

Actor Kriti Sanon narrates her gruelling training sessions that were required to nail the character in upcoming movie 'Ganpath'

LEISURE P2



PASSPORT RACKET BUSTED

CBI busts fake passport racket involving officials and middlemen in West Bengal and Sikkim

NATIONAL P9



NO INDIGENOUS VOICE

Australia decisively rejects a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the

Constitution INTERNATIONAL P10

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2 Hamas commanders killed in Israeli strikes

Jerusalem, Oct 14: Israel's military said Saturday that it killed two Hamas commanders who were behind the cross-border deadly rampage into Israel a week ago.

The military said it killed Merad Abu Merad, who was the head of the Hamas aerial system, and Ali Qadi, a company commander of a commando force.

"Ali Qadi led the inhumane, barbaric October 7 massacre of civilians in Israel. We just eliminated him. All Hamas terrorists will meet the same fate," the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) wrote

The IDF said Ali Qadhi, a company commander in the socalled Nukhba unit, was killed in a drone strike following intelligence efforts by the Shin Bet security agency and Military Intelligence Directorate.

According to the IDF, Qadhi was arrested by Israel in 2005 over the kidnapping and murder of Israeli civilians and had been released to the Gaza Strip as part of the 2011 Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange.

Meanwhile, thousands of people – Israelis, Palestinians and foreigners - have been killed since Hamas militants attacked Israel from the Gaza Strip last Saturday. Most were civilians, with horror stories emerging about the militants' rampage and the devastating military retaliation it provoked.

Thousands of Palestinians began fleeing their homes and moving south after Israel's military delivered sweeping evacuation orders for almost half of Gaza's 2.3 million people earlier on Friday ahead of an expected ground offensive.

MORE P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I want to go to Israel and join its army as my chances of enlisting in the Indian army have been curbed by the govt

WEATHER clear sky

INDIA ROUT PAK

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 | 2023

■ Rohit Sharma emerges the undisputed star of the match, scoring a 63-ball 86 to power his team to the modest target of 192

■ Pacer Jasprit Bumrah adjudged the Man of the Match for his spell of 2/19

Ahmedabad. Oct 14: India fired on all cylinders in what was supposed to be war minus the shooting, blowing away arch-rivals Pakistan by seven wickets in a World Cup face-off that ended in a damp squib after causing unbridled hysteria and logistical

In what is seen as the pinnacle of cricket by fans in the subcontinent, Indian captain Rohit Sharma emerged as the undisputed star of the match, scoring a 63-ball 86 to power his team to the modest target of 192 with as many as 19.3 overs to spare here Saturday.

Jasprit Bumrah was a tiger on the prowl and Mohammed Siraj displayed wolf-like aggression before skipper Rohit completed the annihilation as



EUPHORIA: India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates the wicket of Pakistan's Shadab Khan during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match between India and Pakistan at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Saturday

India produced a near-perfect performance in one of the most lopsided World Cup games between the arch-rivals.

Rohit just casually flaunted his repertoire of strokes, which included a pull shot behind square of Shaheen Shah Afridi and a square driven six off Haris Rauf, as India were home by 8.05

The win was India's eighth in the 50 over global event, where Pakistan had never been able to match their neighbours in terms of skill, strategy or execution

since 1992. Just like he brushes his teeth, drinks water, pulling and hooking is a part of Rohit's daily chores. The 1,150 gram willow is those strong but supple wrists does its job at his beck and call. On the day, it responded to his call 12 times - six of which went over

People love to err on side of caution but Rohit is ready to err on side of risk - whether its spin of coin or dismissing a fast bouncer from his presence.

MAHANGA DOUBLE MURDER

Court asks Jena to appear October 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahanga, Oct 14: The Salipur Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court Saturday issued a notice to Mahanga MLA Pratap Jena to personally appear before it October 31 in connection with the gruesome double murder of local BJP leader Kulamani Baral and his associate Dibyasingha Baral in January

A special court messenger served the court order at Jena's government residence, which the MLA has reportedly received.

The BJD legislators' name surfaced in the FIR lodged by Ramakant Baral, son of deceased Kulamani. The former Law Minister is among 13 persons accused of being involved in the murders that created a sensation in the state.

The needle of suspicion pointed at the Mahanga MLA in the backdrop of reports that he had threatened to kill both Kulamani and Dibyasingha over an issue of corruption. Kulamani's son Ramakant alleged in the FIR that his father (and his associate) had been killed on Jena's instruction as he often raised his voice against corruption, including housing

However, the police later removed Jena's name from the chargesheet. Protesting the police action, Jena had filed a petition in Salipur JMFC Court, seeking fresh investigation in the case. Later, a review petition was filed by Ramakant's brother Ranjit following the former's death.

"After going through the statement of the complainant, witnesses, and other available materials on record, we found that a prima facie case punishable for the offences under Sections 302, 506, 120 B of the IPC be made against the accused Pratap Jena,' the court had stated in its earlier order September 25 while hearing the review petition.

The Salipur JMFC court has already committed the case to a special court in Bhubaneswar.

Worth mentioning here that Kulamani and Divyasingha were killed by unidentified miscreants January 2, 2021 while they were on their way home on a motorcycle. The assailants intercepted the two-wheeler and later hacked them to death.

4 killed, 2 critically hurt in two separate mishaps

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Four persons, including three Class X students, were killed and two critically injured in two separate road accidents in Cuttack and Kalahandi districts Saturday.

In the first accident, three Class X students were killed when the bike they were riding collided head-on with a van near Ranasankha village under Banki police station in Cuttack district.

The students were returning from Chakuleswar village after attending their tuition when the accident occurred. After the accident, local people rushed

all the three to Banki hospital. However, the doctor declared two of them dead. The third student was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, but he died while undergoing treatment there, sources said.

In the second incident, a girl was killed and her mother and uncle critically injured while a truck hit their scooter from behind while they were returning to their village Dulakibandh under Kalampur police station of Kalahandi district. The accident occurred when the victims were returning after attending the 'Shraddha' function of one of their relatives.

SHORT TAKES

SIMILIPAL NAT'L PARK **REOPENS FOR PUBLIC**

Baripada: The Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district reopened for visitors Saturday, after remaining closed for four months due to monsoon, officials said. This year, the park was opened early instead of the usual November 1, they said. On the first day, 13 vehicles with 73 tourists entered the park. These tourists, 50 from Odisha and 23 from other states, were welcomed at the gates with flowers. While 35 vehicles are allowed through the Kaliani gate in Jashipur, 25 vehicles can enter the park from Lulung in Baripada every day,

AUGUST 23 NOTIFIED AS NATIONAL SPACE DAY

New Delhi: The Union government has notified August 23, the day Chandrayaan-3 made soft landing on the moon, as National Space Day, "...The Government of India has declared the 23rd Day of August of every year as the 'NATIONAL SPACE DAY' to commemorate this historic moment," said a notification issued by the Department of Space. India has become the fourth nation in the world to land a spacecraft on the moon and the first to land near the south pole of the lunar surface. The Vikram lander had also deployed the Pragyan rover on the moon to study the lunar surface.

Antilia, Cherrapunji among 60 Guinness records from India

New Delhi, Oct 14: The latest edition of the Guinness World Records has 2,638 achievements from around the world, including over 60 from India with the entry on rainfall in Meghalaya's Cherrapunji being one of the oldest. Mukesh Ambani's 27-storey personal skyscraper Antilia also figures in the list.

Distributed in India by Penguin Random House, the book has nine fact-packed chapters - Blue Planet, Aquatic Life, Humans, Recordology, Adventures,

History, Science and Technology, Arts and Media, and Sports - and five special features: Hall of Fame, Young Achievers, Gaming, Explainers, and Bucket List.

The 2024 edition is the final instalment in the partnership with award-winning artist Rod Hunt. According to the publishers, completing the illustrated Guinness World Records universe, the cover artwork takes readers on a deep-sea odyssey

to the bottom of the ocean. Among the oldest records involving India is related to rainfall.

On June 15-16, 1995,

Cherrapunji, a high-altitude town in Meghalaya, received 2.493 m (8 ft 2 in) of rain over the complete 48-hour period, the record book says.

"While this normally means that the region gets a high level of annual rainfall, this is the most extreme 48hour period on record - as verified by the WMO," it says.

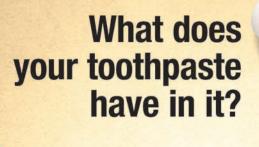
"For a calendar month, the record is 9,300 mm (366 in) at Cherrapunji in July 1861 and the 12-month record was also set at Cherrapunji, with 26,461 mm (1,041.75 in) between August 1, 1860 and July 31, 1861," it adds.

Between August 1, 1860

and July 31, 1861, a total of 26,470 mm (1,042 in) of rain fell at Cherrapunji, according to the Meteorological Organization.

The largest, tallest and most expensive private house in the world is businessman Mukesh Ambani's 27-storey personal skyscraper Antilia.

Out of the 1,154 sites recognised by UNESCO, the Taj Mahal in Agra, is currently the most searched-for World Heritage Site racking up 1.4 million searches in the month of March 2022, according to a report published by Zitango Travel in April



Jhoo

Using Jhoothpaste in the name of toothpaste has resulted not only in unclean teeth, but its chemicals made the teeth and gums even worse!

Patanjali Dant Kanti has the time-tested

Truth of Ayurveda

That's why it's called



herbs (Akarkara, Neem, Babool, Tomar, Mint, Cloves, Peepli (small), Vajradanti, Bakul, Vidang, Turmeric, Peelun and Majufal etc.) it gives teeth

the power to fight cavities, foul smell, yellowness, pyorrhea and all other oral diseases.



eisure



SELENA GOMEZ FEELS THERAPY **'COULD CHANGE THE WORLD'**

Singer-actress Selena Gomez hopes to 'change the world' after starting her therapy journey. The 31-year-old superstar had been battling her mental health for years and fell into a dark place. Since starting therapy, however, she has begun to heal.

MICHELLE WILLIAMS TO NARRATE BRITNEY SPEARS' MEMOIR

Hollywood actress Michelle Willams will read Britney Spears' memoir The Woman in Mewhich charts the life and career of the pop superstar as her 13-year conservatorship from her own point of view. She would find it 'too emotional' to read it aloud herself, says Britney.



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com

accuracy • reliability • trust

You will be the focus of everyone's attention today for your visual appeal or for your abilities. Ganesha suggests that you should make the best of the opportunity and recharge yourself. You can accomplish quite a lot with the energy you gain.

TAURUS

This day could be full of surprises, mostly unpleasant, fears Ganesha. Nothing is likely to turn out as planned and expected. There will be sharp and sudden twist and turns, unexpected shocks and setbacks all day long. You will, however, with the grace and blessings of the Almighty, manage to stay steady and unruffled, and

GEMINI

You will be in the mood to spend the day doing the things that you really love. You will consider helping people in need and will be in a generous mood. Your charitable bent of mind will bring you elevated social status and improved self-esteem,

CANCER

Your career will reach a decisive moment. You can expect a transfer, promotion or pay hike. Alongside your responsibilities will also increase. A chance of new iob is also indicated. You can reject a mpting job offer

LEO

You will spend an enjoyable day with your favourite relaes and friends. In the office also, you will be afforded rare cooperation from all your colleagues. Financial gains are indicated. It is a good time for lovers, who will experience an intimate bond with their partners, says

Business and pleasure will be well balanced. Ganesha says you will enjoy the party which will seem endless today. Your monetary outflow will be in direct proportion to the time you spend just lazing around. However, Ganesha advises you to spend sensibly and not to worry about it.

Ganesha says those of you in the field of business will find this to be a good time for them. In any work that you undertake You will have to spend more time at your workplace. Ganesha says you should try and maintain a balance between your work and your family.

SCORPIO You go on a shopping spree

and that too with your beloved. This may be quite therapeutic for your for your relationship. You may be just happy to use your bargaining skills to the optimum. Spending lavishly, first on shopping and then on sumptuous dinner to treat your taste buds. What more one wants in life!

SAGITTARIUS

A tiring day is in store for you today. Find yourself labouring worse than Hercules. The positive outcome would be that you would lose a few extra calories. But late in the day, a nice guiet time with family and friends would relieve you of all the stress.

CAPRICORN Everything you do today will

be driven by the desire to meet the expectations of your family members, says Ganesha. For those of you pursuing studies, pending projects will finally get completed, and you will look forward to taking up new

AQUARIUS

You will receive some good news today. Whatever has been in the pipe line may come out in the open and you'll see the desired output, feels Ganesha. Courageous and patient, you can deal with the toughest of challenges with an ease and Ganesha gives a pat on your back for that.

PISCES You will work hard to organize you day to day routine but due to the ill alignment of the planets you will not be able to sort things out successfully today. Ganesha advises you to be patient and let things be as they are but also to hold on to the sentiments of change.

KRITI SHARES HER JOURNEY AS AN ACTION STAR

New Delhi: Actress Kriti Sanon now becoming an action star in her own right for the very first time in Ganpath. Showcasing various scenes of her training to be in tiptop condition for the sci-fi-action film, Kriti had to learn many things. This included using nunchucks, martial arts, riding a dirt bike, kickboxing, as well as grueling fitness exercises such as iron body, full-out stretching, cardio and more.

The actress said: "I've been ride a normal bike, before the dying to do action crew started practicing in Ladakh on-screen and I where majority of the scenes posed to use nunchucks main weapon." Kriti added: This is the first time I've

way to go. With every weapon you use, you first have to master the art of

Elaborating on other parts of her training, she said: "Apart from nunchucks there was also kickboxing training which I did. There was also, you know, a dirt bike, I was supposed to ride a dirt bike and I didn't even know how to ride a bike before this." The video showed various

scenes of her just struggling to

were shot. Eventually, however, the 'Adipurush' actress got the hang of it. Describing her bike training, she said: "Riding a normal bike, or a heavy bike, or even a bullet is fine, but a dirt bike is very tall, and you know

I'm saying that. Directed by Vikas Bahl, the movie also stars Tiger Shroff and Amitabh Bachchan in lead roles. It will hit the big screen

October 20, 2023.



Mumbai: Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is currently enjoying the success of her recent release Jaane Jaan, recently talked about her working experience and approaches of the Bollywood superstars, the Khans.

> the Refugee actress talked about her work experience and work approaches of the Khans of Bollywood. Spilling beans on the unique work approaches of the three superstars, the actress talked about how these distinctive qualities set them

In a recent interview with the media,

The Heroine actress sang praises about SRK. "The emperor, the conqueror, everything that people have been saying I think is less for Shah

On Salman and Aamir, she remarked "Salman always relies on his persona, his personality, his super-duper stardom. Aamir is very focused. He just becomes

that character. He gets obsessed and only thinks about his

On the work front, Kareena Kapoor Khan was last seen in Jaane Jaan and has Singham Again, The Buckingham Murders, and The Crew in the pipeline.

WEEK-LONG THEATRE EXTRAVAGANZA IN BHUBANESWAR

Nabina Barnali's Saptarupam from Oct 17

Bhubaneswar: City's leading drama troupe Nabina Barnali Theatre will present seven Odia plays in seven days starting Tuesday here at Bhanjakala Mandap. It has been learned that all of the

dramas will be performed by troupes based in Bhubaneswar. Titled Saptarupam, the first

evening of the event will witness Bhinna Eka Galpa, a presentation by the host organisation. Written by Hemendra Mahapatra, the play has been directed by the troupe's founder, Nabin Parida. On the second evening, Labanya Theatre will perform Bhinna Eka Rajaputra (playwright: Narayan Sahoo; direction: Satya Jena). The other plays of the festival are *Ei* Bodhe Prema by Bidyakanak Srujanusthan (playwright-Dilip Balabantaray; direction-Jagadish Prasad Maharana), Suna Sujane

FUN



A file photo of Odia play Bai Chadheira Dena

SUDOKU

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

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

2

8

4

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

9

3

4

8

CROSSWORD

2

by Dyanamic Platform (playwright-Biswajit Das; direction-Debabrata Pattnayak), *Ama Ghara* Katha by Sai Bidyadhar Charitable Trust (playwright and direction-Dilip Balabantaray), Bai Chadheira Dena by Nabina Barnali Theatre (playwright-Nabin Parida; direction-Bhakti Ranjan Das), and *Jantrika* by

Magic Theatre (playwright-Nabin Parida; direction-Pragyanranjan Khatua).

Several officials of state's Culture Department and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi have given their consent to attend the event as guests on these seven days, said Nabin Parida, the president of the host organisation.

> 5 8

9

1

6

8

6

5

PEANUTS

AGENCIES

'Can't understand

why people

drink alcohol'

Mumbai: Actor Sunny Deol,

who is celebrating the success

of Gadar 2, has been a teeto-

taler for many years now and

in a recent interview, the actor spoke about the time when he tried alcohol but did not enjoy

it at all. He shared that he was much younger when he tried

it in London and did not un-

During promoting his son

Rajveer's debut film Dono,

Sunny shared what he thinks

about alcohol consumption.

"It's not that I didn't try. When

I went to England, I tried to be part of the society but I never un-

derstood it. It's so bitter, such

bad smell, and gives you a

cohol, the Ghaval actor said, "I did-

n't know when both my sons

started drinking. My father also

didn't know many things about

me. Like this, the children stay

a little disciplined. A child will

do what he has to do," said

from such a strict family but

I did whatever I had to do but

I never liked alcohol

The actor added, "I come

Asked if his sons also drink al-

headache, so why drink it?"

derstand the hype.

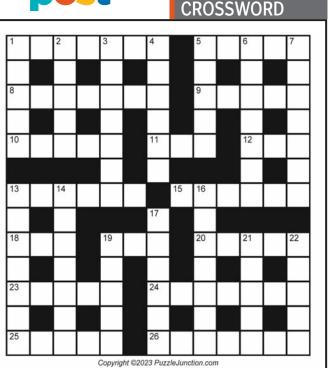


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





Across

- 1 Aspic
- 5 Scimitar
- 8 Unclear
- 9 Stomach woe 10 Before firma or
- cotta
- 11 Family dog, for short
- 12 Record keeper
- 13 Seabird with brightly
- coloured bill
- 15 Ares or Mars. e.g. (3,3)
- - 1 Hamlet's father,
- 25 Helicopter part 26 Wild boars, for sure

24 Pickle type

18 Name fit for a

the Rings"

figure

23 Blatant

king?

- 20 "The Lord of
- 19 Venom carrier 4 Tease 5 Young pigeon
 - 6 Procrastinator's
 - work problem 7 Fuming

3 Disaster at sea

2 Failure

- 13 Common room
- 14 Most wily
- 16 Postal need
- 17 Faucet 19 Fragrant oil
- 21 It's just over a foot
- 22 Penalties

SUDOKU

5 SOLUTIONS

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



PROUD MOMENT: A 108-foot tall Tricolour mast was inaugurated in the front lawn of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, Saturday

Govt notifies August 23 as National Space Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Central government has notified August 23, the day Chandrayaan-3 made a soft landing on the moon, as National Space Day.

"...The government of India has declared the 23rd day of August of every year as the 'national Space Day' to commemorate this historic moment,' said a notification issued by the Space department October 13. India has become the fourth

nation in the world to land a spacecraft on the moon and the first to land near the south pole of the lunar surface. The Vikram lander had also deployed the Pragyan rover on the moon to study the lunar

"The outcome of this historic mission will benefit mankind in the years to come,"

the notification said.

The notification added that August 23 marked an important milestone in the country's advancements in space missions, which will inspire younger generations to pursue careers in STEM and will provide an impetus to the space sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) head-

quarters in Bengaluru August 26, made the announcement to observe August 23 as National Space Day.

'To encourage our younger generation to get involved in the field of science and technology and space, we have decided that August 23, the day when our Chandrayaan-3 lander touched the moon, will be celebrated as National Space Day," Modi had said in Bengaluru.

Ratna Bhandar safe: SJTA

Committee member Madhab

Mohapatra said the decision of

the panel would be informed to

the Odisha government which

The administration of Lord

Jagannath's temple in Puri which

is under the Law department of

the state government and the

SJTA, which is responsible for

management of the shrine, is

headed by a senior IAS officer.

tivist Dilip Baral however, raised

questions on the government's

intention to open the Ratna

"It was decided in the man-

aging committee meeting August

14 that the inventory of the or-

naments would be done when

the inner Ratna Bhandar is

opened," said Baral who had

moved the Orissa High Court

last year claiming that con-

struction work for a government

project has affected the health of

Bhandar.

Right to Information (RTI) ac-

will take action subsequently.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Amid demands for opening of the 'Ratna Bhandar' of the Puri Jagannath temple and making an inventory of the valuables stored there, the shrine authorities Saturday claimed that the treasure chest of the Lord is

The temple managing committee earlier decided to recommend to the Odisha government to allow the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the custodian of the 12th-century shrine, to open and carry out repair works of the Ratna Bhandar during Rath Yatra next year.

"The Ratna Bhandar is safe and none should be worried about it," Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Ranjan Das told reporters.

Das was replying to a question on the Orissa High Court's order to form a special committee on opening of the Ratna Bhandar.

"The issue of formation of the special committee would be discussed in the Shri Jagannath Temple Managing Committee meeting soon," he said.

The managing committee headed by the titular king of Puri and comprising various people including government officials, is the highest decisionmaking body of the Puri temple.

the temple.

Baral alleged that the BJD government is deferring the matter till the Assembly elections due next year

Opposition parties demanded that the administration make an inventory of the valuables kept at the Ratna Bhandar as there is a "glaring mismatch" between the figures of the quantity of gold and silver ornaments mentioned by the government in the assembly and the SJTA in an affidavit in the high court.

Earlier, the SJTA had informed the Orissa High Court in an affidavit that one and a half quintals (149 kg 460 grams) of gold and 184 kg of silver ornaments are in the Ratna Bhandar. The inventory was made when the treasure chest was last opened

This treasury of the Jagannath Temple has been enriched by donations offered by devotees.

Police seize two trucks loaded with firecrackers

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: The Begunia police seized two trucks loaded with firecrackers and some 25 kgs of gun powder stored illegally in a godown at Kantapada of Khurda district, Saturday

Sources said, acting on a tipoff, a police team conducted a raid and seized the firecrackers. Police also detained a man in this connection and is inquiring into the incident

A bomb disposal squad has been deputed to defuse the explosives. Inquiry is underway to find the source of the procurement

SC seeks update on rice fortification labelling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to apprise it about steps taken to comply with a provision of the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018, that labels on bags containing fortified rice should carry an advisory that it is harmful for people suffering from sickle cell anaemia and thalassemia.

A bench of Justice SK Kaul and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia asked the Union of India to file an affidavit within four weeks and inform it about the action taken.

"Counsel has entered appearance for the Union of India and will obtain instructions as to what steps have been taken in respect of the subject matter of the grievance in the present petition and as to whether any action has been taken on the representation already made by the peti-

"An affidavit be filed in this behalf within four weeks. List immediately after four weeks,' the bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Rajesh Krishnan and others seeking compliance with clause 7(4) of the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018, to carry out mandated labelling on fortified rice sacks.

As per the clause, every package of food, fortified with the micronutrient iron shall carry the statement: "People with Thalassemia may take under medical supervision and persons with Sickle Cell Anaemia are advised not to consume iron-fortified food products.'

Top City pandals for this year's Durga Puja

ARINDAM GANGULY,OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: With Durga Puja nearing, frantic preparations are on at pandals across the City to make celebrations memorable this time. A majority of the 185 Pandals this year, which is seven more than last year's figures, are based on themes inspired by famous monuments both in India and abroad. The replicas have become grander with pompous displays and lighting, while the idols are bedecked with expensive ornaments and ornate cos-

With the shadow of the pandemic long gone and forgotten, the puja venues are expected to draw massive crowds and hopping popular pandals is expected to be the preferred past time during the long holidays. Orissa POST takes a closer look at the top draws of the season... **Golden Palace theme at Jharpada**

The Jharpada Durga Puja Committee here is all set to welcome Goddess Durga with a Golden Palace-themed pandal this year. Around 50 artistes from West Bengal are busy setting up the pandal that will be 85 ft tall and 150 feet wide. While the platform will be 20 ft high, the height of the idol stands at 12 ft. Goddess Durga and other deities will be decorated with silver ornaments "This year we're entering the 13th year of organising Durga Puja at Jharpada. The committee has decided to focus on decoration with the portrayal of mythological characters and



tribal culture in illumination, "said committee president Sikhar Jena.

Thailand's Buddha Temple-themed pandal at Baramunda

Around 40 artistes from West Bengal are busy making Thailand's Buddha Templethemed pandal at Baramunda. The pandal will be 120 ft long and 65 feet high. Artisans from Jajpur are making 14 ft tall idols of Goddess Durga. The Goddess will be decorated with silver crown and gold ornaments, while other deities will adorn silver ornaments. Besides, the entire field will be illuminated. As many as 10 CCTV cameras will be installed in the field to keep vigil on Puja Mandap. Fireworks for Ravan Podi will be the main attraction this year.

Rasulgarh pandal to resemble

Taiwan temple Rasulgarh Puja committee, which will enter the 31st year of hosting Durga Puja this year, is giving final shape to a model of the famous Taiwan Buddha Temple. Pradeep Kumar Jena, secretary of Rasulgarh Durga Puja committee informed that around 50 artisans from West Bengal are erecting the 62x120 ft structure which is scheduled to be over before Sasthi. The pandal is being made at a cost Rs 20 lakh. The committee will install a network of 50 CCTV cameras to maintain surveillance on the crowd, along with the deployment of 100 security guards in the area, Jena said. Reflection of Hastinapur Palace at Bomikhal

Bomikhal Durga Puja com

mittee is creating a replica of the mythical Hastinapur palace this year on its 60th year of organising Durga Puja. Hastinapur, the capital of erstwhile Kuru kingdom of Mahabharat era, is now situated at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. Secretary of the Puja committee, Ajay Kumar Pradhan said, "Around 50 artisans from West Bengal are preparing the 70x120 ft pandal which will be completed before Sasthi puja. The total cost of this year's puja will be around Rs 50 lakh." He said the ongoing road repair work near Bomikhal has been expedited after the organisers approached the R&B division officials. "They have assured that

the work would be completed before Puja," he said Mani Mahal at Nayapalli mandap Among the gigantic pandals that are being installed across the City for the upcoming Dusshera celebrations, the one by the Nayapalli Durga Puja Committee stands out. Fifty artisans from West Bengal are presently busy setting up the massive 85x120 ft structure which is a replica of the famous Mani Mahal of Gujarat. Naba Kishore Behera, a core member of the Navapalli committee said that work on the model will be over before Sasthi. Notably, the committee is entering its 36th year of host ing Durga Puja, this year.

Fictional palace at Saheed Nagar

This year the theme of Saheed Nagar Durga Puja, which is in its 46th year, is a fictional artistic palace which will be filled with white clouds and the 85x100 ft pandal is made at a cost of 14 lakh. Last time, the Saheed Nagar Durga Puja committee had come up with the idea of recreating Ayodhya Ram temple as the theme for the pandal. Harish Rath, member of Saheed Nagar Durga Puja committee said 60 artists from Kolkata are constructing the pandal which is 85-ft in height and 100-ft in

3 MoUs worth over ₹40,000 crore inked

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: To ensure the state's energy security and expand green energy capacity, the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) here signed three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with prominent power enterprises Odisha Power Grid Corporation (OPGC), Avaada Energy, and ACME Solar, Saturday.

"Odisha's strategic location, coupled with our pioneering efforts in green energy, is attracting global investors, setting the state as the Bay of Bengal's industrial epicenter," said Industries department principal secretary Hemant Sharma while speaking on government's drive to elevate GREEN ENERGY BOOST Odisha's power infrastructure.

With an investment of Rs 9,538 crore, the MoU with OPGC will help finance expansion of the thermal power project at Jharsuguda. Similarly, the MoU with Avaada Energy will facilitate financing for the green hydrogen and green ammonia project in Gopalpur with an allocation of Rs 15,000 crore.

Lastly, to augment state's green energy capacity, the third MoU ensures financing for ACME Solar's green hydrogen and green ammonia project in Gopalpur with a commitment of Rs 16,000 crore.

Odisha's focus on green hy-

Tripura had the lowest

state as the Bay of Bengal's HEMANT SHARMA | PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT drogen and green ammonia not only amplifies its commitment to sustainability but also underscores its vision of being a futuristic economy. With global

efforts in green energy, is

investors, setting the

industries pivoting towards cleaner, sustainable energy sources, Odisha is strategically positioning itself to be a linchpin in this green revolution. "Our collabora tive spirit and for-

ward-thinking policies are not just attracting investments but are shaping Odisha as a model state for green and sustainable development in India," said Nikunja Dhal, additional chief secretary of Energy department.

The MoU signing event was attended by Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD of REC and officials from the Industries department

"Odisha's focus on green energy solutions is setting a blueprint for other states to emulate, proving that when vision meets action, transformative change is possible," said an

52 per cent people diagnosed with cervical cancer survive: Study

oughly 52 per cent of cervical cancer cases diagnosed between 2012 and 2015 survived, scientists have found after analysing data from Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) across India.

Ahmedabad's urban PBCR had a higher survival rate of 61.5 per cent followed by Thiruvananthapuram (58.8 per cent) and Kollam (56.1 per cent). Tripura had the lowest survival rate of 31.6 per cent, the researchers said in their study published in the journal The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia. A total of 5591 cervical cancer cases from 11 PBCRs diagnosed between 2012 and 2015 were studied.

The overall survival rate of 52 per cent was about 6 per cent higher than that recorded in the previous SurvCan survey-3, which was 46 per cent. The survev presented a 5-year cancer survival assessment for selected PBCRs in India from 1991 to 1999.

SurvCan is an international collaboration of populationbased cancer registries that aims to benchmark timely and comparable cancer survival estimates in Africa, Central and South America and Asia.

The research team in this study included scientists from the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Bengaluru, and other Indian institutes. The team further found that

the estimated incidence rate for cervical cancer in 2020 was 10.9 per 1,00,000, even as both urban and rural PBCRs in India showed a declining trend in cervical cancer incidence. However, despite decreasing in-

is the second most common female cancer in India, accounting for about 10 per cent of all female cancers, they said in their study. Covering 65 million person-

years female population from

cidence rates, cervical cancer



various geographical regions in India, the study was the largest population level comparative survival study on cervical cancer, the researchers said.

Survival was found to be low in India's northeastern (NE) region, particularly in PBCRs in Tripura, Pasighat and Kamrup urban, with the region's survival rate being lower than the

national or pooled average, the researchers said, adding that a hospital-based survival study from the region revealed a lower 5-year overall survival rate of 40.7 per cent.

The access to diagnostic and effective treatment services has varied across the populations which could explain the disparity in survival rates across the

Ahmedabad's urban PBCR had a higher survival rate of 61.5 per cent followed by Thiruvananthapuram (58.8 per cent) and Kollam (56.1 per cent)

survival rate of 31.6 per cent, the researchers revealed in the study published in the **Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia** The researchers further found that the estimated incidence rate for cervical cancer in 2020 was 10.9 per 1,00,000 people even as both urban and rural data showed a declining trend in cervical cancer incidence

population, the researchers said. Distance from a clinical care facility, travel costs, co-morbidity, and poverty all increase the likelihood of not undergoing a follow-up examination and completing treatment, resulting in lower survival, the researchers

analysed. The NE region has lacked health care infrastructure, treatment facilities, and human resources with PBCRs in Tripura, Pasighat, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram and Wardha each having less than 5 major sources of secondary and tertiary level hos-

pitals, the researchers said. **PBCRs**

Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ahmedabad urban, Kamrup urban, and Mumbai each had more than 10 such sources, they

The researchers concluded saying that the observed disparity in cervical cancer survival could explain the overall effectiveness of the health care

Emphasising the importance of promoting awareness, early detection and improvements in the health-care system, the researchers said that their findings help inform policymakers to identify and address inequities in the health system.

MSK services yet to reach 20% villages

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Accessibility challenges, lack of adequate infrastructure, information dissemination and varied fees taken from Mo Seva Kendra (MSK) pose a major challenge in farmer's registration in the Krushak Odisha portal, revealed a recent study conducted by Atmashakti Trust, Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha, and Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha,

The study, which covered 795 Mo Seva Kendras of 82 blocks in 12 districts of Odisha, revealed that 20.21 per cent of the surveyed MSKs lacked any services, leaving 1827 villages without access to MSK services. Not only that, 30.64 per cent of farmers have to travel distances ranging from 5 to 9 kilometers, while 13.07 per cent cover 10 to 14 kilometers, 05.40 per cent travel 15 to 19 kilometers, and an additional 05.68 per cent of farmers traveling more than 20 kilometers to reach an MSK point.

The study also found that MSK infrastructure varies, with 38.04 per cent operating from dedicated buildings and connectivity issues affecting 13.24 per cent of centers. Standardizing infrastructure and improving internet connectivity are vital for consistent service delivery. The state government's idea of having MSKs was to reduce the need for citizens to physically visit government offices for various services, making these services more accessible.

However, the study findings



revealed that 45.70 per cent of MSKs cannot provide services daily due to excessive workload. Additionally, the lack of display boards at 21.85 per cent of MSKs and insufficient information dissemination facilities at 23.50 per cent of centers hinder beneficiaries; access to information about available services. Improved communication is nec-

The state government has fixed Rs 80/- for the registration of farmers in the Krushak Odisha Portal. Still, the study revealed that 29.30 per cent of MSKs charge more than the actual cost for registration in the Krushak Odisha Portal.

"To overcome challenges that come the way of farmer's registration in the Krushak Odisha Portal, the state government should 'establish more MSKs to cater to the needs of the people, especially in remote areas and hilly terrains. Also, a special drive should be taken up for farmer registration at the Gram Panchayats level. If necessary, the registration must be made available at people's doorstep," said





PEACE AND SALVATION: People pay obeisance to forefathers by offering 'Pind Daan' and 'Tila Tarpan' on Mahalaya at Bindu Sagar in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

'Pind Daan', 'Tila Tarpan' on Mahalaya 🗦

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Thousands of people Saturday paid obeisance to their forefathers across Odisha on the occasion of Mahalaya, the last day of 'Pitru Paksha'

People converged at rivers and ponds to offer 'tila tarpan' and 'pind daan' to their forefa-

Massive crowds of devotees were seen at the Bindu Sagar tank near Lingaraj temple in Bhubaneswar, Narendra pond at the northern gate of Jagannath temple in Puri and Baitarani River near Maa Biraja temple in Jajpur.

Thousands also thronged the Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur to witness the goddess adorned in white attire to symbolise 'Ganga Mata'.

It is believed that forefathers attain salvation after receiving water and grain in 'pind daan' from their successors.

Mahalaya marks the beginning of Devi Paksha or the Durga Puja festivities. The Navaratra festival begins a day after the

'MERI MATI MERA DESH'

Panda, inaugurated the Kalash

Yatra, emphasising the cam-

paign's significance and ad-

ministering the pledge to all par-

ticipants. At the university level,

various activities were initiated

to ensure the success of the

Kalash Yatras. Students and staff

contributed by bringing sacred

soil from their homes and places

of residence, which was then

collected in the Amrit Kalash

at both the Sunabeda and

Landiguda campuses.



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: As part of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign', the Central University of Odisha (CUO) organised Amrit Kalash Yatra in its campuses Friday.

Speaking on this occasion, vice-chancellor of the University Chakradhar Tripathi said, "The campaign is dedicated to paying homage to our motherland and the valiant heroes who made sacrifices for our nation."

During the collection of this The Registrar I/c. of CUO, NC sacred soil, students, research

scholars, faculty members, officers, and staff of the university united to take the 'Panch Pran' pledge, a commitment to building a greater India. Additionally, native saplings were planted at the Sunabeda campus, further reinforcing the message of environmental conservation.

The Kalash will be handed over to the district administration for necessary follow-up actions. Those participated in the event were Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, VC Jha, Advisor-Administration,

Prashant Meshram, Controller of Examinations, Hemraj Meena, Director of the Rajbhasha Cell, Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer, and a diverse group of teaching and non-teaching staff

New designs launched by Arundhati Jewellers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Arundhati Jewellers recently launched two new designs by presenting the state's pride and glory Konark Sun Temple in a new and premium form of the jewellery named "Ark" featuring the artistic architectural beauty of stone carving and the famous Tarakasi jewellery art in its 'Ameya' collection.

These new designs were launched simultaneously in both the flagship stores of Arundhati Jewellers in Bhubaneswar and in Bolangir and it is available at all the outlets.

The people were all praise for Brahmananda Meher, the managing director of Arundhati Jewellers to present the art, architecture and beauty of Odisha's rich heritage in a new premium design before the World Forum.

The biggest jewellery brand of Odisha Arundhati Jewellers also announced the biggest discount offer for its customer to double the happiness in this festive season. Customers can purchase high end fancy collection gold jewellery by paying just Rs. 649 along with 20 per cent discount per carat on diamond purchase and up to 50 per cent discount on making charges of silver jewellery.

'Drink from Tap mission a miracle'

Bhubaneswar: Dedicating 'Drink from Tap' to 18 cities recently, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik praised the efforts of Mission Shakti SHGs involved as Jal Sathis partners. 'Drink from Tap' 24x7 water supply is a 5T initiative of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Under the initiat urban Odisha completed its 3 years journey covering 24 cities of 115 and benefiting 23 lakh population. Addressing the gathering on this occasion, Executive Director of International Water Association UK, London Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy said, "It's a miracle and such initiative is possible only because of strong political will, community participation and adoption of technology. He said, "I realise from my experience that transition from 24x7 from an intermittent water supply system, the challenges were huge. But the model was successful due to the technical solutions with strong and visionary political leadership coupled with community

IIM Sambalpur hosts business conclave

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: IIM Sambalpur, one of India's premier management institutions. hosted a two-day flagship event - Marmagya 8.0, an annual business conclave on the theme 'Catalyzing Business Resilience by Leveraging Convergence'.

Highlighting the importance of leveraging convergence as a powerful catalyst for businesses, the conclave encapsulated the integration of diverse resources,

technologies, and strategies to create a robust and adaptive framework that can withstand disruptions and foster growth for businesses.

The event witnessed as many as thirty pan-India business leaders, thought leaders, industry experts and decision-makers, who explored strategies and best practices for enhancing business resilience through the power of convergence during the var-

ious panel discussions. The first day of the event



began with the inaugural ceremony. On the occasion, the chief guest, Kailash Pandey, President and Cluster Head, Hindalco Industries, shared insights on the challenges and opportunities related to digitalization, sustainability, and workplace culture

Pandey said, "We have a blend of old and new technology. Now, we are using digitalization, AI, and machine learning to facilitate communication. We capture data from every machine center in real-time, utilize that data, and predict failures before they actually occur.

Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, in his welcome address, discussed the evolution of their organization, known as Gen 3.0 and highlighted several key achievements and initiatives undertaken over the past eight years such as Inclusiveness, Support for Small Businesses, Digitalization and Innovation.



DEMOLITION DRIVE: Excavators deployed by BDA pulling down unauthorised constructions including a temple at Sikharchandi in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

By virtue of this affidavit No. 6506 before Notary Public on Dtd.13.10.2023. I, Amit Kumar Agarwal (Old Name), S/o. Shiba Narayan Agrawal, R/o. Government Medical Road, Saraswati nagar, Semiliguda, Dist.: Koraput, PIN - 764036, Odisha. I have changed my name from Amit Kumar Agarwal (Old Name) to Amit Kumar Agrawal for all purposes.

Aerosols accelerating retreat of Himalayan glaciers: Study erosols are heating up the University of Leipzig, Germany

Himalayan climate and contributing significantly to the accelerated retreat of the glaciers and changes in the precipitation patterns over the Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Tibetan Plateau (HKHTP) region, researchers said.

Aerosols alone account for more than half of the total warming of the region's lower atmosphere, with the remainder coming from greenhouse gases, the researchers from the Physical Laboratory, Ahmedabad, and Helmholtz Centre Potsdam and the found in a joint study.

According to the study, aerosols will likely remain a key factor driving climate change over the region.

The researchers observed the concentrations of aerosols and the amount of heat absorbed (radiative forcing) across several locations in the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP), the Himalayan foothills and the Tibetan Plateau.

These are "relatively poorly studied regions with several sensitive ecosystems of global importance, as well as highly vul-



nerable large populations," they wrote in their study.

Pointing out that the current climate models significantly underestimate aerosol-induced heating, efficiency and warming in the HKHTP region, the researchers called for a more realistic representation of aerosol properties.

These findings have been published in the journal Science of The Total Environment

The Indo-Gangetic Plain covers parts of Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal and is a densely populated and an industrialised South Asian region.

This region is heavily polluted, the scientists confirmed by determining the aerosol optical depth (AOD) to be over 0.3 at all of their observation sites. AOD is widely used to assess the extent of air pollution with a value of less than 0.1 indicating a crystal clear sky with maximum visibility and a value of 1 indicating very hazy con-

ditions.

Over Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu, which is a metropolitan region in the Himalayan foothills, higher heat-absorbing aerosols were found to be present for most of the study period of a year.

The finding confirmed that not only are the fine aerosol particles, which dominate AOD. more at higher altitudes in the central Himalaya foothills, but also are more absorbing in nature as they are dominated by black carbons, the researchers said in their study.

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2 Berhampur ITI students honoured by Central govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 14: Two students of Government ITI. Berhampur were honoured by the Central government in a programme organised at Delhi

The two students -- Anurag Michael of 3D printing department and P Kumari of Electronics department -- were honoured at 'Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh' organised by the Centre in Delhi

They secured the first position by preparing a 23-ft elephant sculpture using 30,000 plastic bottles as part of the programme 'Swachhata Hi Seva announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for garbage free India. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with other ministers and secretaries of the department was present in the programme. ITI, Berhampur Principal Rajat Kumar Panda was also invited to attend the programme.

Similipal Nat'l Park reopens for visitors



Baripada, Oct 14: The Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district reopened for visitors Saturday, after remaining closed for four months due to monsoon, officials said. This year, the park was opened early instead of the usual November 1, they said.

On the first day, 13 vehicles with 73 tourists entered the park. These tourists, 50 from Odisha and 23 from other states, were welcomed at the sanctuary's gates with flowers.

While 35 vehicles are allowed through the Kaliani gate in Jashipur, 25 vehicles can enter the park from Pithabata gate at Lulung in Baripada every day, of-

Tourists are allowed entry into the park between 6am and 9am, and have to leave from Barehipani and Jaranda by 3pm and from Chahala by 4pm, they said. Tourists can stay at night inside the park in cottages at Jamuani, Ramtirtha and Kumari, they said.

Similipal has been declared a plastic-free area, officials said, adding that plastic bottles, liquor, non-veg food and inflammatory items are not allowed in the park. Self-help groups (SHGs) have been roped in to offer cooked food to the visitors, they said.

Spread over 2,750 sq km, Similipal is one of the largest tiger reserves in India and home to rare melanistic tigers, leopards, elephants, sambars, barking deers, gaurs, jungle cats, wild boars, four-horned antelopes and giant squirrels, among others.

Similipal also has a wide variety of flora and fauna, striking meadows and breathtaking wa-



DECKED IN WHITE: Goddess Samaleswari, the presiding deity of Sambalpur, is attired in famous 'Dhabalamukhi Besha' on the occasion of Mahalaya, Saturday of Photo

BERHAMPUR ASSEMBLY SEGMENT

Women in focus; hectic parleys on

Since Independence, Mahuri royal Ratna Manjari Devi is the lone woman MLA elected from this seat so far

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 14: Berhampur constituency in Ganjam district is an important Assembly segment having elected many top leaders to the House

Notably, after Odisha became a separate province, Berhampur Assembly segment was reserved for women in 1937 elections. D Lakshmibai, vounger sister of former President VV Giri, won from this Assembly seat that year. Later, in the second elections, Lakshmibai was elected from here again on a Congress ticket and became the Deputy Speaker of the state Assembly.

Poll results of this Assembly segment is always watched for when elections are held in the state. As many as 16 Assembly elections have been held in the state in between 1951-52 to 2019 after the country achieved Independence from British rule.

However, this constituency has ever since elected just one woman as MLA to the state Assembly during these long

After Independence, the only woman to be elected as an MLA from Berhampur segment is Mahuri Queen Ratna Manjari Devi. She contested as an inde-



pendent candidate in 1977 elections and defeated Congress candidate and former Chief Minister Binayak Acharya by a huge margin of votes. Her victory was quite surprising as Acharya was

in power during the elections. The ruling BJD government has been laying stress on representation of more women in the government and various other sectors. Moreover, women's representation becomes all the more important now after a Bill seeking to reserve 33 per cent of seats in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies was recently passed unanimously in both the Houses of the Parliament.

The Berhampur Assembly segment was formed by taking 27 wards of Berhampur town and 10 panchayats of Kukudakhandi block in Ganjam district. Now, 36 of the 42 wards under Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) area come under the Berhampur Assembly segment. The rest of the wards under BeMC are under Gopalpur

The BJD government is giving priority to women in various sectors. With 50 per cent of the seats in panchayat and civic body elections reserved for them. several women have expressed their interest to become BJD candidates from this seat in the upcoming 2024 elections.

Many women are applying for BJD ticket from Berhampur segment. A former woman mayor of BeMC is one among the scores of applicants. Moreover, women holding various positions in the party unit are also aspiring for the party ticket from Berhampur seat. The eagerness and assertiveness shown by the women for BJD party ticket has come at a time when the Women's Reservation Bill has been passed in the Parliament recently. The

law, however, will be implemented

from 2029 elections. BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had fielded women in five out of 13 Assembly segments in Ganjam district in the 2019 elections. They contested from Khallikote, Kabisuryanagar, Aska, Sanakhemundi and Chikiti Assembly constituencies and four of them won the elections. BJD's woman candidate was trounced in 2019 by the Congress candidate in Sanakhemundi seat

in the district. Chatters are abuzz that the ruling party may field women candidates in half of the total 13 seats in the district in 2024 elections. This has resulted in hectic parleys among the women leaders and workers for a ticket from the ruling BJD in the 2024

Septuagenarian held for impregnating girl



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopalpur, Oct 14: Police here arrested an elderly man and forwarded him to court Friday for impregnating a girl on false promise to marry her under Golanthara police station limits in Ganjam district.

The accused was identified as Manu Naik, 70, of Biswanathpur village. As per reports, Manu was residing at ODRP colony and the victim, who worked as a labourer, at his neighbouring house. Manu lured the girl and repeatedly raped her on false promise to marry her. Eventually, the girl was found to be seven months pregnant.

When the girl insisted Manu to marry her, he simply denied and threatened her not to disclose the matter to anybody. However, the girl lodged a police complaint against Manu at Golanthara police station in this regard. Acting on the complaint, police arrested Manu from the village. Later the girl and the accused underwent medical tests and Manu was forwarded to court. The statement of the girl was recorded under CrPC Act 164, said IIC Bibekananda Mahanta.

<u>BANIJYA MELA</u> 🔰 13thto 22th Oct. 23 📘 Unit-III, Bhubaneswar, Odisha Contact: 9437023990 Andhra holds health camp in another Koraput village

BHUBANESWAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Oct 14: Andhra Pradesh continues to trigger unrest in the border villages under Odisha's territory as the neighbouring state government's officials intruded into another village under Pottangi block in Koraput district Friday and conducted a health camp.

In the latest offensive ical team from Salur block in Parbatipuram Manyam district visited Galigabada village in Nuagaon panchayat about 15 km from Pottangi block and examined the villagers at a health camp organised Friday. They even distributed medicines to the people attending the health

Furthermore, the officials gave away allowances, pension and grocery items to the village's residents.

On being informed, Pottangi block chairperson Kalpana Pangi

tioned the audacity of Andhra officials to intrude into Odisha and hold health camp. She also directed the officials to stop conducting health examinations of_ people and immediately leave the village. The medical team from Andhra Pradesh cancelled the health camp and left for Salur block. Later, on being tipped off about the matter. BDO Sukant Pattnaik visited Galiagabada village and held discussions with the villagers the same day.

rushed to the spot and ques-

HANDLOOM HANDICRAFT

Pattnaik once again visited the village Saturday and interacted with the villagers. He urged them not to take healthcare services provided by the neighbouring state and instead visit the local health centre.

Notably, the neighbouring state is now trying to assert itself in other bordering panchayats after drawing flak for its frequent encroachments in Kotia panchayat

28 inmates of Keonjhar NHRC seeks report from Centre, Anwesha hostel take ill

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 14: As many as 28 inmates of Anwesha girls hostel operated by the SC/ST department of the state government in the district headquarters town here took ill and experienced fever and diarrhoea,

Some of the sick girls had viral fever while some others were diagnosed with diarrhoea. The girls, aged between 10-12 years, were admitted to the paediatric ward of the Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in the area. After reports surfaced, a medical team led by the chief district medical officer (CDMO) visited the hostel and examined health condition of the remaining students. The team members also inspected the sanitary conditions and other amenities in the hostel premises Reports said over 460 girls are

residing free of cost at the government-run Anwesha Girls Hostel here and studying in various public schools. The government has provided a bus to ferry the girls to their respec-

tive schools and back. The girls were served bread and jam in the breakfast according to the menu, Friday morning.

Over 190 girls went to the Greenfield Public School at Palashpanga after their breakfast. 18 of them collapsed during their prayers and were admitted to the hospital. Later, 10 more girls fell sick at night and were taken to the hospital. After examination, the affected girls were found afflicted with viral fever and diarrhoea, hospital sources said.

The hostel manager Santosh Sahu said that all the inmates had bread and jam in their breakfast, Friday. Later, rice and curry was sent to their schools for lunch. There is nothing to worry about food, he said.

When contacted, CDMO Dr KC Prusty said the health condition of the girls has improved after undergoing treatment. A medical examination confirmed viral fever as the reason behind their illness. The health condition of rest of the girls in the hostel was found to be stable. The hostel authorities were asked to rush the girls to the hospital if any one falls sick.



state govt on snakebite deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 14: National **Human Rights Commission** (NHRC) has sought for detailed reports from the Centre and Odisha government on snakebite deaths, preventive measures and provision of compensation to the victims' families.

The NHRC passed the order October 11 while acting on a petition filed by civil rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. The commission sought the

report from the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, and the District Collectors of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Boudh and Bhadrak.

The petitioner has drawn the attention of the NHRC on the death of about 58,000 innocent people every year due to snakebite across the country.

Citing incidents of negligence of the education department and district administration of Keonjhar, three students died after a venomous snake bit them while they were sleeping inside a coaching centre in Nischintapur area July 22.

Tripathy quoted various instances of snakebite in Mayurbhanj, Boudh and Bhadrak, Bolangir and other areas in Odisha.

He claimed that among the

disaster casualties in state,

snakebite deaths alone accounted

for more than 40 per cent of the

total disaster deaths. The snakebite death cases in Odisha, he said, have doubled to 1,159 in 2021 from 522 in 2015 especially due to shortage of antisnake venom stocks in the government-run-health facilities even in the state-run SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

The AVS is also not easily available in the open market in Odisha, he said and pointed out that an average of 58,000 deaths occurred per year in the country due to snakebite, of which 70 per cent are reported in low-altitude areas of nine states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Tripathy requested the NHRC for payment of compensation and benefits under the social welfare schemes to the next of kin of the deceased, action against the officials for their lapses who failed to ensure safety and security of the students in the coaching centers and adequate availability of the antisnake venom in the hospitals.

He further requested the NHRC to direct the authorities concerned for maintenance of a comprehensive national data of snakebite cases, to make more search on this issue and design nate the snakebite as a 'Notifiable Disease' within the 'Integrated Disease Surveillance Program' and to get a permanent solution.

In response, the Bolangir District Magistrate informed that the 'Danda' dance artist late Nakula Bariha of Putisbahal village of Bolangir district died due to snakebite July 16 and the payment of compensation of ₹4 lakh has been made.

The NHRC asked the authorities to submit an action taken report (ATR) to the commission within eight weeks latest by December 16 for further consideration by the commission.

Earlier the NHRC had sought for ATR from the authorities to ensure needful action and submit an ATR to the commission within six weeks, but no detailed response so far has been received by the NHRC.

VEGETABLE FARMING BOON FOR SUNDARGARH TRIBALS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 14: Vegetable farming is changing the living conditions of the tribal farmers in Sundargarh district. Taking up vegetable cultivation on the district's arid and inhospitable patches of land, what the tribal farmers are doing is nothing short of wonders as they have become the source of inspiration for many.

Vegetable farming is being done under WADI programme on over 3,000 acres of land with help from the district mineral fund (DMF) from the year 2020. A total of 1,718 farmers have been as-

lected in the mining affected blocks of Kutra, Koira, Lahunipara, Rajgangpur, Hemgiri and Kuanrmunda. Fruit trees like mango, lemon, lichi, blackberry and cashew have been planted on this land. Seeds, fertilizer and solar operated irrigation equipment have been provided to them along with facilities of cold storage and market to sell their products. Besides,

sociated with this initiative.

Over 500 acre land has been se-

vegetables like pointed gourd, long beans, chili and different leafy vegetables are cultivated bythem and sold under the banner of 'Mo Badi'.



There is nothing small in God's eyes; let there be nothing small

SRI AUROBINDO



Aakar Patel

This was the same

body that had done

much to undo the

Manmohan Singh

reputation through

its several strong

reports, including

on the 2G auction,

auction and the

Commonwealth

government's

coal block

Games

Subservient CAG

The CAG is the supreme audit institution of India and is expected to promote financial accountability and transparency in the affairs of the audited entities," the Comptroller and Auditor General of India said in its 2019–20 performance report. But Narendra Modi's stranglehold on institutions has showed in the decay at the government's internal watchdog; the CAG has stopped functioning effectively. The total number of CAG reports relating to Union government ministries and departments came down from 55 in 2015 to 14 in 2020, a fall of 75 per cent. The fall was sequential going from 55 to 42, 45, 23, 21 and 14. Defence audit reports went from 7 in 2017 to zero in 2020. This was the same body that had done much to undo the Manmohan Singh government's reputation through its several strong reports, including on the 2G auction, coal block auction and the Commonwealth Games.

So what has been happening on this front in recent times? Where people inside it attempt to make it function independently, they are punished. A few weeks ago, in the monsoon session of Parliament, 12 CAG reports were presented to the people's representatives. Days later, CAG officers who were responsible for the audits that revealed corruption were transferred.

One of those transferred Dattaprasad Suryakant Shirsat, was in charge of the Performance Audit of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. He audited 964 hospitals in 161 districts of all 28 states and found that in 2.25 lakh cases. the date of the 'surgery' done was shown to be later than the date of discharge. More than 1.79 lakh such cases were found in Maharashtra, for which the claimed amount was over ₹300 crore. "The Wire." which broke this story reported that lakhs of claims continued to be made for people who were already deceased. The audit also found 1.57 lakh instances of duplicated beneficiaries.

Atoorva Sinha who audited highway projects was transferred after his report found overrun costs in the Dwarka Expressway project. The report said a change to elevate a portion of the project pushed up costs to ₹250 crore per kilometre as against the cost of ₹18 crore per kilometre approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

The Opposition tries to raise these issues but is not able to get the government to accept wrongdoing much less act. The media, as we know, has no interest in holding the government to account. It is the Opposition and civil society who are the primary targets of their coverage. Readers might be interested to know how the CAG was subverted from within.

The CAG of India is Girish Murmu,

a Gujarat officer so loyal to Modi that, in the past, he has been caught on tape intimidating senior officials from testifying against his boss. Former DGP of Gujarat RB Sreekumar, who headed the State Intelligence Bureau from 9 April 2002 to 17 September 2002, in an affidavit to the Nanavati Commission probing the Godhra riots, said Murmu "tutored, intimidated, forced and pressured" him to depose in favour of Modi. Murmu was then principal secretary

Sreekumar named another bureaucrat who was also present at the meeting and said he was told not to give his deposition in such a way that, "more names would be opened up, leading to their summoning for cross-examination. I was also threatened that if I gave a statement contrary to the government's interests. I will be declared a hostile witness and dealt with suitably later. I told them that I would depose before the Commission as per

the statutory requirements and will not suppress truth, because that would be an act of perjury.

Murmu had been "authorised and entrusted with the task of tutoring and briefing government officials deposing before the Nanavati Commission by the highest authorities of the government and Home Department" and that "such a posture by Shri Murmu is possible only if he has the specific support and clearance from the higher authorities in the government, i.e. the Hon'ble Home Minister / the Hon'ble

Modi made him Governor of Kashmir and then the CAG. The government's website, pmindia.gov.in, has a section on transparency which reads: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi firmly believes that transparency and accountability are the two cornerstones of any pro-people government. Transparency and accountability not only connect the people closer to the government but also make them equal and in-

tegral part of the decision making process.

It is hard to reconcile these words with the actual actions of Modi and his government on vital issues where opacity was preferred and promoted. This entire section, headlined "Quest for transparency" on the PM's site, has only 184 words and reads as if they were strung together by someone with little intellectual capacity: "Rules and policies were not framed in AC Chambers but among the people," it says. "Draft policies were put online for people to give their feedback and suggestions" is apparently an instance of transparency.

It states that Modi's "strong resolve to transparency backed by the manner in which he put this commitment to practice indicates an era of open, transparent and people-centric government for the people of India." No. it doesn't. The Modi years have been as opaque, and in many ways even more so, as those of any government before him.

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- 1940: The comedy classic The Great Dictator premiered in New York City; Charlie Chaplin's biggest box-office success, it satirized Adolf Hitler and Nazism and condemned anti-Semitism. Chaplin portraved a Jewish barber who is mistaken for a tyrannical dictator. He plays up the charade and ultimately gives a speech in which he calls for peace and compassion. Chaplin, in a dual role, also played the fascist dictator,
- 1959: On this day a final conference on the Antarctic Treaty convened in Washington, D.C., and, after six weeks of negotiations, the treaty was signed by 12 countries, preserving the continent for free scientific study. The treaty did not deny or support national claims to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica, but it did forbid all contracting parties from establishing military bases, carrying on military manoeuvres, testing any weapons (including nuclear weapons), or disposing of radioactive wastes in the area.
- 1966: Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party, the mission of which was to protect African Americans from police brutality; it later developed into a Marxist revolutionary group that, among other things, called for the arming of all African Americans and the release of Blacks from iail.

FOCUS ISRAEL-PALESTINE

THE REAL DIVIDING LINE



Slavoj Žižek

HAMAS AND ISRAELI HARDLINERS ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

The barbarism that Hamas has unleashed on Israel should be condemned unconditionally, with no "ifs" or "buts." The massacres, rapes, and abductions of civilians from villages, kibbutzim, and a music festival was a pogrom, confirming that Hamas' true goal is to destroy the state of Israel and all Israelis. That said, the situation demands historical context - not as any kind of justification, but for the sake of clarity about the way forward.

A first consideration is the absolute despair that characterises the lives of most Palestinians. Recall the spate of isolated suicidal attacks on the streets of Jerusalem around a decade ago. An ordinary Palestinian would approach a Jew, pull out a knife, and stab the victim, knowing full well that he or she would be immediately killed. There was no message in these "terrorist" acts, no shouts of "Free Palestine!" Nor was there any larger organisation behind them. They were just individual acts of violent despair.

Things took a turn for the worse when Binyamin Netanyahu formed a new government by allying with farright, pro-settler parties that openly advocate annexation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank, After long boasting of its status as the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel under Netanyahu's current government is morphing into a theocratic state. The current government's list of "basic principles" states that: "The Jewish people have an exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the Land of Israel. The government will promote and develop the settlement of all parts of the Land of Israel – in the Galilee, the Negev, the Golan and Judea and Samaria."

Some conspiracy theorists will insist that the Netanyahu government must have known some kind of attack was coming,



The choice is not one hardline faction or the other; it is between fundamentalists and all those who still believe in the possibility of peaceful co-existence

given the strength of Israel's surveillance and intelligencegathering capabilities in Gaza. But while the attack certainly serves the interests of the Israeli hardliners now in power, it also casts doubt on Netanyahu's claim to be "Mr. Security."

In any case, it is not hard to see that both sides – Hamas and Israel's ultra-nationalist government – are against any peace option. Each is committed to a struggle to the death. The Hamas attack comes at a time of great conflict within Israel, owing to the Netanyahu government's efforts to gut the judiciary. The country is thus split between nationalist fundamentalists who want to abolish democratic institutions and a civil-society movement that is aware of this threat but reluctant to ally with more moderate Palestinians.

Now, the looming constitutional crisis has been put on hold, and a government of national unity has been announced. It is an old story: deep and apparently existential internal divisions are suddenly overcome, thanks to a common external enemy. Must there be an external foe to achieve peace and unity at home? How does one break this vicious cycle?

The way forward, notes former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, is to fight Hamas while

also reaching out to Palestinians who are not anti-Semites and are ready to negotiate. Contrary to what Israeli ultra-nationalists claim, these people do exist. On September 10, more than a hundred Palestinian academics and intellectuals signed an open letter "adamantly reject[ing] any attempt to diminish, misrepresent, or justify antisemitism, Nazi crimes against humanity, or historical revisionism vis-avis the Holocaust."

Once we recognise that not all Israelis are fanatical nationalists, and that not all Palestinians are fanatical anti-Semites, we can start to acknowledge the despair and confusion that give rise to outbursts of evil. We can start to see the strange similarity between the Palestinians, whose homeland is denied to them, and the Jews, whose history is marked by the same experience. A similar homology applies to the term "terrorism." During the period of Jewish struggle against the British military in Palestine, "terrorist" had a positive connotation. In the late 1940s, American newspapers ran an advertisement with the headline, "Letter to the Terrorists of Palestine," wherein the Hollywood screenwriter Ben Hecht wrote, "My Brave Friends. You may not believe what I write you, for there is a lot of fertilizer in the air at the moment. The Jews of America are for you.'

Beneath all the polemics today about who counts as a terrorist, there is the mass of Palestinian Arabs who have been living in a state of limbo for decades. Who are they, and which land is theirs? Are they inhabitants of "Occupied territory," the "West Bank," "Judea and Samaria, or ... the State of Palestine which is recognised by 139 countries and has been a United Nations non-member observer state since 2012? Yet Israel, which controls the actual territory, treats Palestinians as temporary settlers, as an obstacle to the establishment of a "normal" state with Jews as the only true natives. Palestinians are treated strictly as a problem. The State of Israel never reached out its hand to them, offering some hope or positively outlining their role in the state they live in.

Hamas and Israeli hardliners are two sides of the same coin. The choice is not one hard line faction or the other; it is between fundamentalists and all those who still believe in the possibility of peaceful co-existence. There can be no compromise between Palestinian and Israeli extremists, who must be combatted with a full-throated defence of Palestinian rights that goes hand-in-hand with an unwavering commitment to the

fight against anti-Semitism. Utopian as this may sound the two struggles are of a piece We can and should unconditionally support Israel's right to defend itself against terrorist attacks. But we also must unconditionally sympathise with the truly desperate and hopeless conditions faced by Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied territories. Those who think there is a "contradiction" in this position are the ones who are effectively blocking a solution.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM COLLEGE ELECTIONS

Social laboratories of democracy



DV Ramana

STUDENT ACTIVISM HAS RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF STRONG POLITICAL **LEADERS ALL OVER** THE WORLD

The Orissa High Court has bearers through robust and transpation in student political and works as the opposition party. of students' bodies in different universities and colleges. The Court directed the government to submit replies. The Court's notice revives the age-old conversation on students, politics, role of the state government, and democracy. In 1939, Gandhiii defined "democracy" as the art and science of mobilising the entire physical, economic, and spiritual resources of society in the service of the common good of all. He further argued that true democracy cannot work by a small group of people sitting

Though Gandhiji stressed the relevance of democratic practices at the village level, the spirit of his suggestion can be applied to colleges and universities too. Universities are a vital pillar of a democracy and provide an opportunity to young citizens to experience different nuances of

democratic practices. Elections, in a democracy, enable people to elect their representative and express their political opinions. Student governing bodies and associations become impactful when these bodies elect their office processes that drive our country.

Student activism has resulted in the creation of strong political leaders all over the world. India is no exception. Some of the best political leaders of our country picked the art of politics during their college days. Two names that come up when we talk about student politics are: PV Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

There are three general theoretical perspectives, which explain why experience of student politics is related to subsequent adult political engagement: the structural perspective, the participation perspective, and the development perspective.

The structural perspective shows that political engagement in college and university days creates social capital among youth. Social capital is the amount of trust which characterises the political culture of modern societies. According to the participation perspective, the process of voting and of participation in college level activities helps in understanding how democracy works and to develop leadership abilities. The development perspective says through partici-

issued a notice to the Odisha government over parent elections. By participat- community service activities youth begin to understand their the cancellation of the elections—dents get a taste of the democratic—role in a developing society. The three perspectives are not mutually exclusive. Each explains how elections play an important role in the political socialisation of young people.

Great leaders like Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Abraham Lincoln, and others recognised the importance of democratic schools. Such schools have two common features: democratic governance, and autonomy to manage their own learning process.

Several experiments on creating democratic schools are taking place in different parts of the world. I had the privilege of getting firsthand exposure to one such experiment happening in Leh (Ladakh). Sonam Wangchuk, an engineer from Ladakh and a Ramon Magsaysay awardee is the man behind the innovative democratic school for local students of Leh.

This school is run wholly by students having a "mini government" of its own. They learn to manage people, animals, plants, and other scarce natural resources through experiments and experience. One group of students operates as the party in power, and another group They are held accountable on a bi-monthly basis for their performance through a parliamentary system of debates and discussions. It may not be possible to create such schools everywhere, but nothing stops us from following the principles of democratic governance and autonomy in the learning process.

This is even more important for a country like India, where more than 50% of population is below 30 years of age, but only 12% of MPs are below the age of 40. Even at state level, the representation of youth is low. In Odisha, only 11% of MLAs are below the age of 40.

However, I am not proposing that students should be involved in party politics. I believe in what Gandhiji had said, "students must not take part in party politics, they are students, searchers, not politicians." In that spirit, let us see college and university elections as a legitimate democratic process, rather than a party based political activity. Hope we will work towards making colleges and universities operate like magnificent and vibrant social laboratories of democracy

> The writer is a professor at XIMB.

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST (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

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

Perplexing position

Sir, It is perplexing that a country that is not only selfsufficient in food production but also exports surplus produce and has the world's fastest-growing major economy should rank lower than Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sub-Saharan African countries on critical nutrition parameters. The Global Hunger Index (GHI)-2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, with a substantial level of hunger; the country also has the world's highest child wasting rate (18.7%). Though the Ministry of Women and Child Development has disregarded the report on the ground of poor methodology and malicious intent, the country's National Family Health Survey also painted a bleak image. The NFHS-5 report showed a considerable increase in neonatal mortality. According to Poshan Tracker data from last month, there are over 4.3 million malnourished children in India. As per the NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index, over 15% of people live in such poverty. Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Time for peace

Sir, While addressing the inaugural ceremony of ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit-P20, PM Modi rightly said that this is the time for peace and brotherhood, a time to move together, a time to move forward together. He denounced all forms of terrorism and said that terrorism is "against humanity." Just a few days ago after the brutal attack of Hamas on innocent Israelites the Prime Minister expressed the nation's solidarity with Israel, saying India stands with the nation in its hour of grief. India has always rejected terrorism and advocated for peaceful negotiations to settle all sorts of crises.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Undue haste

Sir, Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee is rightly apprehending that the ruling party at the Centre is making attempt to bring draconian laws through back door and therefore the proposed Bharativa Nyava Sanhita prepared by the Union Home Ministry needs a close scrutiny. As a matter of fact, both the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code have stood the test of time \rightarrow and are capable to deal with any case on earth. If colonial laws are at all required to be repealed a thorough discussion must be held among all stakeholders, keeping in mind the larger interests of the country and not to be done in undue haste.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA



TWO STATES





SUNDAY | OCTOBER 15 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Yogi's warning: No frenzy on Israel-Hamas conflict

Referring to the ongoing war, the CM told the police officials to stay in touch with religious leaders to ensure that no statements are made against the Indian stance on the issue

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 14: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered stringent action against any person who tries to whip up a frenzy by making comments contrary to India's stand on Israel-Hamas conflict.

The chief minister also warned the district police chiefs of action in instances of obscene songs and loud music being played in Shobha Yatras and at religious places.

Referring to the ongoing Israel Palestine war, he told the police officials to stay in touch with religious leaders to ensure that no statements are made against the Indian stance on the issue.

He asked the officials to monitor statements being made on social media or from places of worship. "If somebody makes a deliberate statement on this issue not in line with the stand of India, then strict action should be taken against him/her immediately," he said.

In the wake of upcoming festivals of Navratri, Durga Puja, Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath Yogi Adityanath said, all staff from beat constable to elec-



tricity in charge and every officer, including the district police chief - must remain in the field. The people must be assured of their security. He added that due to planned efforts in the past years, loudspeakers installed at religious places were removed, but information about their reinstallation is being received from some areas

"If obscene songs or loud music is played during the festivals and the guidelines of the Supreme Court are not met, then the district police chiefs will be held accountable," the chief minister stated.

He also took the report from dis-

trict magistrates regarding the preparations for Navratri fair in Balrampur, Saharanpur, Sitapur and Mirzapur and gave instructions in the interest of the devotees. He also said that every village and town must get adequate electricity during festivals.

"There should be no unnecessary deduction in the name of local fault or rostering. While giving instructions for fire safety in Durga pandals, he also instructed that firecracker shops be set up away from populated areas and that there be no delay in issuing licenses for these shops," the chief minister di-

CROP RESIDUE BURNING

Delhi L-G writes to Haryana, Punjab CMs

AS WINTER APPROACHES, THE FOCUS ON CONTROLLING CROP RESIDUE BURNING BECOMES EVEN MORE CRITICAL, AS DELHI STRIVES TO PROVIDE ITS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WITH CLEAN AND BREATHABLE AIR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 14: In a series of letters to the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab, Delhi Lt. Governor (L-G) VK Saxena has expressed his growing concerns about the alarming increase in air pollution in the national capital due to the burning of crop residue, known as 'parali', in the two neighbouring states.

The L-G said that Delhi is home to over 2 crore people, as well as Parliament, Supreme Court, and numerous diplomatic missions, and also draws visitors, tourists, and diplomats attending summits and conferences, all of whom suffer the consequences of debilitating air pollution, primarily caused by the smoke and smog resulting from the burning of crop residue.

Saxena commended Haryana's efforts last year in controlling crop residue burning, which played a significant role in mitigating the air quality issues faced by Delhi.

However, the alarming statistics for the current year are causing deep concern. In Haryana alone, between September 15 to October 11, there have been 340 reported cases of crop residue burning, a stark increase from the 83 cases during the same period in 2022.

Similarly, in Punjab, between the same dates, there have been 1,063 reported cases of crop residue burning, marking an increase of 300 cases from the previous year. This concerning trend, despite promises from the political leaders in the region to address the issue, has left Delhi residents and authorities grappling with severe air quality issues, Saxena said.

He urged the two Chief Ministers to galvanise available resources and work closely with farmers to find sustainable solutions to this recurring issue.

The L-G also stressed on the impact of this air pollution on Delhi's image and the well-being states to act decisively.

Meanwhile, Delhi continues its efforts to tackle local sources of air pollution, such as vehicular emissions and dust from roads

and pavements. As the winter season approaches, the focus on controlling crop residue burning becomes even more critical, as Delhi strives to provide its residents and visitors with clean and breathable air. "In anticipation of all remedial measures at your end, I yet again assure you that we in Delhi are taking every step required to address the

Delhi govt sets off process to allow conjugal visits in prisons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: Conjugal visitation away from the prying eyes of prison officials is a 'fundamental right', a petition filed in the Delhi High Court has

With many countries allowing such visits, the Delhi government told the Delhi High Court the Director General of Prisons has forwarded to the state's home department a proposal about the rights of prisoners to seek conjugal visits.

The city government has said the proposal will also be forwarded to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for issuing nec-

essary instructions. A bench of Chief Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula granted the city government six weeks to apprise it of the developments that follow its recommendation.

The high court listed the matter for further hearing January 15 next vear.

The bench was hearing a petition by advocate Amit Sahni seeking directions to the Delhi government and DG (Prisons) to make necessary arrangement in jails for conjugal visits by

spouses of prisoners.

The public interest litigation (PIL) had prompted the high court to issue notice to the authorities concerned in May 2019. The PIL wanted the court to set aside the state's prison rule that mandates the presence of a jail officer when a prisoner is meeting his or her spouse. It also urged the court to declare conjugal visit a 'fundamental right' of a prisoner.

During a recent hearing, Delhi government's additional standing counsel Anuj Aggarwal said a proposal has been forwarded by the DG (Prisons) to the state's home department 'after due consideration' of the right of prisoners seeking conjugal visits.

The petition says despite most prisoners being in the 'sexually active' age bracket they were

denied conjugal visitation. "Despite courts taking a progressive approach and various countries allowing conjugal visits considering it an important human right and also in the light of studies backing conjugal visits as a factor to cut down crimes in jail and reform the inmates, the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018 are totally silent on the issue," it said.

ED attaches Ansari's assets

THE MONEY LAUNDERING CASE AGAINST THE GANGSTER-POLITICIAN STEMS FROM MULTIPLE FIRS REGISTERED BY THE UTTAR **PRADESH POLICE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: The **Enforcement Directorate** Saturday attached lands, a building and bank deposits worth more than ₹73.43 lakh as part of a money laundering investigation against Uttar Pradesh gangster-

politician Mukhtar Ansari. The attached properties include land measuring 1,538 sq. Ft. Situated at arazi no. 604, Mauja Rajdepur Dehati, Tehsil Sadar in Ghazipur district apart from a commercial building constructed over it, and a plot of land measuring 6,020 sq. Ft. Situated at arazi no. 169 in Mauja Jahangirabad, Pargana under Tehsil-Sadar in Mau district, the agency said in a statement.



The total registered value of these properties is ₹73,43,900.

These properties were acquired by Abbas Ansari (Mukhtar Ansari's son) at an "undervalued consideration of ₹71.94 lakh as against government rate of ₹6.23 crore," it said.

In addition, ₹1.5 lakh in the form of bank account deposits of Mukhtar Ansari have also been attached after a provisional order was issued by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), it said.

The money laundering case against Mukhtar Ansari stems from multiple FIRs registered

by the Uttar Pradesh Police. "Mukhtar Ansari and his family members usurped government land and built a warehouse

over it. The warehouse was hired on rent by Food Corporation of India Limited and rent was paid to the family members of Mukhtar Ansari," it said.

The ED had earlier attached seven immovable properties with a book value of ₹1.5 crore (in the form of a plot of lands in district Mau and Jalaun) belonging to Mukhtar Ansari's wife Afshan Ansari and Vikas Construction, a firm controlled

by Mukhtar Ansari and his kin. Mukhtar Ansari, Abbas Ansari (a sitting MLA from Mau Sadar constituency) and Mukhtar Ansari's brother-in-law Atif Raza have been arrested by the ED in this case till now even as the agency has filed a charge sheet against them before a court.

UP BJP starts Sufi outreach

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 14: Continuing in its attempt to connect with the minorities, the BJP in Uttar Pradesh has started the 'Sufi Samvad Maha Abhiyaan' under which its leaders interact with clerics and caretakers of mosques and mausoleums.

Uttar Pradesh (UP) BJP chief Bhupendra Chaudhary, who attended the 'Sufi Samvad' initiative at the party office re-cently, said that the party has been connecting with all, unmindful of caste or community and ensuring that the poorest of the poor are benefitted.

"The idea is to ensure that government programmes and policies reach all and thus we have now started this initiative through which we would also connect with clerics and others. as under the BJP's rule, policies are tailored to cater to each section of society," he said.

The BJP's minority wing chief Jamal Siddiqui said there were about 10,000 small and big mausoleums in the state. To connect with the decision-makers of these places, the party had appointed an incharge and five coincharges for the Sufi campaign in all districts.

"All these places have caretakers. No government in the



past ever approached them to learn about their issues or ever created awareness about government policies among them. We have decided to do that. Since these people or the clerics, whom also we would approach, are among the community's faith keepers, we do not intend to get them enlisted with the party. That is because such people are beyond parties and politics. Rather, we aim to explain to them how BJP governments have undertaken a series of measures for all sections of so-

ciety," Siddiqui said. He added that many mausoleums are visited by people of all religions and walks of life and thus awareness among the caretakers of these places would help create wider outreach.

'Ravan Wala Baba' lives on in Delhi's Titarpur

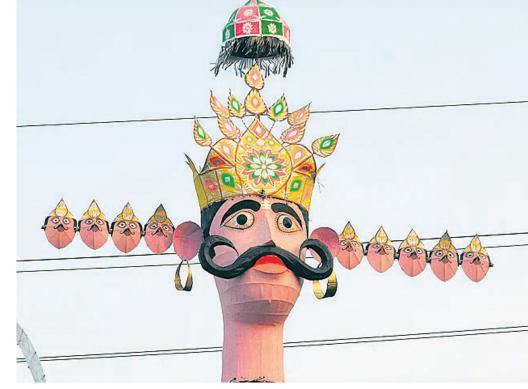
WORKERS, WHO HAIL FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF INDIA, MAKE THE **NAJAFGARH ROAD AREA THEIR HOME DURING THE** THREE-MONTH **RAVAN-MAKING PERIOD**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: With a day to go before the nine-day period of Navratri begins, the stretch of Najafgarh Road between Tagore Garden Metro Station and Tilak Nagar Metro Station is lined with handwrought Ravan effigies, a craftsmanship introduced to Titarpur residents by the famous 'Ravan Wala Baba,' who died in 1998.

Remembering the late artist, Pawan Kumar, one of his apprentices said, "Baba was our Ram. He taught us the techniques of Ravan making with a bamboo stick, and we revered him like a god."

Over the years, the small locality of Titarpur transformed into a thriving hub of Ravan-



making artists under Baba's

guidance, Kumar said. He said that the effigy craft has come a long way since the days of Baba. Now artists source green bamboo sticks from

Uttarakhand and Himachal

Pradesh for the effigy scaffolding and use waterproof papers from Japanese paper bags to drape them.

"People come with different demands, some want a rotating one, some want the biggest. The

largest one we made was a 70-foot Ravan last year," Shubham Singh, another effigy maker, told PTI. Singh, who is now a prominent Ravan exporter, has spent three months crafting 50 Ravan effigies for the Navaratri.

"People get involved in the Ravan-making process just to learn the art in line with tradition, even if they get paid less than the usual labour rates," he

Hussain, a 15-year-old effigymaker from the same area, said making effigies is a part-time job he indulges in after eking out time from his father's bicycle repair shop.

"I am currently working on a 20-foot Ravan. I also work at my father's cycle servicing shop. I learned this art last year when I made a 10-foot Ravan with my siblings, not for sale but for ourselves," Hussain told PTI.

The workers, who hail from various parts of India, make the Najafgarh road area their home during the three-month Ravanmaking period

Like everything else, the effigy business too was adversely hit by the COVID pandemic with many effigies remaining unsold. The effigy makers said that

the unsold Ravan effigies are either destroyed or carefully dismantled by artisans for reuse. They said they are mostly working on prepaid orders this

year. "Despite the challenges, we are optimistic. We received a substantial number of orders this year," said one of them.

TRADITION MEETS TECHNOLOGY

Ramleela to have e-passes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: Age-old traditions will meet digital technology this festive season, as a Ramleela committee here Saturday announced that entry to the much-awaited event this year will also be allowed through electronic passes.

The president of Lav Kush Ramleela Committee of Delhi Arjun Kumar told reporters that in this digital age, visitors will be able to get an e-pass with a QR code which can be scanned at the time of entrance.

The Ramleela will commence from Sunday and Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel is likely to attend the Ganesh Puja ceremony, the committee said in a statement.

About 25 personalities from the Hindi film industry will take part in the enactment of the Ramleela this year, it said.

"Lav Kush Ramleela Committee will make a 150X50 feet three-storey stage at the Red Fort ground. A model of Kashi Vishwanath Dham will be constructed atop the stage. Skilled craftsmen from Varanasi, Mathura, Rajasthan, and Haryana are diligently constructing the model," he

The casting is underway and several actors have been finalised. TV actor Gagan Malik will play Lord Ram, Haryanabased actress Kavita Joshi will play Goddess Sita and Mukesh Rishi, known for his roles in films like Sooryavansham and Sarfarosh, will play the demon king Ravan, Kumar added.

The Shri Ram Dharmik Leela Committee in Tri Nagar is celebrating the success of the G20 Summit. With a budget of approximately ₹60 lakh, the committee is all set to host the celebrations from 15 to 24 October.

"This grand celebration is being organised in a 10,000square metre area," said Anil Garg, general secretary of the

committee told PTI. At the Keshav Ramleela in Netaji Subhas Place, Pitampura, the oragnisers have tried to recreate the Bharat Mandapam, which hosted the G20 Summit last month. They have installed a Nataraja Murti, which will serve as a selfie-point for the visitors. Ashok Goyal, chairman of the committee, said the-Ramleela will take place from 9

pm to 12 pm.



Devotees gather to perform 'Tarpan' for their ancestors along the banks of Ganga river on the occasion of 'Mahalaya', the last day of 'Pitru Paksha', in Kolkata



Devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to a pandal ahead of the Durga Puja in Nagpur



A two-day comprehensive Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach involving all maritime security agencies conducted by the Indian Navy in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the UT of Puducherry begins



The Gokarnanatheshwara Temple illuminated on the eve of Dasara celebrations in Mangaluru $\,$



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin felicitates DMK's Kanimozhi as PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi look on at the 'Women's Rights Conference' organised by the DMK's Women's Wing at Nandanam YMCA Ground in Chennai



Palestinian supporters protest during a demonstration against Israeli attacks on Gaza, in Pamplona, northern Spain



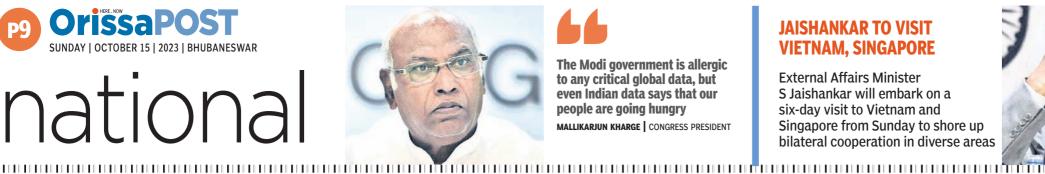
Smoke billows after a fire broke out at a godown in Howrah district



Members of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind participate in a protest rally to show solidarity with Palestine in Kolkata

AP/PTI PHOTOS

national



The Modi government is allergic to any critical global data, but even Indian data says that our people are going hungry

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

JAISHANKAR TO VISIT VIETNAM, SINGAPORE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a six-day visit to Vietnam and Singapore from Sunday to shore up bilateral cooperation in diverse areas





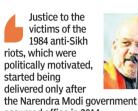
In view of the elections, we need to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. We also need to

strengthen the NDA. The BJP is holding organisational meetings and preparing strategies for the 2024 polls

ANURAG THAKUR | BJP LEADER

Awareness is necessary to effectively dea





assumed office in 2014

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

Five Naxals held

Chatra (Jharkhand): Five members of the banned Naxal outfit Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC). including two self-styled subzonal commanders, have been nabbed in Jharkhand's Chatra district, police said Saturday. Several firearms, including a US-made rifle, cartridges and pamphlets of the organisation were seized from their possession, a police officer said. Acting on a tip-off about the presence of 10 rebels of the banned outfit in Sidalu-Satpahari hill, planning to carry out a major operation. police conducted a raid in the area and nabbed five Naxals on Friday, Chatra Superintendent of Police (SP) Rakesh Ranian said.

Prisoner escapes

Bhopal: A 29-year-old convict, who was sentenced to death in a murder case, escaped from custody when he was brought to a hospital for treatment in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal Saturday, police said. The convict Ra Saini escaped from police custody when he was brought to the government-run Hamidia Hospital from the central jail in the morning. Kohefiza police station incharge Vijay Singh Sisodia said. Saini, a resident of Raghogarh in Guna district, has several offences to his name and was sentenced to death by a court in a murder case, the official said.

Meth tablets worth ₹12 crore seized

Aizawl: Methamphetamine tablets worth ₹12 crore were seized in Mizoram's Champha district and two persons were arrested, the Assam Rifles said Saturday. Acting on a tipoff, personnel of the Assam Rifles and Excise and Narcotics Department seized 40,400 tablets from the Zote area near the Myanmar border on Thursday, it said. Those arrested were identified as Altab Uddin (32) and Anam Uddin (32), both from Assam's Karimganj town, it added. A case was registered, and an investigation is underway, officials said.

49-yr-old Chinese national rescued

Mumbai: The Indian Coast Guard Saturday rescued a 49year-old Chinese national suffering from a "stroke" combined with "hemiplegia" from a Panama-flagged ship off the Mumbai coast, the maritime security agency said. Hemiplegia is one-sided muscle paralysis or weakness. It is usually a symptom of a brainrelated issue or condition. The patient along with one attendant was handed over to the vessel's agent in the city in stable condition for further medical management, it said.

LeT terror module

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said the terror module is being handled by Firdaus Ahmed Bhat, an active Lashkar-e-Taiba member

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 14: In a joint operation with central agencies, the Punjab Police thwarted a possible terrorist attack in the border state by busting a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)-backed module and arresting two operatives, a top official said Saturday.

Police also recovered from their possession two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), as many hand grenades, one .30 bore pistol with two magazines and 24 cartridges, eight detonators, one timer switch and four batteries.

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gauray Yaday said the terror module is being handled by Firdaus Ahmed Bhat, an active Lashkar-e-Taiba member. Those arrested have been identified as Uzair Ul Haq of Rahpora Khudwani in Jammu and Kashmir and Raj Mohammad Andleeb of Kherwan, also in J&K.

Police chief Yadav said the operation was launched follow-

Om Birla protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

resolution on India

New Delhi, Oct 14: Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla Saturday

lodged a strong protest with European Parliament Vice

President Nicola Beer over its res-

olution on India's "internal is-

Birla told the European

Parliament Vice President that

every nation and Parliament is

sovereign and internal issues

of other countries should not

In July, the European

Parliament had adopted a reso-

lution calling on the Indian gov-

ernment to act "promptly" to halt

the violence in Manipur and pro-

"Birla underlined India's sov-

ereignty and protested against bringing a proposal in the

European Parliament on India's

internal issues." the Lok Sabha

Secretariat said in a statement.

olution "unacceptable" and "re-

flective of a colonial mindset".

Birla invited the European

Parliament vice president to wit-

ness the festival of democracy

during Indian general elections

a successful P20 Summit and

emphasised on closer relations

of the European Parliament

Beer congratulated Birla for

scheduled for next year.

India had dubbed the July res-

tect religious minorities.

be discussed by others.

ing intelligence that the Punjab border is being used by the LeT for smuggling a huge consignment of arms and explosives and their two members are expected to retrieve the cache in the area of Kathu Nangal.

Police's state special operation cell (SSOC) wing of Amritsar and central agencies launched the operation and apprehended the two persons with the weapon consignment, Yadav said. He said preliminary investigations revealed that the accused were recruited in a terror organisation by Firdaus Ahmed Bhat and the militant outfit was planning to use them to target prominent personalities and places of strategic importance in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to disturb the peace and harmony of the country.

The DGP said both the arrested persons were in constant touch with Bhat via various social media platforms. On Thursday, Bhat sent them to Amritsar to collect the consignment of weapons and bring them to the Kashmir valley, according to the police officer.

MASSIVE PASSPORT SCAM

busted; two arrested CBI raids 50 places in WB, Sikkim

New Delhi/Kolkata, Oct 14: The CBI Saturday busted a fake passport racket involving officials and middlemen in West Bengal and Sikkim, and arrested two persons, including an official of Passport Laghu Seva Kendra in Gangtok, an agency spokesperson said.

Early in the morning, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) teams swooped down on 50 locations in West Bengal and Sikkim, including passport offices in Gangtok, Siliguri, Darjeeling, Alipore and other cities and premises of accused named in an FIR registered recently.

The probe began with the arrest of Goutam Kumar Saha, posted as Senior Superintendent at Passport Seva Laghu Kendra, Gangtok, and Dipu Chetri. The two were nabbed at a Siliguri hotel while Chetri was allegedly paying a bribe of ₹1.9 lakh to Saha for the issuance of a passport, they said.

"Both the accused were apprehended. During a search, an amount of ₹3.08 lakh(approx) was also recovered from the possession of the said public servant," the CBI spokesperson said. Twenty-four people, including government officials, middlemen and passport agents, have been named in the FIR. Shah; Chetri; Tapan Das, posted as Deputy Passport Officer at



The CBI teams searched the passport office in Kolkata, besides places in Salt Lake and Howrah

The probe began with the arrest of Goutam Kumar Saha, posted as **Senior Superintendent at** Passport Seva Laghu Kendra, Gangtok and Dipu Chetri

Regional Passport Office, Kolkata; and 13 other government officials are among those named in

Identity theft and fake travel documents issued by government offices are a serious security issue, an official said, adding that the searches are still going on."It was alleged that public servants of Regional Passport Office (RPO), Kolkata and Passport Seva Laghu Kendra

(PSLK). Gangtok entered a criminal conspiracy with others including passport agents, middlemen and in pursuance of the said conspiracy, the accused were issuing passports on the basis of false and forged identity documents submitted by middlemen on behalf of those persons/applicants who are nonresidents of India in lieu of illegal gratification," the spokesperson said.

The CBI teams searched the passport office in Kolkata, besides places in Salt Lake and Howrah. The federal agency also conducted a raid at the residence of a passport office employee in Howrah district's Uluberia in the early hours of Saturday.

He was questioned for nearly six hours, after which the CBI sleuths took him with them, the official said. "The man is an employee of the passport office. We raided his residence in Uluberia this morning and grilled him," the official said. The searches resulted in the recovery of a huge cache of fake documents, stamps of gram pradhans and identity documents, according to officials.

The role of postal department employees, who were acting in collusion with the middlemen and passport department officials to bring back passports sent to the fake addresses so that they could be handed over to the intended person, is also under the scanner, the officials said.

PM writes Garba song

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said he has written a new Garba song over the last few days and will share it with people during Navratri.

Modi also thanked artistes Dhvani Bhanushali and Tanishk Bagchi and the team of Jjust Music for the musical rendition of another Garba song that he had penned years ago. "Thank you Dhvani Bhanushali, Tanishk Bagchi and the team of Jjust Music for this lovely rendition of a Garba I had penned years ago! It does bring back many memories," Modi said on X.

"I have not written for many years now but I did manage to write a new Garba over the last few days, which I will share during Navratri," he added.

The Navratri festival begins on October 15 and Garba is a form of Gujarati dance that is usually performed during the nineday festivities. Modi's post came in response to Bhanushali, who shared the rendition on X.

"Dear Narendra Modi Ji Tanishk Bagchi and I loved Garba penned by you and we wanted to make a song with a fresh rhythm, composition and flavour. Jjust Music helped us bring this song and video to life," she said.

Announce quota for Marathas by Oct 24: Jarange

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jalna, Oct 14: Activist Monoj Jarange, who has brought back the Maratha quota issue to the centre stage in Maharashtra, on Saturday threatened to intensify his agitation after October 24 if the government fails to provide reservation to the community in jobs and education

"After October 24, it will be either my funeral procession or the community's victory celebration (after granting of reservation)," said the lanky leader during his address to a massive gathering at Antarwali Sarati_ village in Jalna district. Jarange, who was earlier on

a hunger strike in the village over his demand for reservation for the Maratha community under the OBC category. had ended his fast on September 14 on the 17th day after Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met him and assured to fulfill his



Minister S. Jaishankar digitally flagged off the ferry service

Woman job aspirant's death sparks protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 14: A 23-yearold woman who was preparing for competitive exams allegedly died by suicide at her hostel in Ashok Nagar here, sparking protests by government job aspirants against the BRS dispensation, police said Saturday.

As soon as news of the woman's death broke on Friday night, a large number of students staged protests in the area and raised slogans against the state government. The agitators also tried to prevent the police from shifting the woman's body

dispersing the crowds, though officials denied resorting to lathi charge. A police official told reporters that in the suicide note that was recovered, the woman, Pravallika, had tendered an apology to her parents for being unable to do anything for them. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Zone) Venkateshwarlu told reporters at a press conference that after verifying the chat history of Pravallika's cell phone, they found that she was in love with a person and that he is engaged to be married to another woman.

"As per the chat record and

after verifying CCTV footage, (we find that) she committed suicide as the boy cheated her and is getting married to another woman. It (suicide) has nothing to do with any other issue," the official claimed.

He further said that based on the outcome of the forensic analysis of the cell phone, the police may

abetting suicide against the man. Venkateshwarlu said Pravallika had been preparing to take government exams to secure a job but that her suicide had nothing to do with the exams. The victim's friends at the hostel said she took the extreme step owing to personal reasons, he said.

Expressing deep sorrow over Pravallika's alleged suicide, Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday sought a report from the Chief Secretary, DGP and Secretary of the State Public Service Commission within 48 hours. According to the police, the

woman, who hails from Warangal killed herself on Friday night due to personal issues.

However, the protestors claimed that she had ended her life dejected over not being able to get a job and the postponement of the Group-2 exam by the Telangana State Public Service Commission again. Opposition parties in the state held the K Chandrasekhar Raoheaded government responsible for the death of the young woman. BJP MP K Laxman claimed on social media platform X that he demanded that the woman's suicide letter be made public but was "arrested"

SC slaps ₹5 lakh cost on man for challenging 'defective oath'

THE APEX COURT SAID THAT IF THE COST IS NOT DEPOSITED WITHIN THE AFORESAID PERIOD, THE SAME SHALL BE COLLECTED AS ARREARS OF LAND REVENUE THROUGH THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE AT LUCKNOW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Supreme Court has imposed a cost of Rs 5 lakh on a man for claiming in a PIL that the oath taken by the Bombay High Court chief justice was "defective", and said it was a frivolous attempt to gain publicity.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the oath having been administered by the Governor and having been subscribed to after the administration of the oath, such objections cannot be raised. The top court said this was only a friv-



olous attempt to use the PIL jurisdiction to propagate some

publicity for the petitioner. "The petitioner does not, as he possibly cannot, dispute that the oath of office was administered to the correct person. The oath having been administered by the Governor and having been subscribed to after the administration of the oath, such ob-

jections cannot be raised.

'We are clearly of the view that such frivolous PILs occupy the time and attention of the Court thereby deflecting the attention of the court from more serious matters and consuming the infrastructure of the judicial manpower and Registry of the Court," the bench also comprising Justice JB Padriwala and Justice

Manoj Misra said.

It said the time has come when the court should impose exemplary costs in such frivolous PILs. "We accordingly dismiss the petition with costs of ₹5,00,000, which shall be deposited by the petitioner in the Registry of this Court within a period of four weeks," the bench said.

The apex court said that if the cost is not deposited within the aforesaid period, the same shall be collected as arrears of land revenue through the Collector and District Magistrate at Lucknow

The top court was hearing a

PIL filed by Ashok Pandey contending that he is aggrieved by what he described as a 'defective oath' administered to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay.

The petitioner stated that the Chief Justice did not use the expression "I" before his name while taking the oath, in contravention of the Third Schedule of the Constitution. He also contended that the representatives and administrator of the Government of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were not invited to the oath ceremony.





international



beginning. We will end this war stronger than ever. We will destroy **Hamas** BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

SECOND FLIGHT FROM ISRAEL LANDS

The second flight carrying 235 Indians from Israel landed at Delhi airport Saturday morning. The government has launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return of those who wish to come back home from Israel, amid fresh tensions due to the Israel-Hamas conflict. The first flight from Tel Aviv, also operated by Air India, carrying more than 200 people landed at Delhi Friday morning



'Palestinians must stay on their land'



tarian corridor or an escape route for Palestinians from Gaza as a conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has escalated have drawn a blunt reaction from Arab neigh-

Egypt, the only Arab state to share a border with Gaza, and Jordan, which is next to the Israeli-occupied West Bank, have both warned against Palestinians being forced off their land.

It reflects deep Arab fears that Israel's latest war with Hamas in Gaza could spark a new wave of permanent displacement from land where Palestinians want to build a future state.

"This is the cause of all causes the cause of all Arabs," Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said. "It is important that the (Palestinian) people remain steadfast and present on their land.'

For Palestinians, the idea of leaving or being driven out of land where they want to forge a state carries echoes of the many Palestinians fled or were



Egypt, Jordan both warn gainst Palestinian exodus

Arabs fear new permanent displacement of Palestinians

Egypt opens border for aid not mass movement of people

the 1948 war that accompanied Israel's creation.

Jordan's King Abdullah varned "against any attempt to forcibly displace Palestinians from all Palestinian territories or cause their internal displacement, calling for preventing a spillover of the crisis into neighbouring countries and the exacerbation of the refugee issue.'

The head of the 22-member Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, urgently appealed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to condemn "this insane Israeli effort to transfer the population".

The fate of Palestinian refugees is one of the thorniest issues in the moribund peace process. Palestinians and Arab states say a deal should include the right of those refugees and their descendants to return, something Israel has always rejected.

REUTERS

Gaza, Oct 14: Thousands of

Palestinians fled the north of

the Gaza Strip Saturday from

the path of an expected Israeli

ground assault, while Israel

pounded the area with more air

strikes and said it would keep two

roads open to let people escape.

late the Hamas militant group

that controls Gaza in retaliation

for a rampage by fighters, who

stormed through Israeli towns

a week ago, gunning down civil-

ians and making off with scores

of hostages. Some 1,300 were

killed in the worst attack on

Israeli forces have since put the

Hamas-run Gaza Strip, home to

2.3 million Palestinians, under

a total siege and bombarded it

with unprecedented air strikes.

Gaza authorities say more than

civilians in Israel's history.

Israel has vowed to annihi-

Egypt says the Rafah crossing is open and they are trying to secure the delivery of humanitarian relief into Gaza, although this has been hampered hy Israeli hombardments close to the border. Cairo has also indicated that the resolution of the issue through any mass exodus of Palestinians is unacceptable.

The conflict around Gaza has also stirred long-standing fears in Jordan, home to a large population of Palestinian refugees and their descendants, that a wider conflagration would give the Israelis the opportunity to im-

> 2,200 people have been killed, a quarter of them children, and nearly 10,000 wounded. Israel had given the entire population of the northern half of the Gaza Strip, which includes the enclave's biggest settlement Gaza City, until Saturday morning to move south. It announced overnight that it would guar-

fleeing the area on two main roads until 4:00 pm. Hamas has told people not to leave and says the two roads

antee the safety of Palestinians

Israel has declared open are unsafe. It says dozens of people have been killed on them in strikes on cars and trucks carrying refugees Friday, which Reuters could not independently verify. Israel says Hamas is preventing people from leaving to use them as human shields, which Hamas denies

In Gaza City's Tel Al-Hawa neighbourhood, part of the area Israel has ordered evacuated, warplanes bombed a residential area during the night, hitting several houses, according to residents who posted appeals on social media platforms.

Hundreds of residents of the area took refuge at the nearby Quds hospital and planned to join those fleeing to the south in the morning.

RELEASE OF THE WOMEN AND CHIL DREN'

The attacks on Israel plunged the nation into deep mourning and galvanised the country, which mobilised hundreds of thousands of reservists within days.

Families of the Israeli host kidnapped by Hamas are terrified for their safety. Avichai Brodetz, a farmer from Kibbutz

icised the measure, saying it is divisive, would be ineffective,

and would slow government de-

SETBACK FOR ALBANESE

Referendums are difficult to

pass in Australia, with only eight

of 44 succeeding since the coun-

try's founding in 1901. This is

the first referendum in Australia

in almost a quarter of a century.

Australian voters rejected a 1999

In 1967, a referendum to count

proposal to become a republic.

Indigenous people as part of the

Australian population was a re-

sounding success with biparti-

san political support. The 2023

referendum has not garnered unified political support, with

leaders of the major conserva-

tive parties campaigning for a

"The problem that the 'Yes'

campaign had was they went

and spoke to the leadership, the

elites of this community, and

they kept on saying: 'We've got

these communities'," said Warren

Mundine, a leader of the "No'

cision-making.

PALESTINIANS' PLIGHT

the south, in the centre and in the north, and they are preparing themselves for whatever target they get, whatever task

tention on their plight.

IN ISRAEL'S CALL FOR THE EVACUATION OF HALF

OF GAZA'S POPULATION, MANY PALESTINIANS

FEAR A REPEAT OF THE MOST TRAUMATIC EVENT

IN THEIR TORTURED HISTORY, THEIR MASS

EXODUS FROM WHAT IS NOW ISRAEL DURING THE

1948 WAR SURROUNDING ITS CREATION

"The first thing that needs to happen is the release of the women and children," he told reporters. "I don't want to be political, I don't want to stand here with you. I love my friends and my home and my kibbutz. I hope we can return there and you'll never see me again.'

Israel's attacks on Gaza have not halted Hamas missile strikes deep into Israeli cities. Air raid sirens wailed in central Israel on Saturday morning and rockets

> Israel's ultimatum that over one million people in northern **Gaza should relocate** within 24 hours is extremely dangerous and simply not possible. Even wars have rules

ANTONIO GUTERRES

smashed into a greenhouse in Ashkelon and wounded four people at a kibbutz.

The Gaza Strip is already one of the most crowded areas in the world, and Israel's evacuation order for the northern half meant those fleeing south were forced to shelter with relatives and friends, in schools or in hastily rented apartments.

Hamas makes al-Qaeda look pure: Biden

President Joe Biden has said Palestinian militant group Hamas, which attacked Israel and killed over 1,000 people, is worse than al-Qaeda, the terrorist group behind the 9/11 attacks, as he reaffirmed that the US stands with the Jewish state. At least 27 American citizens have died and 14 remain unaccounted for as a result of unfolding violence in Israel triggered after Hamas carried out unprecedented attacks in Southern Israel last Saturday. "The more we learn about the attack, the more horrifying it becomes. More than 1.000 innocent lives lost, including at least 27 Americans," Biden said in Philadelphia. "These guys make -- they make al-Qaeda look pure. They're pure evil. Like I said from the beginning, the United States, make no mistake about it, stands with Israel. The United States stands with Israel," he said Friday.



Oz junks Indigenous referendum

Australia's Indigenous citizens, who make up 3.8% of the country's 26 million population, have inhabited the land for about 60,000 years but are not mentioned in the constitution and are, by most socio-economic measures, the most disadvantaged people in the country

REUTERS

Sydney, Oct 14: Australia Saturday decisively rejected a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the constitution, in a major setback to the country's efforts for reconciliation with its First Peoples

Nationwide, with 45% of the vote counted, the "No" vote led "Yes" by 57.35% to 42.65%. Australian broadcaster ABC and other TV networks have projected that at least four states -New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia - would vote against altering the 122-year-old constitution.

A successful referendum requires at least four of the six states to vote in favour, along with a national majority. Because of Australia's time zones, voting in Western Australia was still under way as it became clear the referendum was lost.



Australians had to write "Yes" or "No" on a ballot paper that asked whether they agree to the proposal, which would recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people through the creation of an Indigenous advisory body, the 'Voice to Parliament'.

"I'm devastated," Indigenous leader and prominent "Yes" campaigner Thomas Mayo said on ABC News. "We need a Voice. We need that structural change.'

Academics and human rights advocates fear a win for the "No" camp could set back reconciliation efforts by years.

The Voice to Parliament was proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a 2017 document crafted by Indigenous leaders that set out a roadmap for rec-

Supporters of the proposal believe entrenching an Indigenous Voice into the constitution would unite Australia and usher in a new era with its Indigenous people. Many Indigenous people

favour the change, but some say

it is a distraction from achieving

practical and positive outcomes.

The political opposition has crit-

campaign across the country. The Voice has been a key feature of Prime Minister Anthony onciliation with wider Australia. Albanese's term in office, and a referendum loss would stand out, political analysts say, as his higgest setback since coming to power in May last year.

"The task ahead for us is to come together and chart a new path forward," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said. "I don't know yet what that would be but it's something that we can do as a

FRANCE ON ALERT

were taken captive to Gaza, set

up a camp outside the Israeli

army headquarters to focus at-

Louvre Museum, Versailles Palace evacuate visitors

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 14: The Louvre Museum in Paris and Versailles Palace evacuated visitors and staff Saturday after receiving bomb threats. The government has put France on high security alert after a fatal school stabbing by a suspected extremist.

The Louvre communication service said no one was hurt and no incident was reported. Paris police said officers searched the museum after it received written bomb threats.

The former royal palace at Versailles also received bomb threats, a police spokesperson said.

Alarms rang out through the Louvre, a vast space also in a former royal palace Paris overlooking the Seine River, when the evacuation was announced, and in the underground shopping centre beneath its signature pyramid.

Videos posted online showed people leaving, some hurriedly and some stopping to take photos, others apparently confused about what was happening.

The French government raised the threat alert level and is deploying 7,000 troops to increase security after Friday's school attack.

French authorities say a former student suspected of Islamic radicalisation killed a teacher and wounded three other people before being captured. The government is also concerned about fallout in France from the war between Israel and Hamas.

National Party's Luxon to lead new govt in NZ

National won over voters by promising relief for struggling middle-income New Zealanders, and to bring historically high inflation under control while reducing the country's debt

REUTERS

Wellington, Oct 14: New Zealand's centre-right National Party led by Christopher Luxon will form a new government with its preferred coalition party ACT, as Prime Minister Chris Hipkins conceded his Labour Party could not form a government after Saturday's general

election. The National Party, now in opposition, had 39% of the votes with 92% counted, while the ACT party had 9%. That would give the two parties enough seats to form a government, according

to the Electoral Commission. 'On the numbers tonight National will be in the position to lead the next government,' Luxon, a former executive who once ran Air New Zealand and entered politics just three years ago, told supporters in Auckland. 'We will make this an even bet-

ter country.' The overwhelming driver was dissatisfaction with the (Labour government)," said political commentator and former National staffer Ben Thomas.



Under former leader Jacinda Ardern, Labour in 2020 became the first party to capture an outright majority since New Zealand switched to a mixed member proportional system in 1996.

But Labour has since lost support, with many New Zealanders disgruntled over the country's long Covid-19 lockdown and the rising cost of living.

Hipkins has tried to re-engage with those voters, focusing on what he termed "bread-and-butter issues", but was unable to

gain traction in the polls. The National-ACT majority is slim and the two parties may need support from the populist New Zealand First Party to form a government. Coalition negotiations between National and-ACT are expected to begin in

the coming days.

business



The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict may disrupt the India Middle East **Europe Economic Corridor project's** timelines and outcomes, marking a pivotal juncture in the development of this ambitious economic corridor AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

WFH: HCLTECH FOLLOWS TCS'S MOVE

HCL Technologies (HCLTech) is mandating that employees should come and work from office three days a week, CEO and Managing Director C Vijayakumar said asserting that remote working in perpetuity "is not a good idea at all". TCS Wednesday announced that it has asked its 6.14 lakhplus employees to work from offices, ending the practice of work from home (WFH) that started due to the pandemic



HIGHEST IN YEARS

Securitisation volume

crosses ₹1L-cr in H1

THE OPTIMISM IS

OF GDP GROWTH

WHICH WILL SERVE

AS A CATALYST FOR

EXCEEDING 6%.

GROWTH IN THE

SECURITISATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in the June quarter.

Mumbai, Oct 14: Securitisation

volume crossed the ₹1 lakh crore-

mark in the second quarter of the

current fiscal after a strong start

Securitisation volume in the

April-June period of the cur-

rent fiscal was at ₹55,000 crore.

the volume includes both Pass-

Through Certificate (PTC) and

Direct Assignment (DA) trans-

actions and the volume, which

clipped at over 40 per cent on-year.

was primarily driven by robust

credit expansion and a sustained

demand for loans that meets

Priority Sector Lending

Total securitisation volumes

reached around ₹1.01 lakh crore

in the April-September period,

marking a substantial 40 per

cent increase over the same pe-

BIZ BUZZ

& Diamonds MINE- diamond jewellery, ERA - uncut diamond jewellery, PRECIA - precious gems

jewellery, ETHNIX - handcrafted jewellery, DIVINE - Indian heritage jewellery, and Starlet - kid's

jewellery. The show has commenced from October 14 and will last till October 22, exclusively at Malabar

Gold & Diamonds, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar showroom. The brand has also announced a

slew of Diwali offers like 100mg Gold Coin on purchase of every ₹30,000 worth gold jewellery, up

to 30% off on the diamond value and up to 30% off on making charges of gemstone & polki jew

Union Bank holds 'note exchange cum coin distribution mela'

ellery. These offers are available in all the stores of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Malabar brings 'exclusive branded jewellery show

(PSL) norms.

According to Care Ratings.

SUSTAINED

ANTICIPATION

UNDERPINNED BY THE

aims to bring 1,500-2,000 products under the ambit of mandatory quality standard certification

PIYUSH GOYAL FOOD AND CONSUMER

government is working on the 'Swachhata Rating Framework' to rate all tourism

businesses on the basis of sanitation, cleanliness and

V VIDYAVATHI TOURISM SECRETARY

Housing prices have been climbing in major Indian cities in post-Covid years. While this upward trend in capital

ESIC adds 19.42L members in Aug

New Delhi: The Employees' **State Insurance Corporation** (ESIC) added 19.42 lakh new subscribers in August, according to provisional payroll data. "The provisional payroll data of ESIC reveals that 19.42 lakh new employees have been added in the month of August, 2023," the Ministry of Labour & Employment said in a statement Friday. According to the data, around 24,849 new establishments have been registered and brought under the social security umbrella of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the month of August, 2023, thus ensuring more coverage. Data revealed that more jobs have been generated for the youth of the nation, as out of the total 19.42 lakh employees added during the month, 9.22 lakh employees up to the age group of 25 years constitute new registrations, which is 47.48 per cent of the total

profit down 9%

Ltd, which owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, Saturday reported a 9.09 per cent fall in consolidated net profit at ₹623.35 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, as gross margins were impacted due to lesser contribution from general merchandise and apparel business. The company had posted a net profit of ₹685.71 crore in the July-September guarter a year ago, said Avenue Supermarts in a regulatory filing. However, its revenue from operations was up 18.66 per cent to ₹12,624.37 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹10.638.33 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal

New Delhi: German luxury vehicle maker BMW Group reported a 10 per cent rise in total car sales at 9,580 units in 2023, driving towards another record sales in the year. The group's three brands -- BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad (twowheeler) recorded the bestever January-September period sales in the country, BMW Group India said. The in the first nine months of the year, up 10 per cent from the year-ago period, while the MINI brand posted 582 units, The group's premium motorcycle brand BMW Motorrad registered sales of 6,778 units in the January-September period, rising 26 per cent from the same period a year ago.

WANING Tech majors put once-hot IT jobs on ice

Many tech giants have held off, or are revisiting plans on recruiting from colleges and working on improving employee utilisation, or the number of billable working hours for an employee

Bangalore, Oct 14: India's top IT service providers are going slow on hiring as clients cut back spending and defer projects due to macroeconomic challenges, in a U-turn from the excesses of the past few years made in anticipation of further growth.

Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and HCLTech have seen employee headcount reducing in the second quarter as they reported weak results. Infosys and HCL trimmed their full-year revenue outlook

A slowdown in campus hiring - the mainstay employee resource of the Indian IT industry growth this year, which has not materialized, and there is a big emphasis from most service providers to utilize their current workforces PHIL FERSHT | CEO, HFS RESEARCH

which has build its niche on being able to appoint throngs of engineers on various client projects - began in the April-June quarter and has accelerated since,

triggering fears of a hit to the economies in the US and UK. Analysts have said they do

returning anytime soon, reinforced by muted hiring trends across the top IT firms, as clients cutting discretionary spending

Firms overhired in

anticipation of further

2021-2022 in

after a pandemic boom. Infosys added over 83,000 employees in the last two fiscal years, while TCS' employee headHCL added about 57,000.

In contrast, Infosys' net employee headcount has fallen by 14,470 in the first half of this year and HCLTech's by about 4,800. TCS' net employee reductions stood at 5,810 in the same period.

"In a way we hired ahead of demand predicted ... with that slowing down this year, our employee utilization fell. We still have a significant fresher bench with us and room for utilization improvement," Infosys chief financial officer Nilanjan Roy said during the earnings media conference

Infosys is targeting 84%-85% in employee utilization from the current 81.8%, Roy said.

'Currency market interventions not always black, white'

REUTERS

Marrakech, Oct 14: Currency market interventions by emerging market economies should not be viewed "as a black and white story", India's central bank governor told Reuters Friday

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das was referring to the US Treasury Department's regular foreign exchange report and similar research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Das called on the United States and other countries and organizations to review their use of "labelling like watch lists," underscoring that these comments were not directed solely at the Treasury.

"Emerging market economies will have to build reserves and central banks in emerging markets are required to intervene in the currency market from time to time to prevent excessive volatility," Das said on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank annual meeting in Marrakech.

"So therefore any labelling, any kind of labelling of currency interventions should not be a black and white story and you need to look at the nuances of it.'

BHUBANESWAR: Malabar Gold &

Diamonds, Chandrasekharpur,

Bhubaneswar showroom presents

'Exclusive Branded Jewellery Show'.

an exclusive exhibition and sale of

gold, diamond, and precious gems

jewellery. EBJ show was inaugurated

by Chief Guest Supriya Nayak,

Ollywood actress in the presence of

Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Management Team, distinguished

guests and well-wishers. The show

offers ruby, emerald, uncut diamond

and diamonds jewellery. It features

the exclusive brands of Malabar Gold

riod in FY23 -- the highest volume in recent years.

The anticipated higher economic growth will further drive consumer spending, boosting credit growth and securitisa-

In the last two quarters, there has also been a noticeable increase in the volume of transactions backed by unsecured loans, both in the PTC and DA categories.

Traditionally, DA transactions dominate overall volumes, however, due to the merger of HDFC entities, DA volumes declined during the quarter.

For the first time, the share of DA transactions in the overall volume was around 49 per cent in H1, while PTC issuances contributed to over half of overall volume during this period. Mortgage-Backed

Securitisations (MBS) comprised 44 per cent of DAs with Asset-Backed Securitisation (ABS) and microfinance loan transactions constituting around 35 per cent and 21 per cent of the DA volume, respectively, the ratings agency said.

It anticipates securitisation volume to continue to grow and gain further momentum this fiscal

Sriram Rajagopalan, an associate director at the agency, if the trend seen in H1 continues at its current pace, the market is poised to achieve record-breaking annual vol-___ umes in FY24.

not see demand for IT services count surged by over 120,000 and Russian imports swell

INDIA'S OIL BINGE ON DISCOUNTED RUSSIAN CRUDE HAS PROPELLED ITS IMPORTS TO SECOND-LARGEST IN H1

Imports from Russia jumps 67% to \$30.42bn in first half of 2023 from

Among all top ten import source

New Delhi, Oct 14: India's imports from Russia rose by about 67 per cent to \$30.42 billion during the April-September period this fiscal on higher shipments of crude oil and fertiliser, according to the commerce ministry data. With this, Russia has become India's second-largest import source during the first half of this fiscal.

during April-September 2022.

From a market share of less than 1 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's oil imports rose to over 40 per cent.

crude importer after China and the United States, has been buying Russian oil that was available at a discount after some countries in the West shunned it as a means of punishing Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine.

period last year.

US declined to \$21.39 billion during the period under review



Imports from the UAE con-

cal, imports also dipped from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Indonesia,

Risk of banks' unsecured retail

loans turning sour rising: UBS

UBS has turned "neutral" on the banking

sector and sees a higher probability of

regulatory tightening on unsecured loans

Number of borrowers with multiple

retail loans rose to 9.3% in

FY23 from 3.9% in FY18

\$10.21 billion as against \$10 billion in April-September 2022. On the export front, India's exports to seven of its top 10

destinations have recorded a negative growth rate during the period. During the first six months of this fiscal, the country's merchandise exports to the US, the

UAE, China, Singapore,

Germany, Saudi Arabia, and

Bangladesh have dipped. However, exports to the UK. Australia and the Netherlands have recorded positive growth.

India's merchandise exports contracted by 2.6 per cent to \$34.47 billion in September even as the country's merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$19.37 billion during the month under review, according to the government data released Friday

Govt keeps basmati rice floor price

New Delhi, Oct 14: India said Saturday it will maintain the floor price for basmati rice exports until further notice, according to a government order, as the world's biggest exporter continues to curb overseas shipments of the grain.

India imposed a \$1,200 per ton minimum export price (MEP) on



basmati rice shipments in August to calm local prices ahead of key state elections A government order Saturday

said it would maintain the MEP, initially in place until Sunday, until further notice.

The South Asian country in July banned exports of non-basmati white rice and Friday imposed a 20% duty on exports of

thorities ensure that non-basmati rice is not exported as basmati rice.

BHUBANESWAR: Union Bank of India has conducted a 'Note

Exchange cum Coin Distribution Mela' in Ruchika Market, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar October 14. The event was inaugurated by Sarada Prasan Mohanty, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar. In this event Devi Prasad Panda, General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar, along with other senior officials from RBI Bhubaneswar also participated. Mohanty appreciated the efforts of Union Bank of India for putting the Mela for helping the country to achieve Clean Note Policy. In this event the bank has exchanged old, soiled and mutilated notes of the general

public and also distributed coins among them. It will conduct more of such events in the coming days and wish to inform the general public to take the benefit of such events to help the country to reach its motive of circulating clean notes.

CRICKET CLASH

New Delhi, Oct 14: Online food group match.

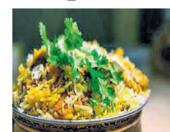
250 biryanis ordered per minute on Swiggy Swiggy saw 250 biryanis being ordered per minute since the

match started.

"One household in Chandigarh ordered 70 biryanis in one-go; it seems they were already celebrating," said the company.

dered over 1 lakh cold drinks during the match. "10,916 and 8,504 units of blue

lay's (chips) and green lay's were



ordered respectively today. Of

well," Swiggy posted on X. The company further added: "3,509 condoms ordered, some players are playing off the pitch

India bowled out Pakistan for just 191 in the highly-anticipated clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad in front of more than 1,00,000 fans, and then, easily cruised to a seven-

values is attracting investors to

The imports were \$18.24 billion

India, the world's third-largest

The ministry's data showed that imports from China dipped to \$50.47 billion during the period against \$52.42 billion in the same

Similarly, imports from the

tracted to \$20.7 billion during April-September 2023 compared

Singapore and Korea.

Among all the top ten import ource nations of India, imports from \$25.79 billion in April- from Hong Kong increased to

Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's oil imports rose to over 40%

September last year.

to \$27.8 billion a year ago. During the first half of this fis-

REUTERS



parboiled rice. The MEP aims to help au-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

delivery platform Swiggy Saturday said it received orders for more than 250 biryanis per minute as millions glued to their TV sets on Saturday to watch the thrilling action between arch rivals India and Pakistan during the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup

Additionally, Indians also or-

course blue is winning here as

wicket victory.



D-Mart Q2 net New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts

BMW sees record sales so far in '23

India in the first nine months of BMW brand clocked 8,998 units also at a growth of 10 per cent.

Bangalore, Oct 14: The risk of Indian banks' unsecured retail loans turning sour are ris ing as lending to boroutstanding receipts

rowers with over due debt has increased, UBS said in a note. In recent

months. lenders in Asia's thirdlargest econhave omv boosted their unsecured lend-

ing portfolios as the

pandemic-induced stress

on household finances has eased. Last week, the country's central bank said it is closely monitoring the segment for signs of nascent stress.

'The share of loans to borrowers with weaker risk profiles has risen along with an increase in retail borrowers'

leverage," UBS said October 12,

citing a study it conducted.

Banks' outstanding receipts from credit cards rose to ₹2.18 trillion as of August 25, from ₹1.68 trillion a vear earlier, central bank data showed. Outstanding personal loans rose 26% in the

same period. The share of lending to borrowers with overdue loans rose to 23% in fiscal year 2022-23 from 12% in fiscal 2018-19, UBS said.

with multiple retail loans rose to 9.3% in fiscal 2022-23 from 3.9% in fiscal 2017-18, it added. UBS has raised its credit cost forecasts for Indian banks under its coverage by 5-

10 basis points for

"neutral," re-

spectively, from

"buy" on rising

The number of borrowers

from credit cards rose to the fiscal year end-₹2.18tn in Aug from ₹1.68tn YoY ing March. The broker-**Outstanding personal loans** rose 26% in August YoY age has cut its rating on State Share of lending to borrowers with Bank of India overdue loans rose to 23% in FY23 and Axis Bank from 12% in FY19 to "sell" and

> credit costs. It has also lowered the price target for SBI to ₹530 from ₹740 and that for Axis Bank to ₹1,100 from ₹1,150.

> Unsecured loans as a percentage of total loans rose to 11.1% for SBI and 10.7% for Axis Bank in June 2023,

The brokerage prefers HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank.





PERFECT DAY AT OFFICE

right guy to do the job," he added.

batters who have been firing on

all cylinders. "It's only because

the guvs - before entering the

The skipper also praised his

SKIPPER ROHIT GUSHES AFTER BOWLERS' EXCEPTIONAL SHOW AS INDIA HUMBLE TO MAKE IT 8-0 IN ICC MEN'S WORLD CUPS



chuffed with his bowlers for lay-

ing the foundation of India's

eighth successive win over

who set the game up for us. I

don't think it was a 190 kind of

pitch. At one stage, we were look-

ing at 280," said Rohit during

showed grit says a lot. That is

something we pride ourselves

in. Whoever gets the ball does the

can do the job with the ball. My

job as a captain is important

there as well. It's to read the con-

"We've got six individuals who

job for the team," said Rohit.

The way they (bowlers)

the post-match presentation.

"The bowlers were the ones

Pakistan in ODI World Cups.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 14: Indian skipper Rohit Sharma Saturday lauded his bowlers for bundling out Pakistan for a paltry 191 on a pitch that had nothing much in it for the bowlers during their marquee World Cup match.

Five Indian bowlers grabbed two wickets apiece as the home side bowled out Pakistan in 42.5 overs, before chasing down the target in the 31st over. Rohit was

Jersey confusion

AHMEDABAD: Virat Kohli was Saturday forced to leave the field after the Indian batting maestro, inadvertently, wore the wrong jersey ahead of their high-profile World Cup clash against archrivals Pakistan here. Realising the mistake. Kohli, architect of some of India's biggest wins over Pakistan, left the field in the seventh over and returned before the eighth over, in which Mohammed Siraj claimed the wicket of Abdullah Shafique. The Delhi dazzler initially took the field wearing a jersey with plain white stripes on the shoulders instead of the shirt that has the tri-coloured stripes on it. While the normal Indian jersey has three white stripes, a special one has been made for the World Cup with the tri-coloured stripes on the shoulder.

World Cup – they got a lot of runs. We were very clear (about) what we wanted to do. We didn't want to be in two minds about who's going to bat where." However, Rohit said it would

be important to keep the momentum going and not get carried away. "All in all, it's looking good. I want to keep my fingers crossed, and don't want to get too excited. I don't want to get too low as well. We want to stay balanced, keep calm and keep moving forward.

"Every opposition we come up against is all quality. You have to play well on that particular day, and that's what we're looking at.

'Hard lengths were key'

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was adjudged the Man of the Match for his spell of 2/19, said his focus was on reading the wicket quickly and it helped him to find the correct length.

'It felt good. You get to analyse the wicket as soon as possible. We knew the wicket was on the slower side, so the hard lengths were the way. We were trying to make it as difficult as possible for the batters. When I was young I used to ask a lot of questions, so



BRIEF SCORES Pakistan 191 (Babar Azam 50,

Mohammad Rizwan 49; Jasprit Bumrah 2/19, Hardik Pandya 2/34, Kuldeep Yadav 2/35, Ravindra Jadeja 2/38, Mohammed Siraj 2/50) lost to India 192/3 (Rohit Sharma 86, Shreyas Iyer 53 n o; Shaheen Shah Afridi 2/36) by 87 wickets.

that helped me develop a lot of knowledge. I like to read the wickets and try a lot of options. 'Collapse cost us'

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam blamed the batting collapse for his side's flop show. The Men

Green had a good start and were 155/2 until the 30th over before losing the remaining eight wickets for just 36

runs. started well. just planned to play normal cricket and build partnerships. Suddenly. there was a collapse, and we could not finish well. The way we started, our target was 280-290, but the collapse cost us. The total was not good.

England look to better net run-rate vs Afghans



New Delhi, Oct 14: Their campaign back on track after the humiliating loss in the opener, title holders England would look for a dominating all-round effort against a battered Afghanistan in the World Cup here Sunday, with eyes firmly set on bettering their net run rate.

Defending champions England's campaign started on a disappointing note as they lost by nine wickets against New Zealand in the tournament opener in Ahmedabad October 5.

But the Jos Buttler-led side bounced back in style, humbling Bangladesh by 137 runs in Dharamsala Tuesday. Despite putting up a competitive 282/9 in the opener at a batting-friendly Narendra Modi Stadium pitch. England bowlers were taken to the cleaners by Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra as New Zealand romped home in 36.2

But England made a superb comeback in their next match with both the batting and bowling departments clicking in uni-

It was not the batting unit which was the cause for concern for England against New Zealand, but their bowling, comprising Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, Sam Curran, Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid, which looked ordinary when Conway and Ravindra batted.

But in their next match against Bangladesh, England showed their might with a clinical performance. They would be banking on another good start from their openers to post a massive total on a flat pitch at the relatively smaller Arun Jaitley Stadium that has witnessed huge scores in all the matches it has

England's decision to replace an ineffective Moeen Ali with Reece Topley paid rich dividends against Bangladesh as the leftarm pacer inspired the bowling attack with figures of 4/43 from his 10 overs.

England would not just look for a victory against Afghanistan but would also want to win the match handsomely to boost their net run rate (NRR), which took a beating in their opener.

The Afghans, on the other hand, are low on confidence after successive defeats. Dark horses Afghanistan lost by six wickets against Bangladesh before they were thrashed by hosts India by eight wickets. Come Sunday, they would look for a reversal and cause the first upset of the tournament. But it is easier said than done.

Afghanistan's concern lies in all departments of their game. In their first outing against Bangladesh, the batters faltered, making a below-par 156. Then, against a batting-heavy India, the bowling attack fumbled despite posting a competitive 272/8.

Afghanistan's main concern is the performance of their openers. In the two matches they have played so far, both the openers, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, have failed to provide a decent start, which resulted in the team's downfall. Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi would desperately want his openers to take the responsibility upfront.

Afghanistan's bowling too looked ordinary in both the matches and the team would look for a much-improved outing from the likes of Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen-ul-Haq and Rashid Khan in the upcoming games to match the might of teams such as England, New Zealand and

INDIA YET TO MAKE FORMAL BID TO HOST

ATHLETICS WORLDS

Mumbai. Oct 14: The Athletics

Federation of India (AFI) will

need a "couple of more days"

to decide on making a formal

bid for hosting the World Athletics Championships in 2027,

said its president Adille

the Worlds was held in Budapest, Hungary, the next championships

will be held in Japan in 2025

with India reportedly in the fray

to make a formal bid for hosting

bid," Sumariwalla told PTI dur-

ing an event organised by the

AFI and the World Athletics

(WA) here. "We are discussing

that internally and in the next

couple of days, we will finalise

make a formal bid to host the 2036

Olympics, WA president and

Committee (IOC) member,

Sebastian Coe, said he would

love to see the Games coming

to India. "I would love to see the

Olympic Games coming to India,'

partly personal and partly fa-

miliar reasons but India is an amazing country and I think the

development of the games would

be fantastic. I think everybody

recognises that. But that is for the

International Olympic

Committee to decide," he said. Coe told the media here that

"For very obvious reasons,

With India also planning to

Olympic

that," Sumariwalla added.

"We have not made a formal

the event for 2027.

International

Coe told PTI.

While the recent edition of

Sumariwalla here Saturday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IN ARCTIC OPEN SEMIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vantaa (Finland), Oct 14: Indian shuttler PV Sindhu's bid for a title came to an end in the Arctic Open, as the eighth seed went down fighting to fifth seed Zhi Yi Wang of China here Saturday.

Sindhu lost the opening game 12-21 before bouncing back in the second 21-11. However, the Chinese upped the ante in the final game, beating Sindhu 21-7.

The Indian had begun the tournament with a win over Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the opening round, followed by a straight game victory over Hsu Wen-chi of Taiwan in the second round. In the quarterfinal, Sindhu prevailed over Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen before her semifinal loss that ended India's run in the tournament.

The two-time Olympic medallist was back at her valiant best as she overcame a first-game deficit to down Thuy Linh in a marathon 91-minute battle.

The eighth-seeded Indian won 20-22, 22-20, 21-18 to halt a fourmatch winning run by of the unseeded World No.26 Nguven.

Struggling to get into her elements before the Paris Olympics, Sindhu then faced the fifth seed

China in her bid to win the first BWF title of the season. But it all ended in agony.

Sindhu thus made her fourth semifinal on the BWF World Tour this year. She had earlier advanced into the last-four at the Spain Masters (finallist), Malaysia Masters and Canada Open.

Sindhu was the only Indian left in the fray here after Kiran George, Kidambi Srikanth, Aakarshi Kashyap and the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto made their respective last 16 exits Thursday.

From an 11-4 lead at the midgame break, the Indian World No.13 saw herself trailing 14-18 as she lost the the game 20-22 after some long rallies. But in the second game. Sindhu hit six straight points going into the interval.

The Vietnamese tried to find her way back into the game, winning three points on the trot and took an 18-14 lead. But the 2019 World Champion Sindhu was back at her fighting best as she denied her opponent three points to seal the match, reeling off five successive points that took

the match to the decider. Nguyen produced a late fightback but Sindhu was at her best as she raced to a 20-15 lead before



SINDHU GOES DOWN France, Portugal & Belgium qualify for Euro



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates one of his goals against Slovakia, Friday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 14: Kylian Mbappe and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored twice each to help France and Portugal secure a spot at next year's European Championship - Euro 2024 with a perfect record in qualifying, with Belgium also clinching a berth in Germany Friday.

houses all needed a win to qualify for the tournament and their star strikers made sure they got Mbappe's two goals — in-

The three European power-

cluding a long-range strike for the second — helped secure a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Amsterdam for a perfect sixth win in Group B.

Mbappe opened the scoring in just the seventh minute when he beat Lutsharel Geertruida to a cross from the right by Jonathan Clauss to volley past

Brighton goalkeeper Bert Verbruggen. It was Mbappe's 41st international goal, drawing him level with France great Michel Platini.

Mbappe doubled the lead in the 53rd minute when he exchanged passes with Adrien Rabiot on the edge of the Netherlands' penalty area before curling a shot over Verbruggen. Quilindschy Hartman made it 1-2 for the Dutch with 10 minutes to go. It was the first goal France

CR7'S RECORD AT 125 Ronaldo's double improved his record tally of international goals to 125 in 202 appearances

has conceded in the campaign.

Greece moved up to the second place with 12 points after Giakoumakis and Giorgos Masouras scored a goal apiece to beat Ireland 2-0 in Dublin. The Netherlands remains on nine in third with a game in hand.

and led Portugal to a 3-2 win



over Slovakia.

Ronaldo converted from the penalty spot in the 29th minute, sending Slovakia goalkeeper Martin Dubravka the wrong way to double the lead to 2-0. Forward Gonçalo Ramos had given the hosts the lead with a header 11 minutes earlier.

After David Hancko pulled one back for Slovakia in the second half, Ronaldo restored a twogoal advantage off a low cross from Bruno Fernandes that found him at the far post. Stanislav Lobotka scored the second for Slovakia in the 80th.

Slovakia remain on 13 points in second with Luxembourg trailing by two in third after holding Iceland to a 1-1 draw in Reykjavik. Bosnia won 2-0 at pointless Lichtenstein and is fourth on nine with Iceland another two

LUKAKU ON TARGET Romelu Lukaku scored again

and Dodi Lukebakio added two more for Belgium, who had to hang on with 10 men to beat Austria 3-2 in Vienna and secure

advancement from Group F.

Lukaku beat goalkeeper Alexander Schlager to make it 3-0 after collecting a precise pass from Jeremy Doku in the 58th, just three minutes after Lukebakio scored his second.

Konrad Laimer pulled one back for Austria in the 72nd and Belgium then went down to 10 men six minutes later when midfielder Amadou Onana was sent off. Marcel Sabitzer netted Austria's second from the penalty spot in the 84th.

Belgium have 16 points from six games, with Austria three points behind after its first loss in qualifying. Sweden, who were idle Friday, are in third on six points from five games and still has a small chance of overtaking Austria.

India is crucial for the development of athletics and wants the country to host global events. "It is very important that the countries that have the ability, the economics, the political will and the sporting passion to stage events. You would be surprised, as the president of World Athletics, if I did not want to stage one of the events," he said.

sports. I am here to promote athletics and I also want to see India stage as many of our events as possible. This is important for us. You have one of the largest populations in the world and you have a very strong economy," said Coe.

"I am not here to sell other ঽ

Dutch tour: Indian sub-junior hockey teams excel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Indian men's and women's sub-junior (U-17) hockey teams began their maiden international tour on a positive note with victories against the Senior EDE teams in the Netherlands. The women's team defeated the Senior EDE side 3-2, while the men's side thrashed

their Dutch counterparts 8-0. In the women's game, despite EDE taking the early lead, goals from Ravina, Karuna Minz, and

Bhavya helped India fight back and lead 3-1. The third quarter saw EDE reduce the deficit to 3-2, but a determined India ensured that there were no more defensive lapses in the final quarter.

Former India skipper and the current women's sub-junior coach Rani Rampal said the resilience of the players stood out in the contest. "On the pitch, their determination, teamwork and resilience were truly inspiring. This victory demonstrates that we are on the right track. Of course,

the work is not finished yet, and we have a lot more to do. But we are pleased with their performance because this victory reflects not only their abilities but also their heart and spirit.

'We will carry on this momentum and strive for excellence in the upcoming matches. The future of Indian women's

hockey is bright," said Rampal. The men's game saw complete dominance from the Indian side with Aashu Maurya scoring the first goal followed by a hat-trick

from Ajeet Yadav, a brace from Rohit Irengbam Singh, and goals from Srijan Yadav and Rahul Rajbhar. "Their performance on their first international tour illustrates their potential and the bright prospects of Indian men's hockey," said men's sub-junior coach Sardar Singh, the former India captain.

The women's team will next play the Netherlands Girls' U-18 side, while their male counterparts will take on the Netherlands Boys' U-18 side.

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