spot in Speedtest Global Index, according to Ookla.

This puts India not only ahead of its neighbours like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, but also some G20 countries, such as Mexico (90th), Turkey (68th), the UK (62nd), Japan (58th), Brazil (50th place), and South Africa (48th place).

India's speed performance has seen a 3.59 times increase since the introduction of 5G, with me-



dian download speeds improving to 50.21 Mbps in August 2023, from 13.87 Mbps in September 2022.

"This improvement has led to India's rise in the Speedtest Global Index, moving up 72 places, from 119th place to the

47th position," it said.

The 5G deployments have led to an improved overall user experience across all telecom circles with operators investing in backhaul infrastructure.

The launch of 5G technology by operators like Reliance Jio

and Bharti Airtel has led to a substantial increase in 5G subscribers, and operators still have ambitious roll-out plans, with the deployment of a significant number of 5G base stations across the country.

In fact, 5G has not only brought faster speeds but also higher customer satisfaction, as indicated by the Net Promoter Score (NPS), which shows that 5G users in India consistently rate their network operators more positively compared to 4G users.

"Additionally, 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services have been introduced to provide broadband connectivity in areas where laying fiber is costly or impractical," it said.

OIL ON BOIL

CAD, ₹ under pressure

OIL PRICE SURGE SPILLS INTO OCT-DEC QUARTER, MAY TAKE CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT PAST 2% OF GDP



CAD FOR APRIL-JUNE QTR WAS 1.1% OF GDP, UP 7-FOLD TO \$9.2BN YOY

OIL PRICES SURGE 29% -- BIGGEST THIRD-QUARTER GAIN IN TWO DECADES

₹ SLUMPED TO RECORD LOWS BELOW 83 AGAINST THE US GREENBACK

FOREX KITTY DECLINED FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WEEK TO FOUR-MONTH LOW

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: The increase in international crude oil prices has spilled over into the October-December quarter, raising the spectre of a higher current account deficit (CAD) deficit for India and more pressure on the rupee going ahead.

The country imports close to 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement and any increase in global prices causes the import bill to shoot up. Since large payments have to be made in dollars to buy crude, the rupee takes a hit vis-a-vis the American currency.

Oil prices climbed \$1 Monday after suffering losses at the end of last week, as investors' focus returned to a tight global supply outlook while a last-minute deal that avoided a US government shutdown restored some risk appetite.

Brent December crude futures rose \$1.04 to \$83.24 a barrel by 11:24 GMT after falling 90 cents Friday. Brent November futures had settled 7 cents lower at \$95.31 a bar-

rel at the contract's expiry Friday. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures pared gains that had lifted the contract by more than \$1 and were last 96 cents higher at \$91.75 a barrel after losing 92 cents Friday.

The benchmarks have soared 29 per cent in the three months to September; the biggest third-quarter gain in almost two decades, according to a Bloomberg report. Brent is already hovering at around \$95 a barrel.

With rising crude oil prices in the international market pushing up the demand for dollars, the Indian rupee has slumped to record lows below 83 against the US greenback.

In case crude oil prices average \$100 per barrel in the second half of FY24, the full-year current account deficit could widen to 2.1% of GDP, which is within sustainable levels

GAURA SENGUPTA | ECONOMIST, IDFC FIRST BANK

India's current account deficit (CAD) jumped 7-fold to \$9.2 billion in the April-June quarter compared to the corresponding figure of \$1.3 billion in the preceding quarter, according to RBI data released last week.

With the continuing surge in oil prices and slowing exports due to a decline in demand in global markets this is expected to widen further. Going ahead much will depend on oil prices in global markets.

RBI has been releasing dollars in the market to prop up the rupee but has not been able to stem the slide of the Indian currency. This has also resulted in a decline in the country's foreign exchange reserves in September.

India's forex kitty declined for a third consecutive week to a four-month low of \$590.7 billion as of September 22, data released by the RBI showed. The foreign exchange reserves have fallen by as much as \$8.2 billion in three weeks. The decline in the foreign exchange reserves is a cause for concern as the RBI will be left with less space to curb the volatility in the rupee through its market interventions.

Crude prices play a major role in determining CAD accounting as fuel accounts for more than a fourth of India's import basket. Prices of Russian crude, which accounts for a third of India's fuel imports, have risen since August, increasing the probability of a wider current account gap for the rest of the fiscal year.

How China-West tensions will shape global markets

As Sino-US tensions spill over to global markets, excitement about India is seen rising as the country's biz activity is booming while its stock market touched a record high in Sept

REUTERS

London, Oct 2: Tensions between the West and China are rising, from tit-for-tat trade tariffs to tech rivalry and spying allegations.

The ramifications for global markets are significant, with Washington and Beijing's determination to loosen dependence on each other fraying long-established supply chains.

That could help keep inflation and interest rates elevated. Still, there are gains for emerging nations and tech giants on the right side of the power battle.

Here's how Western-China tensions are shaping markets.

HELLO INFLATION US President Joe Biden is determined to bring manufacturing in strategic sectors such

as electric vehicles and semiconductor back home.

TSMC, the world's largest chipmaker, is moving some production to Germany to satisfy multinationals' need to diversify supply chains from China.

Goldman Sachs research found that bringing production home may have inflationary repercussions, particularly if Western manufacturing does not ramp up quickly enough to offset declining imports.

Prolonged US inflation also means rates staying higher for longer, boosting the dollar.

A stronger dollar can export inflation to resource-importing nations in Europe by forcing them to pay more for commodities priced in dollars.

FRIENDSHORING Washington is pushing "friendshoring" - the idea of replacing China's role in supply chains with friendly nations.

Research led by Harvard Business School's Laura Alfaro identifies Vietnam and Mexico as the major beneficiaries of the US supply chain shift so far.

Mongolia is seeking US investment in mining rare earths, materials used in high-tech products such as smartphones. The Philippines is courting US



infrastructure investment.

INDIA RUSH India is viewed as the most able to compete with China in low-cost, large-scale manufacturing. Its large, young population and a burgeoning middle class also creates opportunities for multinationals seeing less business in China.

Indian stocks have rallied 8% this year and the prospect of investor flows into the bond market just got a boost from JPMorgan's plan to include India in a key government bond index next year.

"India is a very large opportunity," said Christopher

Rossbach, chief investment officer at asset manager J Stern.

"The global companies we are invested in are working on it."

India's central bank forecasts that the economy will expand 6.5% this fiscal year, while China is expected to grow around 5% this year.

Barclays reckons that if India raises its annual economic growth closer to 8% over the next five years, it would be in a position to become the biggest contributor to global growth.

CHIPS TO COUTURE A China-West clash creates winners and losers on both sides. The EU is investigating

Sino-US tensions provide a new lens through which to analyse emerging markets' growth prospects

ANNA ROSENBERG | HEAD OF GEOPOLITICS, AMUNDI INVESTMENT INSTITUTE

whether to impose punitive tariffs against Chinese electric vehicle imports it says benefit from excessive state subsidies.

US subsidies for domestic semiconductor manufacturing have boosted Intel's shares. But the performance of big US tech stocks and global share indices are vulnerable to signs of Chinese retaliation.

With China the world's dominant buyer of luxury goods, Western fashion houses are also ensnared in politics. China's top anti-corruption watchdog has vowed to eliminate what it calls the hedonism of Western elites. Chinese banks have told staff not to wear European luxury items at work.

"Higher levels of government scrutiny have started to weigh

on the spending of more affluent (Chinese) consumers," Barclays analysts Carole Madjo and Wendy Liu said in a note.

Luxury sector shares surged as China loosened Covid-19 restrictions in early 2023. Since then, with China's economy in the doldrums and tensions with the West ratcheting up, they have slumped. European luxury stocks slid 16% in Q3.

SELL CHINA?

A faltering economy and property market turmoil mean the bearish China investment case extends beyond politics.

But the prospect of continued tariffs and the hassle of navigating US restrictions on investing in Chinese technology does not help.

With China underperforming global stocks, investors are split on how to approach this market.

A JPMorgan survey of credit investors found that 40% were bearish on China, but almost the same proportion wanted to increase allocations.

"I'm actually warming to China because everyone hates (this market) so much," said RW Baird vice chair of equities Patrick Spencer. "Market expectations are really severe and the reality is slightly better."

Power consumption grows 10.7% in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The country's power consumption grew 10.7 per cent to 140.49 billion units in September mainly due to increased use of cooling appliances amid unusually humid weather conditions.

In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 126.91 Billion Units (BU), higher than 112.43 billion units in September 2021, according to government data.

The peak power demand met - the highest supply in a day - rose to 239.97 GW in September. The peak power supply stood at 199.50 GW in September 2022 and 180.73 GW in September 2021.

The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rain.

The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June and before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.19 GW in August.

Experts said power consumption was affected in March, April, May and June this year due to widespread rainfall. They said power consumption grew in August and September, mainly due to humid weather conditions and also perk up in industrial activities ahead of festive season.

Track & field athletes shine

PARUL, PRITI BAG SILVER, BRONZE IN 3000M STEEPLECHASE; ANCY WINS SILVER IN LONG JUMP, WHILE 4X400M MIXED RELAY TEAM SECURE BRONZE AT ASIAN GAMES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Hangzhou, Oct 2: India's track and field athletes were impressive Monday as Parul Chaudhary and Priti secured silver and bronze medals respectively in the women's 3000m steeplechase

while unheralded Ancy Sojan claimed a silver medal in the women's long jump at the Asian Games here.
The athletics arena gave India another medal in the form of a bronze, won by the quartet of Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi,

Vithya Ramraj, Rajesh Ramesh and Subha Venkatesan, who clocked 3:14.34s, in the 4x400 Relay Mixed final. The gold was won by Bahrain runners, who timed 3:14.02, while the silver was bagged by Sri Lanka who clocked 3:14.25 seconds.

In the women's 3000m steeplechase, Parul clocked 9:27.63 seconds, which was more than nine seconds behind Bahrain's Yavi Winfred Mutile, who set an Asian Games record on way to defending her title. The Bahrain runner took the top podium finish in 9:18.28, a new Games record.
The previous Games record stood in the name of country-mate Jebet Ruth (9:31.36 sec) set during the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea.
Though Parul also breached the Asian Games record, it was nowhere close to her national record and personal best of 9:15.31 clocked at the World Championships in Budapest, which helped her qualify for the Paris Olympics, in August.
Compatriot Priti finished a good 16 seconds behind Parul, clocking a personal best 9:43.32 seconds to win the bronze in a close finish with another Bahrain runner Mekonen Tigest Getent, who timed 9:43.71 seconds to finish fourth.
In women's long jump, Ancy breached her personal best twice and leaped 6.63 metres to bag the silver behind Shiqi Xiong of China who jumped 6.73 metres to claim the yellow metal. Vietnam's Nga Yan Yue won the bronze with a best effort of 6.50 metres.
In the third attempt, Ancy registered her personal best of 6.56m which she bettered in her fifth attempt. The other Indian in the fray, Shailli Singh finished a disappointing fifth with an effort of 6.48m.
In men's 200m, India's Amlan Borgohain finished a distant sixth in 20.98 seconds. The gold was won by Japan's Koki Ueyama in 20.60 seconds, which was way below the Asian Games record of 20.14 seconds set in Incheon by Qatar's Femi Ogunode.
Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Abdullah Abkar clinched the silver medal with a time of 20.63, while the bronze went to Chinese Taipei's Yang Chun-Han who clocked 20.74 seconds.

CHAMPIONS LOOK TO KEEP 'WHITE-BALL KINGS' STATUS

As the defending World Champions in both the 50-over and T20I formats, England have a massive target on their back heading into the World Cup. In theory, they are the team to beat over the next couple of months — even if India, Pakistan and Australia, in particular, might have something to say about that.

Eight of the 2019 World Cup-winning squad are back again seeking to defend the title and that experience can be crucial in those tight games, which can be a battle of nerves as much as anything else.

Among them is Ben Stokes, who came out of ODI retirement last month and has already underlined his enduring value by hitting a 182 — the highest individual score by English player in the format — in the recent series against New Zealand.

In Jos Buttler, the team has a smart captain who seamlessly replaced the retired Eoin Morgan in the role and hasn't yet allowed the position to affect his form. Buttler remains one of the world's most destructive white-ball batters.

Besides the duo, there are several others like Jonny Bairstow, Liam Livingstone, Moeen Ali and Sam Curran, whose IPL experience will come in handy.
There are some nagging concerns, however: England's ODI side is nowhere near as settled as it was in 2019, especially in



batting. The second opener's slot — having Bairstow as partner — is yet to be secured with both Harry Brook and Dawid Malan in contention.

England's bowling might be questioned, too, with Jofra Archer not around and fellow pacer Mark Wood's fitness remaining suspect given he hasn't had any competitive cricket since the Ashes. Spinner Adil Rashid, meanwhile, missed the final three matches against the Black Caps because of a calf injury. Still, England's white-ball teams have an aura about them these days and their deep batting stocks mean they are rarely going to be completely out of games. It would be a big surprise if England don't reach the semifinals.

HOLDING THE KEYS TO SUCCESS
Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes, Joe Root, Adil Rashid & Mark Wood

It's incredibly exciting times. I think the guys should be nice and fresh. I think we've got just about the right amount of cricket behind us. The couple of practice matches will serve us well. I think we're ready to put our best foot forward
MATTHEW MOTT | HEAD COACH



Indian skaters surprise with unexpected bronze



(From L): Karthika Jagadeeswaran, Aarathy Kasturi Raj and Heeral Sadhu pose on the podium during the awards ceremony, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Hangzhou, Oct 2: India's speed skaters dazzled at the Asian Games with two surprise bronze medals in men's and women's 3000m team relay events to match their best-ever performance in roller sports at the continental showpiece here Monday.
Teenagers Karthika Jagadeeswaran and Heeral Sadhu combined with 29-year-old Aarathy Kasturi Raj to clinch India's first-ever medal in the speeding skating discipline in Asian Games.
Anand Kumar Velkumar, Siddhant Kamble and Vikram Ingale then followed their women counterparts to grab the third spot with a timing of 4:34.861s in

the final at Qiantang Roller Sports Centre.
Roller sports made its debut in the Asian Games in 2010 when Anup Kumar Yama bagged bronze in men's single free skating event before combining with Avani Panchal to finish third in the pairs skating event.
Monday, the women's quartet finished with a timing of 4:34.861s to bag the third place on the podium behind gold medallists Chinese Taipei (4:19.447) and silver winner South Korea (4:21.146).
Incidentally, Chinese Taipei (4:05.692) and South Korea (4:05.702) took the top-two spots in the men's event as well. The Indian trio had clocked 4:15.126 in the heats and bettered it in the final.

India rout Bangla, reach semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 2: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Mandeep Singh slammed a hat-trick each as India mauled Bangladesh 12-0 to storm into the semifinals of the men's hockey competition at the Asian Games here Monday. India will play the second-best team of Pool B in the semifinal Wednesday.
Harmanpreet (2nd, 4th, 32nd minutes) converted three penalty corners, while Mandeep (18th, 24th, 46th) also found the net thrice as India remained unbeaten in Pool A. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (23rd), Amit Rohidas (28th), Abhishek (41st, 57th), Nilakanta Sharma (47th) and Gurjant Singh (56th) were the other goal getters for India.

Stalemate in kabaddi
In an unexpected start to their campaign, the Indian women's kabaddi team were Monday held to a surprise 34-34 draw by Chinese Taipei in a Group A match. The Indians were made to work hard throughout the contest by their opponents, who earned a bonus point on the last raid of the match to force a draw.
The women side's next assignment will be against South Korea Tuesday, while the men's team will take on Bangladesh in their Group A match.
Ghosal progresses
Star Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa made a shock exit from the women's singles event but veteran Sourav Ghosal sailed into the quarterfinals of men's singles.
Taking the court first, the 37-year-old Chinappa lost 1-3 (4-11, 12-10, 9-11, 8-11) to lower-ranked Heo Mingyeong of South Korea in the pre-quarterfinals. The re-



sult is a major upset as Joshna was a medal favourite.
The other Indian in the fray, Tanvi Khanna progressed to the quarterfinals with an easy 11-1, 11-3, 11-2 win over Arichaya Chujit of Thailand. The Indian mixed doubles pair of Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh continued its winning run, cruising to a 2-0 (11-5, 11-6) win over Thailand's Anantana Praserttranakul and Arkaradet Arkarahrunya to stay on top in group D.
Ghosal blanked Kuwait's Ammar Altamimi 3-0 (11-4, 11-4, 11-6) in the round of 16, while Mahesh Mangaonkar also registered an easy 3-0 (11-6, 11-2, 11-6) win over Ryunosuke Tsukue to progress into the quarterfinals.
Contrasting fortunes
The Indian men's team kept their hopes alive after winning two straight matches in group B but it was curtains for women's side in quadrant sepak takraw.
The men's side thrashed Singapore 2-0 (21-7, 21-15) before beating Philippines 2-0 (21-16, 21-15) at the Jinhua Sports Centre Gymnasium. India will next face South Korea Tuesday in their last group match.
However, the women's side ended their campaign finishing

semifinal 3-4 to North Korea here Monday.
Sutirtha and Aiyhka lost 3-4 (11-7, 8-11, 11-7, 8-11, 9-11, 11-5, 2-11) to Suyong Cha and Sugyong Pak but grabbed the bronze following a sensational victory over World champions from China Saturday. With the result, the Indian challenge ended at the Games.
Archers impress
Indian archers showed tenacity and authority in equal measure to storm into the quarterfinals in all the six team events. The top-seeded compound mixed team of Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam eliminated UAE's Amna Alawadhi and Mohammed Binamro.
The Indian recurve mixed pair duo of Atanu Das and Ankit Bhakat defeated Malaysia in a three-setter. The fifth seeded Indian duo of Das and Ankit rallied to beat Malaysian team of Syaqlera Binti Mashayikh and Muhammad Zarif Syahir Bin Zolkepli.
In compound men's team event, the second-seeded Indians trio of Ojas, Abhishek Verma and Prathamesh Jawkar thrashed 15th seed Singapore (Woon Teng NG, Lee Chung Hee Alan, Jun Hui Goh).
The top-seeded Indian women's compound team of Jyothi, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur, who got a bye into the quarters, will open their campaign against ninth-seeded Hong Kong.
The Indian men's recurve team of Das, Dhiraj and Tushar Shelke beat Hong Kong's Kwok Yin Chai, Law Kwun Pok Lucien and Wn Chun Kit in a lopsided contest. The unfancied women's recurve team of Ankit Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur and Simranjeet Kaur also won.

SWAPNA SPARKS CONTROVERSY WITH GENDER ALLEGATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 2: India's Swapna Barman on Monday sparked a controversy with sensational allegations that she lost out on a bronze medal in the women's heptathlon competition of the ongoing Asian Games to a "transgender" athlete.
Swapna, who had won the gold medal in the 2018 edition of the Asian Games in Jakarta, alleged that compatriot Nandini Agasara was ineligible to compete in the women's event as she is a "transgender" but later deleted her post from social media.
Nandini won the bronze medal in women's heptathlon in Hangzhou, while Swapna failed to defend her crown, settling for the fourth position Sunday.



"I have lost my Asian Games bronze medal to a transgender woman at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China. I want my medal back as it is against the rules of athletics. Help me and support me please," Barman tweeted. A few hours later, she deleted the tweet even as the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) refused to comment.
Nandini aggregated a total of 5712 points, a personal best. She topped the final event of the heptathlon, the 800m race, to ensure a spot on the podium, ahead of Barman. Besides the 800m event, Nandini also won the 200m race, that earned her 936 points.
As per the rules of World Athletics, which came into effect from March 31 this year, every single athlete who has gone through what has been defined as 'male puberty' by World Athletics is barred from competing in female world ranking events.
Swapna, who managed 5708 points, was the defending champion in the event having won a gold at the Jakarta Games five years ago.
China's Ninali Zheng won the gold medal in women's heptathlon event after collecting a total of 6149 points. Ekaterina Voronina of Uzbekistan took the silver with 6056 points.

Kohli skips optional practice session for personal reasons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 2: India's star batter Virat Kohli didn't join the team's optional practice session here due to personal reasons but is expected to link up with the squad before the second warm-up game against The Netherlands here Tuesday.
Kohli had left for Mumbai from Guwahati for some emergency personal reasons September 30 and wasn't available for the afternoon training session at the local college ground here.
"It was an optional session. He is expected to join the squad soon and could play the warm-up game if required," a BCCI source



privy to developments told PTI on condition of anonymity.
On the day, skipper Rohit Sharma, batter Shreyas Iyer and

pacer Mohammed Shami also skipped the session which was attended by the likes of Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit

Bumrah and veteran spin duo Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.
The World Cup warm-up match against the Dutch will be the last chance for India to get some game time before the start of tournament proper against Australia in Chennai October 8.
The Indians had a full-fledged session with Gill, Surya and KL Rahul batting for a considerable amount of time against the likes of Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.
Ashwin and Jadeja also rolled their arm over for considerable period of time as they both are going to play a massive role in this World Cup on tracks which are expected to offer turn.

IMPRESSIVE OUTING



Odisha girls' team secured the bronze medal at the 13th National U-11 Roll Ball Championship, which was held in Chennai, September 28-30. The girls lost to Rajasthan 0-2 in the semifinals. Assam claimed the title. Odisha were superior to Kerala, who also lost in the semifinals, in the goal tally (Odisha 34, Kerala 14), which earned them the bronze. Odisha captain Ashlesha Panda was the highest goal scorer of the tournament with 21 goals