

courtroom in judicial custody for a few hours before being taken to the Rampur district jail in a police jeep, said Arun Parkash Saxena, a former district government counsel, who represented the prosecution in the case. **P**9

**IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



Some wonderful people sit in there. Don't know about judgements, but their observations are always sharp



# No pvt bus from Friday

THEME PUJA: People walk past a community puja pandal in Kolkata depicting the current unrest in many parts of the world

More than 14,000 vehicles to remain off roads during festive period

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Passengers are in for a tough time during the festive season as the Private Bus Owners' Association has decided to keep vehicles off the roads from October 20 protesting against the state government's Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI) programme.

According to source Minister Naveen Patnaik had October 12 launched affordable bus service under LAccMI scheme flagging off 36 buses in Malkangiri. The service aims at connecting 111 gram panchayats of Malkangiri with the district headquarters and the state capital. After Malkangiri, the services will be rolled out in Gajapati district. Protesting the government's bus service connecting blocks and district headquarters, the Private Bus Owners' Association had called for a strike October 10. In a bid to avoid the strike, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) had a meeting with the association October 9 and assured the members for fulfiling their demands. The bus owners and CMO were scheduled to conduct a second meeting on the issue October 26.



## Justice finally for Soumya after 15 yrs

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: A Delhi court convicted Wednesday five people for the murder of television journalist Soumva Vishwanathan, who was shot dead 15 years ago while she was returning home from work.

Additional Sessions Judge Ravindra Kumar Pandey convicted Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar under provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

# Raghubar Das appointed new Odisha Governor

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Rashtrapati Bhavan announced Wednesday that former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Raghubar Das has been appointed as the Governor of Odisha. He replaces Professor Ganeshi Lal who assumed the Governor's office in the state May 29, 2018. His tenure ended earlier this year.



and dearness relief for the pen-

sioners. Crores of central gov-

ernment employees and pen-

sioners will benefit from the DA hike," said Union Minister

Anurag Thakur.

Das thanked

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CURRENCY	DOLLAR	83.28		₹0.02
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NO	GOLD	₹59,772		₹554
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Rainfall	Nil	Nil	rainfall very likely							

However, buses have been plying between blocks and district headquarters under LAccMI scheme in undivided Koraput, according to the Private Bus Owners' Association which has so far been opposing it.

Demanding immediate withdrawal of bus services between blocks and district headquarters under LAccMI, now the association has called for a statewide strike from October 20. Meanwhile, the Transport department Wednesday had a meeting with the association

to resolve the issue. However, the body wanted a written assurance about withdrawal of services between blocks and district headquarters under LAccMI. According to association general secretary Debendra Sahoo,

ters under LAccMI. "We want a written assurance from the state government for fulfilment of our demand. We feel sorry for passengers, espe-

cially during the Durga Puja. However, we have no option other than going off the roads from October 20. The strike will continue during the festive season,' Sahoo said.

they would have no option other

than winding up their business

if the state government does not

withdraw bus services between

blocks and district headquar-

Sources said the state government will operate at least 1,000 buses in the rural areas with an allocated budget of ₹3,178 crore under the scheme. A total of 460 state-run buses have been plying across the state.

Fifth accused Ajay Sethi was convicted under Indian Penal Code section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) and under MCOCA provisions for conspiring to abet, aid or knowingly facilitate organised crime and for receiving the proceeds of organised crime.

The judge said the prosecution proved beyond reasonable doubt the charges against the accused and listed the matter for sentencing October 26.

Vishwanathan was shot dead September 30, 2008, while she was returning home from work in her car around 3.30am. Police had claimed that the motive behind the killing was robbery. The five accused were arrested for the murder in March 2009 and since then they have been in custody. Police managed to crack the case during investigation of the murder of another woman

Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda for his new role. "I will try to fulfil my responsibilities with full committment," Das stated.

The communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan also mentioned that President Droupadi Murmu expressed her pleasure in announcing the appointments, which will become effective upon the dates when the appointees assume their respective positions.

The 68-year-old Das held the position of the sixth Chief Minister of Jharkhand. He assumed office December 28, 2014 and continued till 2019. Das is affiliated with the BJP. He has previously served as the president of the Jharkhand unit of the BJP on two separate occasions. Presently, he is a national vice-president of the saffron party.

Das was first elected as an

## Modi condemns hospital attack

*1st time PM criticises strikes on Gaza civilians* 

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 18: Expressing shock over the tragic loss of lives in an attack on a hospital in Gaza, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Wednesday that civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict were a matter of serious concern and those involved should be held responsible. More than 500 people are estimated to have lost their lives in the attack on the hospital.

According to media reports, the Hamas group said a massive explosion at the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza killed hundreds of people Tuesday. Hamas attributed the blast to an Israeli air strike, but the Israeli military said it was not involved and the explosion was caused by a mis--fired Palestinian rocket.

"Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli

#### **ISRAEL TO ALLOW AID INTO GAZA**

Tel Aviv: US President Joe Biden said Wednesday that Israel had agreed to allow humanitarian assistance to begin flowing into Gaza from Egypt with the understanding it would be subject to inspections and that it should go to civilians and not Hamas militants. Israel had cut off the flow of food, fuel and water in Gaza. Biden said that he had spoken with the Israeli cabinet 'to agree to the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance'. "Let me be clear," Biden said. "If Hamas diverts or steals the assistance, they will have shown once again that they have no concern for the welfare of the Palestinian people.'

Hospital in Gaza. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and prayers for speedy recovery of those injured," Modi said on X. P10

# Skeletons out of Britney closet STAR SINGER COMES CLEAN ON HER RELATIONSHIP WITH JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE AND DAD JAMIE

#### AGENCIES

Los Angeles, Oct 18: Britney Spears has written that she had an abortion while dating Justin Timberlake more than 20 years ago, according to her hotly anticipated memoir. The memoir, The Woman in Me is set to be released October 24. In the book. the iconic American singer has also talked about the constant body shaming that she had to face from her dad Jamie and that led to their 'divorce'. "If it had been left up to me

alone, I never would have done it (abortion)," she writes, according to the excerpt from The Woman in Me published Tuesday in People magazine. "And yet Justin was so sure that he didn't want to be a father," Britney said.

"The pregnancy was a surprise, but for me, it wasn't a tragedy. I wanted to start a family with Justin — it was just earlier than expected. But Justin definitely wasn't happy about the pregnancy. He said we

were way too young, to start a family," Britney added.

The couple broke up in 2002. Britney however, has not mentioned when the pregnancy happened. Spears is a prolific

user of social media. However, she has not posted on 'Instagram' or 'X', since the People stories were published. The last time she wrote on Instagram was Sunday when she posted, "NO ONE KNOWS WHAT I REALLY THOUGHT ... UNTIL NOW.

Explaining the strained relationship that she shared with her dad, Britney said she was repeatedly body shamed by him. "If I thought getting criticised

about my body in the press It was a deep anguish for me to was bad, it hurt even more from my own father," she wrote. "He lose the baby and I repeatedly told me I never wanted it to looked fat and that I happen, but had no was going to have to other option due do something about to pressure it," she added. **NEY SPEARS** 

> Britney said that she had to go to court as her father tried to dominate her life. A Los Angeles judge on November 13. 2021, terminated the controversial guardianship that has controlled pop star's life for 13 years.



They handed back her freedom along with control of a multi-million-dollar estate. Her father was removed from his position in charge of her finances.

Many of Spears' allegations against her father and others who operated the conservatorship are expected to be heard in a civil trial



MLA in 1995 when Bihar and Jharkhand were one state. Till date, Das holds the distinction of being the only leader who completed a full five-year term as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

Das has been a member of the Legislative Assembly five times from 1995 to 2019 representing the Jamshedpur East constituency in Jharkhand. He also served as the Deputy Chief Minister and the Urban Development Minister during the BJP-led government in the state.

Das initially joined the Janata Party in 1977. Later he joined BJP as a founding member in 1980. He participated in the first national committee meeting of BJP in Mumbai in 1980. He was put behind bars during the emergency

scheduled for next year. Hailing from Kentwood, -Louisiana, Spears rose to fame as a teen on 'The Mickey Mouse Club'. She tried her hand at acting on a number of occasions, be-

fore she found indelible stardom with her music career,starting with 1999's ... Baby One More Time.















**THANK YOU FOR COMING** 

### **ELBA TO PRODUCE, NARRATE** WW-II DOCUMENTARY

Hollywood actor Idris Elba is set to produce and narrate the National Geographic docuseries The Color Of Victory: Heroes Of *WW2.* The actor wants to highlight the unsung heroes of the war in his series.

### **KHLOE LOST SENSATION IN HER CHEEK AFTER CANCER SCARE**

American model Khloe Kardashian has revealed her cheek doesn't have much feeling after having a tumour removed. She had surgery to remove a precancerous melanoma from her cheek last year.



# **PUJA RELEASES** Sidhant, Babushaan, Aarindam's movies to clash at box office

Bhubaneswar: This Durga Puja filmgoers will be treated to not one but three Odia movies featuring top stars like Sidhant Mohapatra, Babushaan Mohanty, Aarindam Rov and Amlan Das.

Malyagiri starring Babushaan, Amlan, Sivani Sangita and Suryamayee will be released October 19. Directed by Prithvi Raj Pattnaik and produced by Rinku Rinu Jena, the plot unfolds in a fictional Malyagiri forest area and is based on folklore told by women to their grandchildren. While the story re-



volves around a tiger and a lion and how they protect the forest, all the stars will be seen in their village looks.

Headlined by Sidhant, Katak-Sesha Ru Arambha is the next to release October 20. It showcases Silver City's gang wars and a race between mafia to rule Cuttack ..

Devasis Patra, Prasanjeet, Choudhary Bikash Das, Anu Choudhury, Poonam Mishra play



other key roles in the movie di-

rected by Sudhanshu Sahoo and

produced by Kumar Pritam Sahu.

the last to hit the big screens. The

film tells the story of Ram who

believes in punishing those who

break the rules. Anubhav

Mohanty joining Aarindam in a

dance number is one of the main

Aarindam actioner RAM is

## 7-DAY DRAMA FEST SAPTARUPAM: DAY-II



## based troupe Labanya Theatre, at Bhanjakala Mandap, Wednesday. Written

# Bhumi opens up on filming bold scenes

one impulsive decision. After a stressful morning, you could just wish to spend time cently, Thank You For with children, playing their childish games *Coming* is seen as bold, and in the climax, Bhumi's character experiences an orgasm for the first time. Recently, the actress opened up on the same.

resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and expressions.'

You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today. You will have to waste a lot of time in fulfilling the demands made by those around you. However, the more demands you fulfill. the more their expectations will rise, says

#### 

Ganesha

New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet with success. you will respect tradition and custom. Adopt a careful approach, counsels Ganesha

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

You need to be very cau-

tious today, says Ganesha. The results of a lot of hard

There is a strong likelihood

Ganesha assures, could easily be

persuasive in your communications.

of some dispute or misun-

derstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This,

work over a long time may be undone by

accuracy

ARIES

TAURUS

GEMINI

reliability • trust

 $(\mathbf{r})$ 

### LEO

Your entire day will be spent at work. Those working in large corporations will have to fulfill heightened expectations from their superiors. Housewives will need to tackle other work, apart from their daily chores. It is an important day for you, says Ganesha

### 

You will stay away from partnership ventures. Ganesha says you have the ability to control large-scale projects on your own. You have leadership qualities, and will be able to coordinate team work and direct your colleagues to get the required amount of work from them.



benefit because of your nature to take chances. Higher ups in the office will take notice of your skills and ability to work well. Seniors in your office will promote and inspire you

# she said, "I didn't think Mumbai: Released re-

Speaking about the

scene the Badhaai Do actress said, "I believe it was filmed in a beautiful way. The director told me that the camera would only capture my facial

However, she quickly added, "My character wasn't seeking just pleasure, she was searching for love.' When discussing this

scene, she mentions that she had no hesitation while filming it, and sharing her thoughts on this,

it through. I have a strong belief in our audience and the fans I've built. If you closely examine that scene, you won't see anything revealing. It was a silhouette, and I was fully clothed throughout the scene. This is where the filmmaker's artis-

tic approach

plays a role."

**Thank You** For Coming explores the topics of women's friendships, single women love, and seeking pleasure. The film hit theaters worldwide October 6, 2023 AGENCIES



# screen in action thriller

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana of the father-daughter duo to get excited. Khan is all set to mark her acting debut with Zoya Akhtar's The Archies, but

the film is headed straight for an OTT release. While fans are waiting with bated breath to see SRK's little girl on the big screen, looks like it's finally happening, as latest reports suggest that Suhana might mark her theatrical debut in Bollywood next year.

What is even better is that the film will reportedly be produced by SRK himself under his banner, Red Chillies, and he will even have a special cameo in the film. While no official announcement has been made yet, the buzz is enough for

According to a report in an entertainment portal, SRK has got Suhana on board his film, which is set to be an action thriller. Not just that, but the film will reportedly

be directed by Sujoy Ghosh, who has hits like Kahaani. Kahaani 2, and Badlaa to his credit. AGENCIES

## **Celina disappointed** over SC verdict

Mumbai: Actress and LGBT activist Celina Jaitly expressed her disappointment over the Supreme Court's recent ruling on same-sex marriages, emphasizing that the LGBT community is seeking the same rights as all Indian citizens.

She highlighted the significance of the right to marriage and family as a fundamental human right. Jaitly hopes that the Parliament will

amend the Special Marriages Act to make it gender-neutral, allowing same-sex couples to legally marry. SAME-SEX

She believes that MARRIAGE such a change is essential for ensuring equal rights and opportunities

for the LGBTQ+ community.

While disappointed by the court's ruling, Celina Jaitly noted a positive aspect: the court's commitment to examining the rights and benefits that can be extended to queer couples. This commitment signifies progress in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights in India.

The Supreme Court ruled against granting constitutional validity to same-sex marriages, leaving the matter for Parliament to address.

The 3-2 verdict has sparked a debate, with activists advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and others expressing concerns about the potential impact of legalizing same-sex marriage on

Indian society. AGENCIES

**SRK-Suhana to share** 

give your best Ganesha says this is not a good time to get into a direct fight with anyone since it will lead to more problems and issues.

#### **SCORPIO**

You are ready to take up the challenges that life has to throw at you. Thanks to the confidence within you, which gives you power to fight it out against all odds. Even if you take up a mammoth task, you are bound to succeed today, predicts Ganesha.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Your business is likely to grow with leaps and bounds, foresees Ganesha. Increase in financial returns will keep you happy for the entire day. Work in progress gives out positive signals. Your expert advise will be valued at work. In short, a day full of activities

### CAPRICORN

Practical and creative, you are able to utilise your talents in the best possible manner. You will smartly solve family issues, without favouring or hurting any body, says Ganesha. You'll like to play the role of a peace maker, as it gives you sat-

isfaction from within. Also, you will love

to help others as much as you can

### 

Be it about solving financial issues or concerns about income, money matters will keep your mind occupied through out the day. You will have a gala time with your friends later on the day, predicts Ganesha. Not that you don't value your friends, but today, you will realise how important you are for one another

#### PISCES

You are fond of traveling and are always looking for an excuse to set off. Hence it comes as no surprise if you pack your bags and decide to embark upon a journey on a whim today. It is a much needed break too, from the daily stresses of earn ing a livelihood.

# PEANUTS

fans



### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**







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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

### SUDOKU

Prasad Das played central roles in the drama.

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

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### SOLUTIONS

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WELL, THE IMPORTANT THING

THAT WE TRIED OUR BEST

THING

THE IMPORTANT

WE LOST!

THAT

OOPS, I ALWAYS FORGET THE

TO DIVIDE PEOPLE INTO WINNERS

WHAT'S THE

POINT OF TRYING

IF YOU CAN'T

BE A WINNER

M

AND LOSERS

URPOSE OF COMPETITION IS



SUDOKI

2



by Narayan Sahoo and directed by Satya Jena, the plot dealt with the issue of an unwed mother in present times. Nabin Parida, Manisha Rath and Debi OP PHOTO



downtown

#### **FUTURE BUILDERS**

A tech exhibition in progress at **DRIEMS** Polytechnic in Cuttack, Wednesday



# Naveen opens ₹55cr **OPTCL Tech Tower**



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) Tech Tower, the public enterprise's corporate office, in Saheed Nagar area of the City, Wednesday.

Built at en expenditure of Rs 55 crore, the multi-storey building has ultramodern facilities with special focus on energy efficiency.

Inaugurating the Tech Tower, Patnaik said OPTCL plays a crucial role in state's power transmission infrastructure. According to OPTCL sources.

Odisha, which had around 16

lakh power consumers in 2000, now provides uninterrupted electricity to over 97 lakh consumers.

"The transmission capacity has increased from 6,125 MVA to 25.800 MVA, while transmission line from 9,400 circuit km to 16,300 circuit km in these years,' they said, adding that OPTCL has demonstrated its expertise in the field of power transmission and has created extensive employment opportunities for the youth of the state.

**Energy Minister Pratap** Keshari Deb. Science and Technology, Public Enterprises and SSEPD Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA Ananta Narayan Jena, Bhubaneswar (North) MLA Susant Kumar Rout, Energy department Additional Chief Secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal, OPTCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Sanjay Kumar Mishra, senior officers and employees of OPTCL were present.



STANDING TALL: A replica of Thailand Buddha Temple being erected by Baramunda Durga Puja Committee in Bhubaneswar is nearing completior

# **Scholarship fraud: EOW nabs 2 from Jharkhand**

#### AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested two more persons in connection with Vastav India Trust's multistate scholarship and solar equipment fraud case.

The accused, arrested from Ranchi in Jharkhand, were identified as the trust's state field officer Nishant Prakash Jaiswal, and project in-charge Amar Danis. They were booked under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code and Section 6 of the Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 2011, an official said Wednesday.

The accused were produced before the lower division court of JMFC, Ranchi which granted transit remand to Bhubaneswar. The president and secretary of



scheme. Subsequently, they shut

The trust was operating in

Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi and

Bihar. EOW has alerted police in

these states, the official said.

their offices and fled.

logo of Union Ministry of MSME, which had been forged the trust were earlier arrested in the case and are currently in to win the trust of the general jail, the official added. public.

According to the official, In their pre-matric scholar-Vastav India Trust duped people ship program 'Chuuloo Aasman', to the tune of over Rs 4 crore the trust was offering the scholon the pretext of selling LED arship of Rs 1,000 per month up bulbs under their 'solar awareto 24 months on their one-time ness programme' and giving predeposit of Rs 3,000 as membership charge. matric scholarships to students in their 'Chuuloo Aasman'

with LED bulbs.

EOW sources said the trust collected approximately Rs 4 crore from more than 3,500 persons. After taking one time membership fees, the trust initially sent Rs 1,000 each to some of the students but did never pay any amount thereafter.

Vatav India Trust used to col-

lect Rs 1,650 in cash from each ap-

plicant as membership fee with

an assurance to supply them

The survey application form

provided by the trust bore the

EOW sources said under the The money so collected fraudsolar awareness programme,

ulently by the trust was misappropriated by the president, secretary, project in-charge and other officials of the trust.

They had appointed block coordinators and other officials in Sundargarh, Bhadrak, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bolangir and Dhenkanal districts.

During investigation, it was found that Rs 10 lakh has been transferred to the account of Nishant Prakash Jaiswal from Vastav India Trust, Rs 11 lakh to the account of his wife, Rs.4.7 lakh to the account of Amar Danish. Many incriminating documents like trust deed of Vastav India Trust, fake money receipts issued to the investors, blank cheques, six ATM cards, visiting card of Vastav India and mobile phones have been seized. Investigation in the case is on, police said.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Odisha has come up with SOPs to meet the challenges of drinking water across the state, especially in villages, before the onset of next year's summer.

The plan of action on preparedness, mitigation and maintenance of hand pump tube wells and Rural Piped Water Supply Projects in districts before the approaching summer, 2024 was taken at a state-level Rural Drinking Water Supply and maintenance workshop and review meeting, Wednesday.

At the meeting, which was chaired by the principal secretary Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department Sushil Kumar Lohani, a review was taken of all 35 Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) divisions in the state.

The district authorities were sensitized about conducting



State gears up to meet drinking water needs

checks on tube wells and PWSs on priority as a part of preventive maintenance.

The routine preventive maintenance shall be done in a mission mode and it should be ensured that the blocks shall procure adequate spare parts, paints, riser pipes by utilizing the Finance Commission grants taking into consideration the indents of Gram Panchayats on the recommendation of JE/AE, RWSS.

Water supply with focus on provision of Tap water supply to all primary schools / Anganwadi centers / rural haats shall lso be ensured.

Regular review and monitoring of the drinking water situ-

ation shall be done by convening weekly review meeting at blocklevel on each Saturday, it was directed.

OP PHOTO

According to the IMIS portal, so far 66 percent rural households have been covered with tap water Connection. Around 9,671 villages have been saturated with cent per cent tap connection.

The state has prepared its saturation Plan for total 47,274 villages to be covered with functional household tap connection. 31, 854 (65%) of the villages are covered with mega piped water supply, 15, 420 (35%) covered with small and solar. Apart from these, 4,79,664 tube wells have also been made available in all

the villages, it was informed. It is worth mentioning that there are 77 water testing labs in the state. Water samples from 2.28 lakh sources and delivery\_ points are tested in laboratories across the state every year.

## Instruments worth ₹60L stolen from Capital Hospital

#### AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Medical instruments worth over Rs 60 lakh have been stolen from the Capital Hospital here Tuesday night. an official said Wednesday.

Some employees and security personnel are suspected to have been involved in it, he said.

## Former CJ Muralidhar to practice law in SC

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 18: Former chief justice of Orissa High Court Justice Dr S Muralidhar is slated to begin practice law before the Supreme Court as he was designated as senior advocate October 16.

The decision to designate retd Justice Muralidhar as senior advocate in the Supreme Court was taken in a full court meeting of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and other judges.

Justice Dr S Muralidhar retired as the chief justice of Orissa High Court August 7.

The Supreme Court collegium had recommended Justice Muralidhar's appointment as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

However, the recommendation was not notified by the Union government following which the collegium had to withdraw the proposal in April this year.

Justice Muralidhar had also been a judge in Delhi High Court and Punjab and Haryana High Court.

He was transferred from Delhi High Court following his observations regarding the Delhi police's actions during 2020 riots.

• apital Hospital Director LD Sahu said CCTV footage revealed that some people wearing dresses similar to Capital Hospital employees taking the instruments in a sack

Capital Hospital Director LD Sahu said some unused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: India's

fastest woman Dutee Chand

Chand made the remark

the legality of same-sex mar-

A five-judge Constitution

bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday

by a majority judgment refused to accord

legal recognition to same-sex marriage

under the Special Marriage Act, rul-

ing that it is within Parliament's ambit

to change the law for validating such

"The Supreme Court has not pre-

vented same-sex persons from staying together. As the country has no such leg-

islation for marriage between same-

sex persons, the SC did not interfere in

ernment and Parliament will certainly

consider the case and make a proper leg-

islation for marriage between same-

sex persons in future," Chand hoped.

vealing that she was in a relationship

with her partner for five years, said

they decided to stay together and got mar-

ried since they loved each other.

Dutee, who had no hesitation in re-

"We are optimistic that the central gov-

come a reality one day.

riage

union.

it." she said

Dutee: Same-sex marriage

and new instruments kept in the lab were stolen by

some people. An FIR has been filed and police are inquiring into the incident. The instruments are meant

for conducting various pathological tests for malaria and dengue. Sahu said. Sahu said CCTV footage

revealed that some people wearing dresses similar to employees taking the instruments in a sack.

will become reality one day She said the marriage between same-sex should not be seen in terms of urbanrural, upper-lower caste, creed or religion. "It is a problem of

> said On her optimism for legal

riage will one day be allowed in the

Meera Parida, a transgender activist affiliated to the ruling BJD, said, "The Supreme Court judgment on same-sex marriage should be viewed positively. The court has no objection on transgenders staying together. Though marriage is not a fundamental right, it, according to me, is something more than that. LGBTQs should get rights to marry in the world's biggest democracy like India.'

ing together for years, one cannot get insurance and pension benefits. The civil society should consider these issues also, she added.

"What is wrong if two adults stay together as partners for life," she asked.

LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit, asexual and ally persons.





humanity and all should get proper rights in life," she

status for same-sex marriage, Dutee said, "Was there any such provision of widow marriage in India? Same-sex mar-

country," she argued.

She explained that even after stay



## **OrissaPOST** THURSDAY | OCTOBER 19 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# downtown

# **Odisha owes its wealth to elephants: Amat**

State government, in partnership with Wildlife Trust of India, launches 'Gaj Utsav' campaign, Wednesday, towards elephant conservation

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: In a significant move towards elephant conservation, the state government, in partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), launched the 'Gaj Utsav' cam-Wednesday paign in Bhubaneswar.

The event witnessed the presence of dignitaries including Forest, Environment & Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat, Sushil Kumar Popli, PCCF and CWLW, Debidutt Biswal, PCCF and HoFF, and Forest, **Environment and Climate** Change Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu among others.

Speaking on this occasion, Amat said, "An overpass, underpass, or bridge in wildlife corridors is essential. Odisha owes its wealth to elephants, with their historical significance



dating back to the elephant army of the Gajapati (erstwhile king of Kalinga) which played a pivotal role in defending our land from intruders. '

Vivek Menon, Founder and ED, Wildlife Trust of India, and Chair Asian Elephant Specialist Group IUCN SSC, said, "WTI welcomes the launch of Gaj Utsav in Odisha that celebrates



and its Right of Passage, at the hands of Minister Amat. We are partnering with the Odisha Forest department to pass on the message of elephant corridors and the need for habitat linkages to the common man.'

The launch ceremony was marked by the unveiling of 6 elephant art pieces handcrafted

by local artisans. This was followed by a symbolic baton handover from Pradip Kumar Amat to Sumit Kar, Dhenkanal DFO. Bijaya Dash, Collective Initiation For Social Solidarity (CISS) NGO and SandeepTiwari, Chief of Conservation, Wildlife Trust of India.

The Public-Private Partnership will take forward the vision of bringing the Gajah (elephant) to the Prajah (public) through the elephant districts of the state.

of engaging activities including cultural performances, a cycle rally, origami and storytelling workshops for

The event showcased a series has been creating a significant impact across elephant range states in India.

students and informative ses sions, all designed to highlight the importance of protecting these magnificent creatures and their habitats

Gaj Utsav is a visionary campaign by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) with a mission to raise awareness about safeguarding the future of India's National Heritage Animal, while also advocating for their essential Right of Passage. Since its inception in 2018, this campaign



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Tribaldominated Mayurbhanj district got three of the four pairs of trains that were recently approved by the Indian Railways in the South Eastern Railway jurisdiction, officials said Wednesday.

The new trains are: Kolkata (Shalimar)-Badampahar-Kolkata (Shalimar) Weekly Express, Badampahar-Rourkela-

Badampahar Weekly Express, Rourkela-Tatanagar-Rourkela (6 days a week) and Tatanagar-Badampahar-Tatanagar (6 days a week).

'This is for the first time that Tata-Badampahar route will have Mail/Express train connectivity," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a statement issued by the ECoR.

President Droupadi Murmu's native place Rairangpur and Badampahad in Mayurbhanj district will now get mail or express train, they said.

Vaishnaw said it was a longpending demand of the people of the area. He added that the new train will fulfill the aspirations of local people, boost the local economy, help development of the tribal area and provide additional connectivity to the aspirational districts. These trains will be introduced soon, the minister said.

Shalimar (Kolkata) Badampahar-Shalimar (Kolkata) Weekly Express will leave Shalimar at 11:05pm every Saturday and reach Badampahar at 05.40am the next day. While returning, Badampahar-Shalimar Express will leave Badampahar at 9:30pm every Sunday and will arrive at Shalimar at 5am the next day.

The train will stop at Santragachi, Kharagpur, Jhargram, Ghatsila, Asanboni, Tatanagar, Bahalda Road, Aunlaiori and Rairangpur.

Badampahar-Rourkeka-Badampahar Weekly Express will leave Badampahar at 6:10am every Sunday and will reach Rourkela at 11:40am. While returning, Rourkela-Badampahar Express will leave Rourkela at 2:20pm every Sunday and will arrive at Badampahar at 7:25pm.

The train will stop at Rairangpur, Aunlajori, Bahalda Road, Tatanagar, Sini, Rajkharswan, Chakradharpur, Goilkera and Manoharpur.

Rourkela-Tatanagar-Rourkela (6 days a week) train will leave Rourkela at 4:50am daily except Sundays and will reach Tatanagar at 9:15am. In its return journey, it will leave Tatanagar at 3:25pm daily except Sundays and will arrive at Rourkela at 7:35pm. The train will stop at Bisra, Manoharpur, Chakradharpur, Sini and Adityapur.

Tatanagar-Badampahar-Tatanagar (6 days a week) train will leave Tatanagar at 9:55am daily except Sundays and will reach Badampahar at 12:15pm. In the return direction, the train will leave Badampahar at 12:45pm except Sundays and will arrive at Tatanagar at 3:20pm.

The train will stop at Haludpukur, Aunlajori, Rairangpur, Kuldiha and Chhanva, the ECoR said in an official release.

## State BJP seeks Gajapati's help

Bhubaneswar: A delegation of Odisha BJP led by its former president Samir Mohanty Wednesday met Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb demanding reopening of Lord Jagannath temple's Ratna Bhandar (treasury). The delegation comprising Puri MLA Jayant Sarangi, Bramhagiri MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra and senior advocate and leader Pitambar Acharya met the titular king of Puri here at the latter's residence. The party said the Ratna Bhandar was opened for inventory 45 years ago in 1978. Though Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1955 has provisioned the opening of the temple's treasury for inventory every three years, the BJD government has ignored it. During its 24-year tenure, the BJD government always avoided inventory of the treasury. This has led to suspicion and public outcry among Lord Jagannath devotees across the country, they alleged

## **Refurbished HC** dispensary opens

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 18: A refurbished High Court dispensary was inaugurated by acting Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi in the presence of the companion judges of the HC.

Although the health facility, equipped with basic healthcare facilities including free medicines, was functioning with allopathic, homoeopathic and physiotherapy treatment facilities, space constraint has always been an obstacle to the smooth running of the dispensary. So. Justice Sarangi and other judges thought to it revamp it to facilitate better healthcare services.

The dispensary is refurbished with adequate space and additional facilities for the patients. The refurbished HC dispensary now includes upgraded physiotherapy and homoeopathic unit along with patho lab facility, lactation room and a crèche for babies.

## Millet seed display unit unveiled in City

Bhubaneswar: As the world celebrates "International Year of Millets", Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain and ST&SC **Development, Minorities &** Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka Tuesday inaugurated a millet seed display unit here. Director ST and SCSTRTI, ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department Indramani Tripathy presided over the inaugural ceremony. SCSTRTI and Odisha Millet Mission have collaborated to establish the millet seed display unit at the State Tribal Museum. The initiative aims to create public awareness about the diverse millet landraces cultivated across the state. The unit is showcasing 50 different varieties of millets that are cultivated in various regions of Odisha.



GO GREEN: Students of SAI International Residential School, Cuttack called on Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra, Wednesday, to showcase their initiatives for an eco-friendly Durga Puja. During their visit, the students emphasised on embracing biodegradable decorations, eco-friendly artisanal idols and eliminating plastic from the festivities OP PHOTO

## SOA & NIT-Warangal sign MoU

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here with National Institute of Technology, Warangal (NIT-W) for collaborative research and creation of new knowledge to enhance the availability of highly qualified manpower in different areas of engineering and technology, science and allied areas in the country. As per the agreement, both institutions shall encourage interactions between their respective research fellows, faculty members, scientists and students through exchange of personnel for limited periods for research, organize conferences and seminars and both SOA and NIT-W shall allow students from the other institution to do



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organise 'National Mining and Construction Equipment Summit' here Thursday.

The programme is aimed at oringing together manufacturers of heavy equipment including material handling, building engineering, crushing and screening, mining companies including PSUs, private mine operators, spares and component manufacturers, retailers and distributors. Defence and government departments, downstream sectors and partner industries. Briefing the media, Industries department principal secretary Hemant Sharma highlighted the significant technological advancements in the mining sector and Odisha's position as the second-largest state in terms of project constructions.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: A building of the newly established Odisha University of Health Sciences (OUHS) in Ekamra Kshetra here was unveiled by Health Minister Niranjan Pujari Wednesday



internship in its organisation. The MoU was signed by SOA Vice-Chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda and NIT-W Director Bidyadhar Subudhi.

SOA and NIT-W, the MoU says, shall make provision for sharing their respective research, publications and development facilities to promote academic and research interaction, permit exchange of software, other material and components developed in-house in the areas of cooperation and provide access to library facilities to scientists, faculty and students

The event took place in presence of OUHS Vice Chancellor Datteswar Hota, Health & Family Welfare Commission- cum Secretary Shalini Pandit, Finance department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, **Higher Education department** Commissioner- cum- Secretary Aravind Agrawal, and Registrar Saidutta Biplab Kumar Pradhan.

On the occasion, the Minister inaugurated the e-Office developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bhubaneswar to ease the dayto-day functioning of the University.

Odisha University of Health Sciences Act was passed in 2021, and was established March 5, 2003 on the eve of Panchayatiraj Divas. It started its operation in the Ekamra Kshetra at Sishu Bhawan Square in 2022. The University has been established with an objective to streamline the medical and allied health science courses in the state.

From 2023-24 academic ses sions, courses like MBBS, MD, MS, DM, MCh, BDS, MDS, BAMS, BHMS, B.Sc Nursing, M.Sc Nursing, BPT, MPT, BMLT, BMRT, BEMT, BOTT, BAT, BO, BOT, MOT, B. Pharm and M. Pharm will be offered in the affiliated colleges. The courses will be governed under the regulations prescribed by OUHS.

# Donate timber for car fest: RDC

## **CLASSIFIED**

#### AFFIDAVIT

I, Priyabai Agrawalla, W/o Deepak Kumar Sonthalia, residing at Ramchandrapur Bazaar, P.O./P.S.- Jatni, Dist.-Khordha, PIN-752050, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 627 Dtd. 08.10.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Priya Sonthalia for all future purposes.

AGENCIES

Puri. Oct 18: Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) (Central Division) Suresh Chandra Dalai has appealed to the devotees to donate mature Phasi, Asan and Dhaura timber for construction of chariots of Lord Jagannath and His siblings, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, for the annual Rath Yatra in Puri.

These tree species are becoming scarce and 865 pieces of timber are required for construction of three majestic chariots, it was learnt.

Dalai also appealed to devotees to donate sandalwood required



for the day-to-day rituals of the deities of Srimandir. The RDC was assessing the

availability of the timbers in the meeting of Forest officials of various districts recently.

He asked the officials to prepare a database of trees planted in various parts of the state

under the Shree Jagannath Bana Prakalp, a mega project initiated by the state government three decades ago to meet the shortages of these tree species.

The RDC directed the Forest officers to cooperate with donors by simplifying the process of cutting and transportation by

the individuals who intends to donate Phasi, Asan, Dhaura and sandalwood trees for the presiding deities of Srimandir.

Dalai said the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) felicitates those who donate the required tree species for construction of the chariots and emphasised that there is a need to spread this message among all devotees to get a good response.

Puri Collector Samarth Verma, SJTA administrator (rituals) Jitendra Kumar Sahu and Divisional Forest Officers of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Boudh and Ghumusar had participated in the meeting.

## **CLASSES FOR FIRST BATCH** OF ITEP BEGIN AT IIT-BH



Bhubaneswar: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, as part of its new ini tiative towards creating outstanding teachers and add value to the education system of India, has introduced a four-year BSc-BEd Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) from 2023-24 academic year. The classes for the first batch of 50 students from different states of India commenced from October 17, 2023. The students were selected through National Common Entrance Test (NCET) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). IIT-Bhubaneswar and IIT-Kharagpur started the program this year. The institute has offered the Bachelor of Science (BSc) with Bachelor of Education (BEd) in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Economics. Students enrolled in this program will complete their studies within a condensed timeframe of four years, unlike the conventional five-year duration mandated by the current BEd curriculum.

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# state

# 2 held for smuggling snakes Sarada courts controversy

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Raibania, Oct 18: The **Railway Protection Force** (RPF) personnel busted a racket smuggling live snakes and snake venom as it arrested two persons after seizure of four poisonous snakes from their possession at Jaleswar Railway Station in Balasore district. Wednesday.

The accused were identified as Shankar Laik, 47, and Manik Laik, 35; both Station, Wednesday afresidents of Haricharan ternoon. Smelling something fishy, he directed an village under Dabra police limits in West ASI to question and Midnapore district of frisk them. neighbouring West Bengal. After their arrest, RPF poisonous snakes kept in four bamboo baskets were personnel handed them over in the custody of seized from their posses-Forest department. Later, sion. The seized snakes the Forest personnel regwere handed over to forest istered a case and proranger Jayshree Murmu of duced them in the court. Jaleswar forest range. They were remanded to judicial custody after the magistrate rejected their

bail pleas The breakthrough came when Rupsa RPFO C Kundan Kumar spotted two persons loitering suspiciously on Platform No-1 of Jaleswar Railway



During verification, four

lack of stringent action by police and law enforcement agencies.

Two months back, Forest department officials rescued as many as 26 cobras and arrested three persons of an alleged interstate snake venom smuggling racket from Panchupali area in Balasore district, August 16. The trio allegedly supplied snakes to West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Sources said that the members of the racket used to extract venom from snakes that were caught from different locations in the state. The extracted venom was then sold at very high prices. Two years ago, police in Deogarh district had busted a racket selling snake venom worth

around ₹1.5 crore. Sources said cobra Reports said that smugvenom per gram is sold at ₹5,000 to ₹25,000 dependgling of snake venom and poisonous snakes from the ing on its quality. The venom is used to produce state has refused to abate despite crackdown by the anti-venom medicines for police and Forest officials. snake bites and several Racketeers continue to other life-threatening distransport snakes and veneases. Even it is used to produce illegal drugs, oms illegally outside the state with impunity due to sources said.

#### MINISTER DRAWS FLAK AFTER VIRAL VIDEOS SHOW THE ROURKELA MLA SHOWERING MONEY ON SINGER. DRAWING BLOOD FROM DONOR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela/Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Minister Sarada Prasad Nayak courted controversy by drawing blood from a volunteer at a blood donation camp and also showering money on a singer at a Qawwali programme in Sundargarh district.

Navak, the Minister of Labour and ESI. was seen in viral videos showering money on a singer and drawing blood from a man in separate incidents.

Though a nurse was standing at the blood donation camp held at the Rourkela Government Hospital October

In another video, Nayak was seen throwing currency notes during a music programme organised at a hotel

in Sundargarh district Tuesday. 'The renowned Qawwali singer was singing the glory of the country and the audience wanted to honour him. They requested me as a public representative to honour the singer. I offered him some cash which is purely from my hard-earned money. It is unfortunate that the matter has been portraved in a bad light," he said.

The BJD leader was also seen dancing on the stage. On this, Nayak said, "I can put steps in dance numbers since my student days. It was a festive occasion. The people requested me to dance and I just kept one or two steps to the wishes of the people. I am a conscious citizen and I am fully aware of my actions which are not intended to do any harm to society."

Navak's political opponents, however, are not ready to buy his explanations.

Sundargarh's BJP MLA Kusum Tete said, "It is said that such incident of showering money during Qawwali programmes is common. But if the minister has showered money, it shows that he has no dearth of money. He should offer money to people who are starving.

Stating that people consider money as a form of Goddess Laxmi, Tete wondered what message he is giving to the society.

Local Congress leader Biren Senapati said, "The minister considers that bad publicity is better than no publicity. So, in order to remain in the limelight, Navak is doing all such acts.

Sale Notice

## Vig nabs JE over DA

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday unearthed movable and immovable properties worth crores of rupees from the possession of a junior engineer (JE) in Angul district.

The Vigilance officials have unearthed five buildings including three multi-storied buildings and one flat in Bhubaneswar, 17 plots, deposits over ₹51 lakhs, ₹3.21 lakhs in cash along with other assets during searches on properties linked to Prasanna Kumar Pani



Pani was working as the junior engineer (technical consultant), Samagra Sikhya Abhijana, in the office of Pallahara BEO in Angul district.

On the allegation of possession of disproportionate assets (DA) by Prasanna Kumar Pani, si multaneous house searches were being conducted by Vigilance officials led by six DSPs, six inspectors and other staff at nine places in Khurda (Bhubaneswar), Angul and Puri districts.

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Puri -1

16, Nayak used a needle and drew blood

Questions were raised from vari-

ous quarters about how the minister.

who is the MLA of Rourkela, could

Nayak, however, defended his ac-

tion while talking to reporters

Wednesday after the videos went viral.

blood and I respected his wishes

with the help of a nurse. During the

Covid-19 pandemic, when people

were afraid to come outside, I worked

with the health workers for 24 hours,'

"The donor requested me to draw

draw blood at a camp without any

from the donor.

experience.

he said



## 2 arrested for gangrape, murder

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Oct 18: Police Wednesday arrested two persons on charge of brutal gangrape and murder of a widow to destroy evidence at Field Sahi in Aharpada village under this police limit in Keonjhar district.

The accused were identified as Lepa Munda, 46, and Rabindra Munda, 43; both residents of the area. Both the accused have confessed to their crime during interrogation, Patana police station IIC Deepti Ranjan Sahu said.

A case was registered in this connection and medical Field Sahi in Aharpada to II examinations were con-



ducted on the accused before producing them in the court, the IIC said The incident occurred when the woman, mother to of six children, had gone to id

1972, the officer said. In all, 32

crocodiles have died in the park

In 1975, the Ministry of Forest

and Environment in collabora-

tion with the UNDP had started a

crocodile breeding and rearing

project in Dangamala within

Bhitarkanika. According to the

latest reptile census report, the

park is now home to 1,793 saltwa-

Meanwhile, a 5.3-foot-long female saltwater crocodile was res-

cued by forest personnel Wednesday from a pond in Bankuala village located near the

Gahirmatha marine sanctuary

ranger Manas Kumar Das said

the crocodile was rescued from

in the pond and informed the for-

est personnel of Bhitarkanika

Behera rushed to the spot, managed

to rescue the reptile and later re-

leased it in Bhitarkanika river,

The locals spotted the reptile

A forest team led by Jasobanta

the pond of one Sumitra Rout.

Bhitarkanika National Park.

ter crocodiles.

National Park.

over the last decade, he said.

Saltwater croc carcass found in Bhitarkanika

IN ANOTHER INCIDENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK LIMITS, A LIVE CROC WAS **RESCUED AND LATER RELEASED IN RIVER** 

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 18: The carcass of a seven-foot-long female saltwater crocodile was seen floating on Patasala river near Ghadiamala village within Bhitarkanika National Park limits in Kendrapara district Wednesday, forest officials said.



Forest officials retrieved the carcass from the water. "We have sent it to the veterinary hospital at Rajnagar for autopsy. Once we get the report, the reason for its death will be known," said Manas Das, the park's forest range officer.

Saltwater crocodiles are covered under the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act,

## Man gets life term for murder

#### PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Oct 18: A court in Mayurbhanj district sentenced a man to life imprisonment Wednesday for killing his elderly aunt.

The Rairangpur additional district and sessions judge Deepak Kumar Wednesday also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on the accused Dhruba Kalandi.

The judgement was based on the statements of 18 witnesses and a medical report, said additional public prosecutor Pankaj Kumar Das. Due to a land dispute, Dhruba killed his aunt Raimani Kalandi (65) on the spot using a sword in the village Chamundadihi in Mayurbhanj district

Das said.

March 16, 2019. In a separate case, a court in Kalahandi district sentenced an inter-state drug peddler to 20 years rigorous imprisonment in a drugs case. The district and sessions judge, Kalahandi, Dipti Ranjan Kanungo also ordered the drug peddler Mainuddin of Uttar Pradesh to pay a fine of ₹2 lakh, said special public prosecutor Jitendra Mohanty.

On March 23, 2018, Bhawanipatna police intercepted a truck loaded with 3,894 kg of contraband ganja at Madingpadar Chhak of Kalahandi district.

The below declaration of which has been taken as described in column (4) by the Authorised officer of The Puri Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Puri, will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and " Whatever there is" as per the details mentioned below. Notice is hereby given to Borrower / Mortgage (s) / legal heirs legal representatives (whether known or unknown) executor (s), administrator (s) successor (s) and assign (s) of the respective Borrowers (s) / Mortgagor (s) (Since deceased) as the indicated in Column (4). Column (1) under Rule 8 (6) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

E-Auction Sale Notice (Sale through e-bidding only) email- puriucb.ltd@gmail.com, Phone No. 06752 223309 Auction Office Mob :- 94383 63401

**E-Auction Sale Notice** 

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security iterest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and / Guarantor (s) indicated in Colum (1) that the below described immovable property (ties) described in column (3) Mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor the constructive /

Name (s) of Borrowers / Mortgager (s) Guarantors / Legal Heirs and legal Representatives (whethers known or unknown) Executors (s) Administrators (S) Successor (S) and Assigns (s) of the respective Borrowers (s) / Mortgagors (s) Guarantor (S) (Since deceased) as the case may be	Outstanding Dues to be recovered (Secured Dupt) Rs.	Description of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset	Type of Possession	Date & Time of Inspection	Reserve Price (Rs)	Last date of Submission of bids	Earnest Money deposit	Bid Incremental Rate	Date of Auction and time
<ol> <li>Subbalaxmi Samartha</li> <li>Bhagyalaxmi Samartha</li> <li>Swadip Samartha C/o         <ul> <li>Late Harihara Samartha</li> <li>Address – Markandeswar</li> <li>Sahi, Near Bhawani Club</li> <li>Puri</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Rs.38,07,835.00 as on 24.04.2023	In the Name of Nilakantha Raut S/o. Lt Rama Ch. Rout Plot No. 25 Mouza Baseli Sahi Khata No. 29 Area A0.017	Physical Possession	18.10.2023 From 11 AM to 3 PM	Rs. 25,80,000.00	02.11.2023	10% of the Bid Rs.258000/-	Rs 10,000.00	03.11.2023 From 11 AM to 03 PM

• Together with further interest @ 18% p.a as applicable, incidental expenses, costs charges etc incurred up to the date of payment and / or realization thereof.

In Respect of the Property at Serial No. 1 the outstanding due to the Builder / society or any other statutory /electricity /water/property tax other dues has to be cleared /paid by the successful purchasers /bidders and The Puri Urban co-operative Bank Ltd will not be liability to make any payment whatsoever.

Matrex Net Pvt Ltd would be assisting the authorised officer in conducting the auction through an e-bidding process. For any assistance related to inspection of the property or for obtaining the Bid documents and for any other queries, please get in touch with Matex Net Pvt Ltd, Mr Rakesh Nayak Mob: 9500173312 email:- (solution@matexnet.com) Mr. Vijay (Mobile : 72005 38774) and (solutions@ matexnet.com) Mr. Raju S (Mobile : 91507 57333 ) and raju.s@matexnet.com )

Authorised officer The Puri Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Puri Sri Kanhu Charan Dash Mob:- 9438363401

The Bid Document can be collected/ obtained from the Authrised officer of The Puri Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd having his officer at Kacheri Road, Puri-1 Odisha

The secured asset is being sold on "As is where is" and "As is what is" basis

To the best of knowledge and Information of the Authorised officer of The Puri Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, there are no encumbrances in respect of the above immovable properties / Secured Assets.

Dated 13.10.2023 Place : Puri

Sd/-**Authorised Officer** 

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

#### POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India **BOI** Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers/guarantors in the loan account giver below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Haripur Branch for the amount stated below with interest thereon

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

HARIPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)			
Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Pratima Swain, W/o-Manmohan Swain, 2) Mr. Manmohan Swain, S/o- Gurunath Swain, Both are At: Nimai Malla, PO: Dibyasinghapur, PS: Banpur, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752031.	+ interest &	/ 17 10 2023	All that piece & parcel of the property consisting of Land/Land & Building situated over Survey/Khata No.: 261/50, Plot No.: 1310, Area: Ac.0.132dec., Kisam: Gharabari at Mouza: Nimai Malla, PS: Banpur, SRO:
			d Dist.: Khurda, standing in the name of <b>Mrs. Pratima</b> hari Behera, West: Indramani Behera & Khali Behera.
Date: 18.10.2023 Place: Bhubaneswar			Authorized Officer, Bank of India

appointment of Regular Handling Contractor for handling of FP Cotton Bales & allied service etc. at CW-Kendupalli-I, Kendupalli-II and CW-Bargarh & appointment of Regular Transport contractor for transportation of FP Cotton Bales at CW- Kendupalli-I, Kendupalli-II and CW-Bargarh in the state of Odisha under Patna Region. The Tender will be available online for sale w.e.f. 18.10.2023 to 07.11.2023 up to 23:59 hrs. The details may be seen and downloaded from CWCs website www.cewacor.nic.in and www.cwceprocure.com. This may also be seen at www.tenderhome.com. Further update, if any shall be notified on website only.

#### **Regional Manager**



Annexure A

The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (DBS Bank India Ltd) DBS Bank Centre, First Floor No. 4, Sardar Patel Road Guindy, Chennai - 600 032

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of general public that The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited has ceased to function as a Participant of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) as its Participantship has been surrendered. The certificate of registration granted to The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited has been cancelled by the Securities and Exchange Board of India with effect from 08.08.2023. Henceforth, The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited shall not carry on any activity as a Participant of NSDL.

In case any Client of The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited has any grievance or dispute in respect of the depository services rendered by The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited while it was functioning as a Participant of NSDL, he/she/it may report the same in writing to "The Officer Incharge", Investor Relationship Cell, National Securities Depository Limited, 4th Floor, 'A' Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai 400013, within 30 days of publication of this notice or email at relations@nsdl.co.in. No grievances/ claims/ disputes etc. will be entertained after this date.

For The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited

-signed-Meeta Desai

**Compliance Officer** 

Kindly note - The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited has been amalgamated with DBS Bank India Ltd. For details on Demat services offered by DBS Bank India Ltd please visit

https://www.dbs.com/in/treasures/investments/product-suite/demat









# power post

#### FOCUS PENSION

A God who cannot smile, could not have created this humorous universe.

SRI AUROBINDO

# **Growing Hunger**

mong the multiple crises that have erupted around the world, the avoidable tragedy of growing hunger receives only fleeting mention. And any attention that it does attract is apparently not enough to prompt global policymakers to act.

Yet a new report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations makes for grim reading. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023, an estimated 42% of the world's population – more than 3.1 billion people – were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. Moreover, global hunger is still far above pre-pandemic levels, with around 122 million more people facing food insecurity in 2022 than in 2019, and is on the rise throughout Africa, Western Asia, and the Caribbean, owing partly to higher prices.

At the national level, a worrying pattern can be seen: the countries with the largest increases in food insecurity are also those engulfed in debt crises and experiencing the severest effects of climate change.

Hunger reflects the interplay between food supply, purchasing power, and prices. Supply depends on domestic production, which can be affected by extreme weather and conflict, and on a country's ability to import foodstuffs, which can be undermined by high transport costs and foreign-exchange constraints. The pur-

chasing power of households and individuals is determined by the availability of income-earning opportunities; money wages and earnings from self-employment relative to food prices; and the extent of social protection, for example through public provision of essential items. Food prices, meanwhile, are driven largely by national and international trade patterns.

But, as I argued earlier this year, now there is a growing awareness of the concentration of power in agribusiness and the ability of the sector's behemoths to influence global food prices. In addition, speculative activity in commodity futures markets can affect food prices in spot markets.

Both factors were addressed in detail in the Trade and Development Report 2023, published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which confirms that "corporate profits from financial operations appear to be strongly linked to periods of excessive speculation in commodities markets and to the growth of shadow banking." The report goes on to recognise that "during periods of heightened price volatility, certain major food trading companies gain amplified profits in the financial markets.

Speculative activity is short-lived by nature. Thus, the sharp spike in global food prices (particularly for wheat) that began in late 2021, during the run-up to the Ukraine war, peaked in May 2022 and then dropped off just as quickly. Wheat prices in August 2023, for example, were well below their August 2021 levels.

This should have made life easier for food-importing countries. And it could be argued that short-lived surges in food prices can be ignored because they are short-term fluctuations. But in many countries, domestic food prices have remained high or continued to rise even as global prices fell. This is not new. Something similar happened in the wake of the global food crisis of 2007-08, when prices in many low- and middle-income countries increased even after global food prices had declined significantly

Much of the problem can be traced to the ability to import food. The period from early 2022 onward was marked by multiple cascading shocks that hit several food-importing countries particularly hard: the end of the moratorium on sovereign-debt repayment; the shift to tighter monetary policies and higher interest rates in advanced economies, which led to capital flight from developing economies; and upward pressure on import bills from higher energy prices. Most of all, unsustainable external debt burdens and the insistence on repayment have made it difficult to sustain essential imports. Taken together, these factors have led to steep currency devaluations, making the local price of imported food that much higher. The FAO has identified ten countries where food prices rose well above global trends in the period leading up to mid-September 2023: Argentina, Ecuador, Ghana, Malawi, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. All have severe sovereign-debt problems and acute foreign-exchange shortages. Apart from Ecuador (owing to its dollarised economy), these countries have also experienced large currency depreciations since the start of 2022, ranging from 24% for Zambia to a whopping 344% for Argentina, according to my calculations using the CEIC database. Economic mismanagement is only partly to blame. Instead, large swings in cross-border capital flows, as a result of macroeconomic policies in the world's major economies, are likely having a larger impact. This implies that trying to control financial activity in global commodities markets, while necessary, is not enough to combat hunger. Policymakers will need to revisit other means of food-price stabilisation, such as national agrarian policies and international trade regimes that - soil and climate permitting - ensure domestic or regional selfsufficiency in staple food items. Building up buffer stocks of grain to sustain domestic and regional supply is once again a salient issue and should be seriously considered. (The United States uses strategic oil reserves to manage fuel prices, but food is no less crucial for most countries.) In addition to emergency reserves, social protection to prevent food insecurity will also be essential. That means policymakers must focus more on public investment. while also incentivising the private sector to invest in sustainable smallholder agriculture. Establishing a publicly administered virtual reserve mechanism, with the possibility of direct government intervention in physical and financial markets, could also help countries cope with global price fluctuations. This would involve small amounts of decentralised physical reserves, coupled with a financial fund to intervene in futures markets against price spikes or dips. In financialised commodity markets, as in currency markets, public intervention could even help market participants recognise the real fundamentals. Low- and middle-income countries must also consider how to manage short-term capital flows, particularly to prevent them from destabilising domestic food prices. The fight against global hunger requires policymakers to understand and address its root causes. Regulating financial activity in volatile commodities markets is only one of the necessary institutional changes. Withstanding price fluctuations will also require helping countries and regions build up reserves of essential food items.

Jayati Ghosh

The countries with the largest increases in food insecurity are also those engulfed in debt crises and experiencing the severest effects of climate change

# LACKING WILL, NOT FUNDS

The increase in the number of senior citizens in India has been rapid -24.7 million in 1961; 104 million in 2011: 138 million (preliminary estimate) in 2021 and a projected 194 million for 2031 with the percentage share in total population in these years being 5.6, 8.6, 10.1 and 13.1 respectively - whereas the government's support for old age social security has not been moving in tandem; rather, it is tangibly on the wane.

The new pension scheme for its employees, inferior to the existing one, is a case in point. More disturbing is the denial due to some flimsy objections, of the higher pension right to a large number of employees already covered under the **Employees' Provident Fund** (EPF) scheme, not to speak of the total exclusion of a category of employees recruited after 1 September 2014. The grounds, as we will see later in this article, though technically accurate and perfectly legal are nothing but devices to deny the higher pension, an afterthought of the government to withdraw what was introduced with so much enthusiasm in 1996.

PSM Rao

**GOVERNMENT'S** 

**OLD AGE SOCIAL** 

**SUPPORT FOR** 

**SECURITY HAS** 

**NOT BEEN** 

**MOVING IN** 

**RATHER, IT IS** 

**TANGIBLY ON** 

THE WANE

TANDEM;

THE

A quick review of the scheme first. The EPF, the Old Age Social Security Scheme for providing provident fund to workers in factories and other establishments, was introduced in 1951 through a presidential ordinance, which itself speaks of the urgency the government of the day felt for the workers' welfare: the ordinance was converted later into a central enactment in 1952.

The employees' pension scheme was added in 1995 with a modest pension benefit engineered through a ceiling on pensionable salary. It was ₹5,000 when the pension scheme came into force and remained till 2001 when it was hiked to ₹6,500 and to ₹15,000 from September 2014. These were the sums on which both the PF contributions were made and the pension calcu-



There will never be a cash problem for allowing higher pension because more funds will be accruing year after year, much more than the need

lated. For instance, a person who has completed the full pensionable service, say, 35 years, and had paid during the service time the requisite contribution together with her or his employer on the statutory wages of ₹5,000 would get the pension of ₹2,500 as per the pension formula: Pension= Pensionable Service X Pensionable Salary/70. The pensionable salary means the salary on which the contribution is paid which is the statutory ceiling of ₹5,000 or less if the actual salary is still lower than the ceiling. The subsequent increased ceilings of ₹6,500 and ₹15,000 entail a maximum pension of half these sums. This, the ceiling, is exactly the reason why those with high salaries maybe even with more than a lakh rupees get paltry pension sums like ₹1,500 a month.

Since the pension sum was too insignificant, disproportionately lower than the last drawn salary, the government brought a change effective 16 March 1996 allowing the EPF contribution on the actual salary above the ceiling like ₹5,000, etc. which facilitated the higher pension proportionate to actual salary instead of ceiling amounts.

In response, a large number of employees and employers

made higher contributions to receive higher pension. But that was denied when it became due on the ground that they did not file their options for a higher pension although they had paid extra money. This led to the employees waging a long legal battle in different high courts, Delhi, Rajasthan Kerala, and finally to the Supreme Court. The 3-judge bench of the SC gave its judgement on 4 November 2022.

Unfortunately, the ordeal of senior citizens continues with the impractical eligibility conditions of the government. Paying the higher contributions alone is not sufficient for EPFO but it should be backed by the exercise of the option for higher pension within the timeframe and style it wanted; the very payment of higher sums itself is not accepted as proof enough for the employee's intent for higher benefits including pension accruing out of it!

While the SC gave its verdict on 4 November 2022 the process is continuing and the EPFO has recently extended time till the year-end for employers to submit their part of information on higher pension applications; some 17.5 lakh persons applied. All this suggests that the gov-

ernment has found the higher pension scheme not feasible

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

# Numbers that don't add up

ventions of humans. I find numbers fascinating as the basic rules of the number system are simple, yet robust. If we have a group of numbers, say 2, 3 and 4, it doesn't matter in what order we add them, i.e., 2 and 3 first and then 4, or in any other order, the result is still the same. Although the number system is wonderful and useful, we sometimes use numbers in a manner that was probably not intended by those that created the number system. In doing so, we get ambiguous and unclear outcomes. Let me explain. The simplest type of numbers is those that are used for counting. We can perform simple mathematical operations on these numbers. But we also use numbers to rate and rank people and objects. A gymnast gets rated by a panel of judges on a scale of 1 to 10. How do we interpret the ratings? If one gymnast is rated 8, while another is rated 4, is the first gymnast twice as good as the second? The numbers used in rating cannot be used in the same way as simple numbers. The rating value is an opinion of the judge converted into a numerical scale

of the more remarkable in- tem rules do not apply. We are obsessed with rating

The number system is one to which normal number sys-of the more remarkable in- tem rules do not apply. from curiosity and learning to ward exceptional performers. Noted psychologist Edward Deci of her. Can we expect this child

has shown that even positive re-

and wants to minimise the burden to the extent possible. In fact, the higher pension scheme has been totally withdrawn for post-September 2014 recruitees.

The non-feasibility argument of the government is based on its actuarial evaluations. But, the available data and the need for old-age security and common sense suggest that it is not at all difficult to implement since the pension is contribution-based and higher pension is higher contribution-based.

The latest available EPFO data show that the accumulation in 2021-22 pension corpus is ₹57,526.18 crore and interest in one year on the accumulated corpus is ₹50,613.95 crore. Add to this, the unclaimed funds, which it calls the deposits in inoperative ac counts, is more than ₹30,000 crore. The accumulated corpus is ₹689,210.72 core. Against this heavy amount, pension payment in one year to 72.74 lakh pensioners is just ₹12,933.12 crore. Together withdrawal benefit of another ₹7,989.01 the total payout in a year is ₹20,922.14 crore, that is, 19.34% of the annual receipts into the pension fund

So, there will never be a cash problem for allowing higher pension because more funds will be accruing year after year, much more than the need; EPFO already has a member base of 7.74 crore and the number will keep increasing in the expanding economy. Even assuming, though most unlikely, that some shortfall ever occurs, it will be the duty of the government to come to aid of EPFO to meet its social obligation.

So, the dearth is not of money but of the will; a decent EPF pension equal to half the last drawn salary can be given to all the members, to ensure their dignified life after retirement.

The writer is a development economist and commentator on economic and social affairs.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### WISDOM CORNER

- Perhaps it is our imperfections that make us so perfect for one JANE AUSTEN
- I suspect the truth is that we are waiting, all of us, against insurmountable odds, for something extraordinary to happen to us. KHALED HOSSEINI
- Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and LEONARDO DA VINC never regrets.



**HAVE ON** 

INDIVIDUALS

everything. We witness a proliferation of reality shows with competitions comparing abilities such as singing versus dancing which cannot have a common basis for comparison. We use arbitrary scoring scales to determine who is number one and number two in any, and every, field. In fact, the most recent addition is the acronym GOAT. which stands for "Greatest Of All Time." And how do we determine who the GOAT is? We poll people. Unfortunately, we poll people from the present population who have had no direct exposure of the past experts in the same field. But that does not deter us. We still go ahead and rate people and anoint one person as GOAT. Well, so much for that.

There is a bigger problem. We completely ignore the negative psychological impact ratings have on individuals. We rate students in schools and colleges. We rate people at work. These ratings do more harm than good. Let us consider a young toddler in school. She is curious and is a sponge for learning. Now we introduce a grading system. From this point on, her focus shifts

to contribute creatively to society?

What does the grade or mark earned by the child represent? In the words of the famous management guru, Dr WE Deming, "A grade is only somebody's (e.g., teacher's) assessment of a pupil's achievement on some arbitrary scale." I had an interesting experience when I had volunteered to talk to a group of 5-8-yearolds in a school in Flint, Michigan about engineering as a career option. I told them about the interesting things engineers can do. I could see the bright gleam in their eyes when I spoke. The same afternoon I was teaching a class in my college. It was depressing to see the apathy and lack of interest in the students. Somewhere between the ages of 5-8 and 18, the system had effectively managed to kill any interest that the child had. The focus had shifted from learning to finding ways to get a better grade by any means, including

We continue the ill-conceived practice of rating at workplace. The practice of annual appraisals is meant to distinguish and re-

inforcement in the form of rewards can have the effect of killing intrinsic motivation in an individual. The focus changes from the joy of enjoying a task to the reward. Moreover, the entire process of assessment, including the more recent developments such as 360 degree review, is subjective. There are more losers than winners, which does not bode well for the company morale.

What is the purpose of assessment, whether in school, college, or workplace? If the purpose is to improve learning and performance, then how does rating help achieve this objective? If our aim is to get students and workers to do better, would it not be more effective to provide more explanatory feedback which would give them specific corrective actions to take? The need of the hour is teamwork, not competition. There is enough competition in the outside world. Apart from the human cost of rating and ranking people these numbers just do not add up.

> The writer is a Professor of Engineering. ©INFA



#### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are (0) 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

#### No longer minnows

Sir, Afghanistan cricket team can no longer be called 'minnows' of the game, as they have proved this fact in no small measure when they defeated the mighty England in a resounding manner in the ongoing ODI World Cup. For a country sharply divided along ethnic lines, Afghanistan cricket team has been a unifier. It has lived up to the flattery, taking giant strides in the game since 2008. Ironically, in a sense, war in Afghanistan has contributed to the rise of cricket there. Forced out of homes, players of the likes of Mohammad Nabi and former captain Nowraz Mangal had honed their skills at refugee camps across the border in Peshawar. In fact, many of the Afghan players grew up in these camps, and some of them couldn't even make ends meet and didn't know whether there would be a tomorrow for them. They had nothing, but an unflinching desire to see Afghanistan play cricket on the world stage. And today, the team's rapid rise in white ball cricket in particular, has been staggering indeed. For a war-torn nation, which hardly celebrates and smiles, its national cricketers are determined to bring some cheers

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

#### Wake-up call

unfair ones.

Sir, The recent Global Hunger Index report for 2023 has delivered startling news, placing India in the 111th position out of 125 countries, indicating a 'serious' level of hunger. Even though the Indian government disputes this ranking, it cannot be entirely ignored, particularly when India was ranked 102nd out of 119 countries in 2022. This situation is shameful for the world's fifth-largest economy, ranking lower than countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and several sub-Saharan African nations. The government's dismissal of this index as inaccurate should not divert attention from the pressing issues at hand. It is crucial for authorities to heed this wake-up call. There is an urgent need to work towards an equitable distribution of resources, enhance food security and establish robust social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable members of society. Addressing these issues requires immediate and sincere efforts from pol-this aspiring nation

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD



# Aladom Ala on snapping of ties with BJP Bengal for Durga puja fete

The BIP, which was expecting a few seats by riding on the back of the AIADMK in the murky politics of Tamil Nadu, was in for a major shock after the AIADMK unilaterally snapped ties with the saffron party

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 18: Even as the BJP national leadership is frantically trying for a rapprochement with the AIADMK leadership in Tamil Nadu, the latter has unequivocally informed its cadres and district-level leaders that the alliance with the BJP is broken forever and that the party will not have any truck with the saffron outfit.

In a recent meeting with the district in-charges of the AIADMK at Chennai during the party's foundation day celebrations, former chief minister and AIADMK general secretary. Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) informed the party leaders that the first agenda should be to communicate at the grass-roots level that the alliance with the BJP is gone forever.



According to sources in the AIADMK, he categorically informed the districts' in-charges that there was no looking back and that the party was in the process of forging new political alliances and combinations in Tamil Nadu.

EPS also told the party's district in-charges to communicate with him directly if the district office-bearers were creating any hindrance

Sources in the AIADMK told IANS that EPS called upon the district in-charges to make sure that the party wins all the 39 Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu and the lone seat in Puducherry. It may be noted that the five-

year political alliance between the AIADMK and the BJP was snapped recently after the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit president and

former IPS officer, K Annamalai made scathing personal attacks against Dravidian icon and late chief minister, CN Annadurai and also against the late AIADMK leader and former chief minister Jayalalithaa.

The BJP, which was expecting a few seats by riding on the back of the AIADMK in the murky politics of Tamil Nadu, was in for a major shock after the AIADMK unilaterally snapped ties with the saffron party.

The BJP national leadership had used the good office of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma to negotiate with the AIADMK leadership for a truce. However sources in the AIADMK told IANS that the Dravidian party is keen to sever all ties with the BJP.

Kolkata. Oct 18: After Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda will visit Kolkata Saturday on the occasion of Maha Saptami.

State BJP sources said that Nadda is slated to arrive in Kolkata Saturday morning, will visit some community puja pandals and interact with the organisers as well as the visitors there.

As per the initial schedule, said a BJP state committee member, the party's national president is scheduled to visit the pandals of three community puja committees on that day. "He is unlikely to give any political message during that visit. In all

New Delhi on the same evening, the state committee member of the party said

According to him, the Durga puja festival this year is being viewed very seriously by the central leadership of the party and an important medium for the party leaders to interact with the common people on the occasion. "In fact, the central leadership has directed the state leaders of the party to get associated with as many Durga pujas as possible," he said.

On October 16, the Union Home Minister made a quick visit to Kolkata to inaugurate the community puja of Santosh Mitra Square at Lebutala Park in central Kolkata, whose princillor in Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Sajal Ghosh.

On that occasion he sought the blessing of Goddess Durga to free West Bengal of the "violence" and "corruption" in the coming days. "This is not the occasion for making political statements. So, I will not do that now. But I will be frequenting the state more, making political statements and ensuring that there is change in the state,' Shah said on the occasion.

The very next day Governor CV Ananda Bose gave a call to the people of West Bengal to take oath in the name of Maa Durga to continue the fight against "corruption" and "violence" in the state.

## **Fishers stir over** arrests by Lanka

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 18: Hundreds of fishermen participated in a protest staged outside the General Post Office in Rameswaram seek ing the Union government's intervention to bring back the 27 arrested fishermen and their boats, impounded by the Sri Lankan Navy a few days ago.

Leaders of fishermen unions called upon the Union government to bring back the jailed fishermen and their five mechanised boats that were impounded by the Lankan Navy October 14. The fishermen from Rameswaram were arrested on charges of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

The fishermen participating in the agitation told media persons that venturing into Palk Bay these days has become a matter of life and death.



PRAYER FOR PEACE: Members of Rail Pukur United Club inaugurate 'Durga Puja' by releasing white pigeons as a protest against the killings of women and children during the ongoing Israel-Hamas War, in Kolkata, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

## TN to develop single window tourism app

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 18: Tamil Nadu Tourism department, in association with the state IT department, is developing a tourism app that will cater to all the needs of both domestic and international tourists wishing to explore the state.

Sources in the state tourism department told IANS that the new tourism app will be a onestop solution to all the tourism needs for a traveller.

The source said that the work on the app is under progress with inputs and suggestions from tourism professionals in the state. Through the app, the tourism

department will showcase the cultural and rich heritage spots which would help the tourist reach the desired spot with ease. According to tourism department officials, the app will be providing all the guidance and

support to the travellers who

The adventure, culture and

reach the state of Tamil Nadu.

app, according to tourism department officials, will project the specialty and legacy of each of these tourism spots. The app will contain all the required information for an international traveller. The tourism de-

heritage of the state will be show-

cased for the tourists and the

partment officials also said that the registration process for the tourism app is simple and that the impending traveller will be able to choose a variety of accommodations on the basis of his budget.



Bengal moves to avert sexual harassment in primary schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 18: In an attempt to bring the state-run primary schools in Wes



cils have also been advised to regularly update the state education department about the progress made on this count in the different state-run primary schools under their jurisdictions.



Bengal under the standard operating procedures to prevent sexual harassment in workplaces, the state education department has taken some steps.

The department has sent specific instructions to all district primary education councils to take steps to form internal complaints committees (ICC) in all the state-run primary schools under their jurisdictions.

"Our aim is to ensure that any probable complaint by anyone associated with any state-run primary school, their grievances are addressed on an emergency and urgent basis," a state education department official said.

He said that the steps are being taken

the Vishaka Guidelines, which is a compilation of the nationally practiced set of

for the state-run primary schools as per procedural guidelines to prevent events of sexual harassment at workplaces. The district primary education coun-

"The officials of the district councils should be in regular touch with the headmasters or headmistresses of the primary schools concerned to have a clear idea on whether the specified norms in the matter are followed true to their spirits," the state education department official said.

As per norms, the Vishaka Guidelines have to be implemented in any organisation with ten or more employees. The creation of internal complaints committees (ICCs) is mandatory in such organisations. It will cover all women employees, permanent, temporary or contractual, in such organisations.

nder Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor and th set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in Civil Construction work as mentioned in DTCN 53 (Fifty Three) Nos. Name of the Work

- 2. No. of Works
- Rs.2.44 Lakhs to 45.32 Lakhs 3. Estimated Cost Period of Completion: 2 (Two) Calendar Months
- 5. Date and Time of : From 11.00 AM of 16.10.2023 to 5.00 PM
- online bidding of 27.10.2023 6. Online Bids shall be : 30.10.2023 on 11.00 A.M.
- Open on
- Name & Address of : Executive Officer, Balangir Municipality the Officer Inviting Bid

8. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in 9. Further any addendum/corrigendum/clarification issued in connect tion with the tenders shall be uploaded in the above website and no newspaper advertisement shall be given. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for obtaining all such details.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Balangir Municipality OIPR-13169/11/0014/2324

# Howrah Bridge comes alive with 'alpana' art

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 18: The iconic 80-year-old Howrah Bridge has received a colourful makeover ahead of Durga Puja, with a group of artists painting the cantilever thoroughfare with Bengal's famous 'alpana' motifs.

The bridge has also been brightly illuminated with static and interactive LED lighting that comes into effect post sunset, officials said

Popular artist Sanjay Paul and his team of about 40 students from different art colleges used folk motifs, which are traditionally used in 'alpana' art to decorate floors and walls in rural Bengal, to paint a section of the 2,313-feet-long bridge between the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah.

Croma, a Tata Enterprise, recently unveiled the 'alpana' painting on the bridge, officially known as Rabindra Setu, in association with Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust.

"What better a structure than the Howrah Bridge to display our rich cultural heritage, and that too, just ahead of Bengal's biggest festival – the Durga Puja. My team and me completed the illustration in five days, work-ing tirelessly from 12 am to 5 am," Paul told PTI.

The motifs have been created along the length of the bridge on both sides adjacent to the footpath, he said

Two large circular designs measuring 36 feet each have also been painted at the entry and exit



points of the bridge, Paul said

"We used about 200 litres of paint and four colours for the 'alpana'," he said.

Anwesak Dawn, who was entrusted with carrying out the fieldwork, said select meritorious students from the Government Art College and the Garia Art College were brought on board for the project.

"The 'alpana' is beautifully crafted on motifs based on electronic gadgets, portraying the importance of electronics play in people's lives. This artwork marks the onset of the auspicious Durga Puja festival in the city, bringing together tradition and innovation in a captivating display of artistry," Croma said in a statement.

The Durga Puja festivities begin in the state from Friday.

# unprecedented security cover in City of Joy

✓ olkata will be under an unprecedented se-K curity cover on the occasion of Durga Puja, which will begin Friday, in an effort to prevent any untoward law and order situation.

People have already started crowding the streets of Kolkata to witness glimpses of the pandals as well as the community Pujas whose inaugurations have already been completed.

City police sources said that as many as 4.000 personnel were deployed across the state capital Wednesday. The number will be doubled to 8,000 in the

next five days from Thursday to October 23, out of which 6,000 cops will be exclusively deployed for the purpose of traffic control in the city.

The entire process will be monitored by 16 officers in the rank of deputy commissioner, 82 assistant commissioners and 200 inspectors. There will also be 16 quick response teams and 30 ambulances to address any emergency situation at the earliest.

Monitoring will be done from 51 watch towers in the entire city during the festival days.

In addition, there will be 40 police control room (PCR) vans, nine mobile police assistance vans accompanied by city watch bikes, 13 heavy radio flying squads and 30 disaster management teams will be on the streets of the city during the festive days, the city police official informed

#### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER. DEO CANAL DIVISION. KARANJIA AT/PO-KARANJIA, DIST-MAYURBHANJ-757037

Tel:06796-220124, e-mail: eedcd2016@gmail.com

#### "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.:03/SEDCD of 2023-24

No.A-679:Name of Work : As per Detailed Tender Call Notice. Total No. of Packages: 01 (One) No. of individual work. Estimated Cost of Package: 13.15 Lakh. Period of Completion: 03 (Three) Months. Class of Contractor: "C & D". Other details:

Procurement	Bid	Availabili	ty of tender								
Officer	Identification No.	on-line	for bidding								
Superintending Engineer,	03/SEDCD of	From	То								
Deo Canal Division, Karanjia	2023-24 (on-line)	20.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	04.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.								
	Deo Canal Division, Karanjia 2023-24 (on-line) 20.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M. 04.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M. Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.										
OIPR-32380/11/0005/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Deo Canal Division, Karanjia											

#### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-1310: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PATNAGARH

E-mail: eerw\_ptng@yahoo.in, Phone No - 06658-222121

#### e-Procurement Notice IER IDENTIFICATION NO FEDTNO ONLING AN/2022 24

L	IFB IDENTIFICATION NO.EEPING-Online-08/2023-24										
Т	1. Name of Work		:	Spe	cial Repair of I	Road & Construe	ction of Buildings Wo	orks.			
Ш	2. Total No. of Work		:	13 (	3 (Thirteen) Nos.Road & 02 (Two) Nos. Building Works						
Ш	3. Time for Completion	Ú.	:	01 (	1 (One) to 06 (Six) Calendar Months						
Ш	4. Approximate estimat	ted cost	:	5.04	Lakh to 39.00	) Lakh					
Ш	5. Mode of Submission	of tender	:	Ten	der should be :	submitted online	in www.tendersoris	sa.gov.in			
6. Other details are as follow :							A				
П	Procurement	Bid			Availability of Tender Online		Last date and time	Date & Time			
Ш	Officer	Identifica	tic	on	for B	lidding	of seeking tender	of Opening of			
Ш		No.			From	То	clarification	Tender			
L	Executive Engineer,	EEPTNG-C	Dn	line-	27.10.2023	09.11.2023	08.11.2023	10.11.2023			
L	R.W. Divn., Patnagarh	08/2023	-2	4	at 11.00 A.M.	upto 5.00 P.M.	upto 5.00 P.M.	at 11.00 A.M.			
T	Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in										
L	<ul> <li>Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.</li> </ul>										
1	OIPR-25154/11/0011/2324 Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Patnagarh										



Foreign tourists pose for photos during their visit at the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh



initiative to fight against the menace of drug abuse, in Amritsar, Punjab



School students gather at Golden Temple to offer prayers along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann as part of the Hope People hold placards showing the portraits of people missing after the Hamas attack, during a support rally outside of the Jewish central synagogue in the coastal town of Larnaca, Cyprus



Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel during a rescue and relief operation from flood-affected areas of Sikkim



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra walk during Vijayabheri Yatra, in Mulugu district. The Congress leaders launched a bus yatra and kickstarted the party's campaign for the November 30 assembly polls in Telangana





Trains halt at the Sahibabad RAPIDX station ahead of the inauguration of a priority section of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), in Ghaziabad. The priority section of RRTS between Duhai and Sahibabad, covering 17 kms, is scheduled to be inaugurated October 20 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi AP/PTI PHOTOS

An eight-member team from Headquarters Sea Training (HQST), Indian Navy (IN) undertakes Operational Sea Training and Safety Audit of SAS Mendi in collaboration with South African Navy (SAN) Operational Sea Training Team (OST) Team, at Simon's Town, South Africa











# national



Why is the Prime Minister silent on the issue...I am only helping the prime minister and asking him to come clean by starting an investigation and defend his credibility RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

### **BLANKET OF MIST** ENVELOPS MUMBA

A blanket of mist enveloped Mumbai Wednesday, pushing the city's air to the 'moderate' category on the Air Quality Index (AQI). The phenomenon has been there for the last three to four days, said officials





The BJP is not being able to mobilise funds like before as it is almost certain about their defeat in the upcoming five state elections as well as in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections SIDDARAMAIAH KARNATAKA CM

We have information on everything .. Not now, when Assembly (session) happens, we will make those (legislators) who have been contacted, to speak out D K SHIVAKUMAR K'TAKA DEPUTY CM

Be it Har Ghar

Tiranga, Simanta Gram Kranti Veero Ka Naam or Meri Maati, Mere Desh, all the programmes are a hit among people of our state MANIK SAHA TRIPURA CM

### SHORT TAKES

#### **Mizoram polls: BJP** to contest 23 seats

Aizawl: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Wednesday released the names of 23 candidates, including the Speaker of the outgoing House and several others who joined the party from the ruling MNF recently, for the November 7 Mizoram assembly elections. Majority of the nominees are new faces, while four of these contestants are women. The last date for filing nominations is October 20. Predicting that the voters would deliver a fractured mandate, BJP state president Vanlalhmuaka said that the party is not hesitant to forge a post-poll alliance with any other outfit barring the Congress.

#### AP govt to begin caste census

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government will begin Backward Classes caste census around November 15, aimed at better serving the

# MP, RAJ POLLS Cong discusses candidates' names

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in both the states

didates for the upcoming

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

Assembly polls Wednesday, with

party chief Mallikarjun Kharge

expressing confidence that the

party would emerge victorious

The top Congress leadership

held separate meetings for

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

While former party chief Rahul

Gandhi participated in the

Central Election Committee

(CEC) meeting for Rajasthan,

he skipped the Madhya Pradesh

meeting as he had to leave for

Telangana, where he is scheduled

Sources said the party dis-

cussed around 100 seats for

Rajasthan and 86 for Madhya

Pradesh. The Congress has so far

declared 144 candidates for the

Madhya Pradesh polls. The

sources added that another CEC

meet for Rajasthan would be

Kharge said the Congress

would retain power in Rajasthan.

riding on the good governance of

held in Delhi October 21.

to take part in a road show.

the Ashok Gehlot government in the state in the last five years. New Delhi, Oct 18: The The party's CEC, chaired by Congress leadership discussed Kharge, held a meeting to the names of the probable can-

deliberate on the names of the candidates for the November 25 polls in the desert state.

Kharge, former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Gehlot, AICC in-charge of the state Sukhjinder Randhawa, state Congress chief Govind Dotasra, general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and the party's Rajasthan screening committee chief Gaurav Gogoi attended the meeting, among others.

The CEC meet for Madhya Pradesh, which was held in two parts in the afternoon and the evening, was attended by state party chief Kamal Nath and AICC in-charge Randeep Surjewala. All India Congress Committee's (AICC) screening panel head for Madhya Pradesh, Jitendra Singh, was also present.

'Savings, relief, growth, protection and upliftment -- this is how Rajasthan changed due to the good governance of the Congress!" Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.



Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire that broke out at a multi-storey commercial building, in Bangalore, Karnataka. A man jumped from the terrace to escape from the blaze. He and one more person sustained grievous injuries. Both are being treated in a private hospital. The fire apparently broke out at around noon in a 'Hookah bar and cafe' located on the top floor of the four-storey building, where several LPG cylinders had been stored. People in the vicinity heard blast-like sounds

# Left parties condemn attack on Gaza hospital



It also alleged that the Narendra Modi government "has discarded India's long-standing position on Palestine by extending support to Israel. "Later attempts to reiterate its commitment to the Palestinian cause is pointless," the AIKS added. The CPI (ML)-New Democracy, a breakaway from the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), called for protests from October 18 to October 21 and also demanded that the Indian government condemn the attack.

"US president is visiting Israel day which fully exposes the

### I-T seizes ₹32cr cash, bullion worth ₹28cr after raids in TN, Pondy

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Income Tax department has seized unaccounted cash of Rs 32 crore and gold bullion worth Rs 28 crore after its recent searches against two business groups, including one linked to DMK MP S Jagathrakshakan, in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry

The CBDT said in a statement Wednesday that the raids were initiated October 5 at about 100 premises of the two groups -- one of them running educational institutions that offer professional courses and the other is involved in distillery, pharmaceuticals, hospitals and hotels, etc.

The same day the tax sleuths had raided the house of DMK MP S Jagathrakshakan and some

# **FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATE CASE** Azam Khan, wife & son convicted, get $\stackrel{\scriptscriptstyle \leftarrow}{}$ 7-year prison term

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Rampur, Oct 18: A court in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur Wednesday pronounced a seven-year prison sentence to Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan, his wife Tanzeem Fatima and their son Abdullah Azam Khan after finding them guilty in the fake birth certificate case. The three were taken into



139 communities which fall under this category, Minister C Srinivasa Venugopala Krishna said Wednesday. The Backward Classes Welfare Minister noted the government will extensively deploy the village secretariat system for the caste census, along with the volunteer system.

#### Mother elephant kills two after calf dies

Jhargram (WB: Two elderly men were killed in an attack by a female elephant in West Bengal's Jhargram district Wednesday, following the death of the pachyderm's calf. a forest official said. The animal also ransacked a bus and a motorcycle besides damaging several houses near the popular Rameshwar temple in the Chandabila forest range in Nayagram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Left parties Wednesday condemned the attack on a hospital in Gaza that killed hundreds of people, with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) calling it a "war crime" and "genocide".

"The bombing of a Gaza hospital late last night that has killed at least 500 Palestinians needs to be called out for what it is - a war crime. Stop this genocide," the CPI(M) said in a post on 'X'.

The party's general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the world must wake up to declare this a criminal war crime and take appropriate action.

The All India Kisan Sabha, the farmers' wing of the CPI(M), called the bombing a "crime against humanity". "In the last week four hospitals have been bombed by Israel in which more than 500 people are reported to

A MASSIVE EXPLOSION AT A HOSPITAL IN GAZA CITY KILLED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TUESDAY. HAMAS SAID, AFTER INTENSIFYING BOMBARDMENTS NEAR TOWNS IN SOUTHERN GAZA RATTLED CIVILIANS WHERE ISRAEL HAD ORDERED THEM TO TAKE REFUGE

HAMAS ATTRIBUTED THE BLAST TO AN ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE, BUT THE ISRAFLI MILITARY SAID IT WAS NOT INVOLVED AND THE EXPLOSION WAS CAUSED BY A MISFIRED PAI ESTINIAN ROCKET

have been killed. AIKS demands immediate halt to the attack on Gaza, withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from all Palestinian territories, adherence to international humanitarian law as well as resumption of electricity, water, medicine supplies and food to over 23 lakh besieged people of Gaza," the AIKS said in a statement.

hypocrisy of US Administration.... In fact the only thing they care is their imperialist interests...," the CPI (ML)-New Democracy alleged in a statement. A massive explosion at a hos-

pital in Gaza City killed hundreds of people Tuesday, Hamas said, after intensifying bombardments near towns in southern Gaza rattled civilians where Israel had ordered them to take refuge.

Hamas attributed the blast to an Israeli airstrike, but the Israeli military said it was not involved and the explosion was caused by a misfired Palestinian rocket.

The Hamas military wing also said an Israeli airstrike on a refuge camp killed a top Hamas commander. US President Joe Biden arrived at Tel Aviv Wednesday, where he was received by Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu.

of those linked to him. The MP from Arakkonam has interests in a variety of business sectors.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin had reacted that day and said on X: "The Union BJP Government's vindictive politics knows no bounds! Arresting AAP MP Sanjay Singh and raiding DMK MP Jagathrakshakan's home are clear examples of their misuse of independent investigating agencies for political ends against INDIA bloc leaders....

In its statement, the CBDT said that so far the searches against the two groups "have resulted in seizure of unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 32 crore and gold bullion of Rs 28 crore, thereby aggregating to Rs 60 crore." The statement did not identify the accused groups or their promoters. Sources said one of the groups involved was linked to Jagathrakshakan.

matter pertains to the issuance of Abdullah Azam Khan's birth certificate twice.

custody after the verdict. The

Abdullah Azam Khan is accused of obtaining a passport and foreign tours based on a first birth certificate and using a second certificate for government-related purposes.

Both the certificates were issued through fraudulent means and as part of a pre-planned conspiracy. A first birth certificate, issued June 28, 2012, by Rampur Nagar Palika, showed Rampur as Abdullah Azam Khan's birthplace. In January 2015, a second birth certificate issued showed Lucknow as his birthplace. BJP MLA Akash Saxena had filed a case against Abdullah Azam in 2019 for having two birth certificates. Azam Khan and his wife

Tanzeen Fatima were also named as accused. The development comes as a fresh setback to Abdullah Azam, who was disqualified as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly earlier this year after being convicted and sentenced to two year imprisonment in a 15-yearold case. The Supreme Court, last week, refused to give an interim stay on Abdullah's conviction in the case. A case was lodged against Abdullah Azam Khan and his parents under sections 420, 467, 468 and 471.

Wednesday's judgment is yet another case where Azam Khan and his son have been convicted. Both were convicted in a 2019 hate speech case by a court in Rampur.

Earlier, Azam Khan and Abdullah had represented the Suar Assembly constituency in Rampur district before being disqualified due to a number of cases against them.

Azam Khan is a 10-term MLA and was also elected to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

#### Northern rly introduces 34 special trains FESTIVE RUSH

These special trains will make 377 trips -- 351 towards the eastern part of the country and 26 towards the northern region -- between October 18 and December 11

#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Northern Railway has introduced 34 special trains starting Wednesday to clear the festive rush of passengers planning to travel to their home destinations

These special trains will make 377 trips - 351 towards the eastern part of the country and 26 towards the northern region -- between October 18 and December 11.



"Besides these 34 trains, additional coaches will be added to existing 69 trains and, in all, the Northern Railway will create 5.5 lakh additional berths and seats considering the increase in passenger movement during the festive session," Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway, told reporters.

These special trains will connect major destinations across the country such as Delhi/New Delhi/Anand Vihar, Patna, Chhapra, Jogwani, Saharsa, Jaynagar, Katihar, Guwahati,

Darbhanga, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Barauni, Raxaul, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Lucknow, Kolkata, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Amritsar, Saharanpur and Ambala

The Northern Railway has advised prospective passengers to get details of the special trains from its social media handle and the enquiry offices.

According to Chaudhuri, the additional arrangements have been made in view of increased demand during this period.

"I believe the additional arrangements will take care of the enhanced demand. However, we will be monitoring the situation and if we feel that there is a need to rope in more special trains, we will definitely consider that too. As of now, I think it is sufficient," Chaudhuri said. "Besides running special

trains, we have decided to open special ticket windows and operationalise all existing windows to avoid long queues at booking counters," he said.

On the concern regarding the punctuality of these special trains, Chaudhuri said they will maintain the scheduled times of arrival and departure as much as possible and will not end up losing punctuality due to other important trains.

#### 895 kids rescued in Sept

he Railways Wednesday said that in September the Railway Protection Force (RPF) rescued 895 children, including 573 boys and 322 girls under Operation 'Nanhe Faristev'. In a statement, the railway ministry said that the RPF plays an important role in reuniting the children lost or separated due to several reasons from their family.

# LADAKH-KAITHAL POWER TRANSMISSION LINE Centre approves ₹20,774Cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The government Wednesday approved setting up of a Rs 20,773.70 croretransmission line for evacuation of solar power from a 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh to Kaithal in Haryana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day Speech, had announced setting up of a 7.5 GW solar park in Ladakh.

After extensive field survey, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) prepared a plan to set up 13 GW renewable energy generation capacity along with 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Pang, Ladakh, an official release said



tum of power, it will be necessary

to create an inter-state trans-

mission infrastructure.

Information & Broadcasting

Minister Anurag Thakur said

the Cabinet Committee on

Economic Affairs (CCEA) has

approved the project on Green

Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-

II – Inter-State Transmission

System (ISTS) for the 13 GW re-

newable energy project in

Ladakh. The project is targeted

2029-30 with a total estimated cost of Rs 20.773.70 crore and 40 per cent central financial assistance estimated at Rs 8,309.48 crore. The project is expected to be awarded by March 2025, sources said. The transmission line for evac-

to be set up by financial year

uating the power will pass through Himachal Pradesh and Punjab up to Kaithal in Haryana where it will be integrated with the national grid.

An interconnection is also planned from the project in Leh to existing Ladakh grid so as to ensure reliable power supply to the Ladakh. It will also be connected to Leh-Alusteng-Srinagarline to provide power to Jammu & Kashmir.







# international

azans combed through the debris of the devastated hospital, collecting the bodies of the dead in the battered enclave Wednesday, hours after a strike killed hundreds sheltering at the facility.

**OrissaPOST** 

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 19 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Israeli strikes

children

dead

southern Israel

1,400 people,

Gaza

Alongside rows of charred vehicles, volunteers recovered corpses and human limbs that were placed in body bags, while the remains of others were covered in white shrouds and blankets. 'This is a massacre," Ahmed Tafesh,

who assisted in the recovery effort, told AFP, saying he had collected the eyes, arms, legs and GRIM heads of the dead. "I have never seen any-**FIGURES** thing like this in my life.

Health authorities in Hamas-ruled Gaza 🛔 said the explosion killed at least 500 peoon Gaza killed at ple at the the Ahli Arab least 2,778 people Hospital and was and wounded 9,700 caused by an Israeli Nearly two-thirds air strike in retaliaof those killed were tion for the Islamist group's October 7 attack on communities

Another 1,200 people across Gaza near the enclave. are believed to be At the nearby Shifa buried under the hospital in Gaza City, rubble, alive or residents gathered to

identify the dead at Hamas' attack in the hospital's mortuarv and take other bodkilled more than ies for burial. Outside the Ahli hospital, others who

mostly civilians, and resulted in survived the attack some 200 being who spoke to AFP retaken captive into counted the terrifying moment when the strike occurred.

"We felt there was fire and things were falling on us. We started looking for each other. The electricity cut suddenly, and we couldn't see," said Fatima Saed through tears. "I don't know how we came out of it.

The hospital explosion which killed at least 500 people was by far the deadliest of any single incident in Gaza during the current violence

Gaza resident Adnan al-Naqa told AFP that around 2,000 people were taking refuge at the hospital on Tuesday night at the time of the strike.

"As I entered the hospital, I heard the explosion, I saw a massive fire," said Naqa. "The entire square was on fire, there were bodies everywhere, children,

HUNDREDS OF **PEOPLE SEEKING SHELTER FROM THE FIERCEST FIGHTING IN** DECADES **BETWEEN THE ISRAELI ARMY** AND THE **PALESTINIAN MILITANT GROUP** running HAMAS WALKED INTO THE low, the **HOSPITAL TO THEIR** United Nations DEATHS estimates that

one million of Gaza's 2.4 million residents are currently displaced, with thousands sheltering in hospi tals dotted throughout the densely populated en clave.

around

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has been under lockdown since a bloody Oct 7 rampage by Hamas militants ignited the war, protesters clashed with Palestinian security forces and called for the overthrow of Abbas.

# **Doctors recount horror**

The head of orthopaedic surgery at Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza, Fadel Naim, had just finished a procedure when he heard a huge explosion and his department filled with people screaming for help.

"People came running into the surgery department screaming help us, help us, there are people killed and wounded inside the hospital," he said. He found the hospital full of dismembered bodies and wounded people.

"We tried to save whoever could be saved but the number was too great for the hospital team," he said.

Blood stained the walls and the ground in what was normally a peaceful place that helped patients recover.

'This place created a safe haven for women and children, those who escaped the Israeli bombing into this hospital, those who saw this place as a safe haven," said Naim. "Without warning this hospital was targeted. We don't know what the shell is called but we saw

the results of it when it targeted

### **IRAN CALLS ON ISLAMIC NATIONS TO SANCTION ISRAEL**

Members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should impose an oil embargo and other sanctions on Israel and expel all Israeli ambassadors, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said Wednesday. An urgent meeting of the OIC is taking place in the Saudi city of Jeddah to discuss the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict, after a blast at a Gaza hospital late Tuesday killed large numbers of Palestinians 

# **ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT**

# Carnage

**WHO strongly** condemns the attack on Al Ahli Arab Hospital in the north of the Gaza Strip. The hospital was operational, with patients, health and care givers, and internally displaced people sheltering

REACTIONS

there. Early reports indicate hundreds of fatalities and injuries WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Hospitals are sacrosanct, and they must be protected at

all cost. Words fail me. Once again the most vulnerable. This is totally unacceptable VOLKER TURK | HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF, UN

I call on all humanity to take action to stop this unprecedented brutality in Gaza TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT,

TURKEY

This war, which has entered a dangerous phase, will plunge the region into an unspeakable disaste

JORDAN

It also said the scale of the ex-



The Israeli military held a brief- rage fired by the Palestinian militant **L** ing Wednesday morning laying group Islamic Jihad from a nearby out its case for why it was not responsible for the explosion at the around 6.59 pm. al-Ahli Hospital.

cemetery at that time of the blast,

Independent video showed one

would have been a crater there; instead, the fiery blast came from the misfired rocket's warhead and its unspent propellant, he said.

The Israeli military also released a recording they said was between two Hamas militants discussing the blast, during which the speakers say it was believed to be an Islamic Jihad misfire and that the shrapnel appeared to be from IJ weapons, not Israel's.

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre," saying it was caused by an Israeli strike.

Islamic Jihad dismissed Israel's claims, accusing Israel of "trying hard to evade responsibility for the brutal massacre it committed.

The group pointed to Israel's order that al-Ahli be evacuated and reports of a previous strike at the hospital as proof that the hospital was an Israeli target.

plosion, the angle of the bomb's fall and the extent of the deABDULLAH II KING,

children and ripped their bodies into pieces.'

It was not firing in the area, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said.

Instead, Hagari said, Israeli radar confirmed a rocket bar-

the rockets in the barrage falling out of the sky, he said.

beneficial cooperation in order

to achieve universal sustainable

and long-term economic progress

and social well-being, while re-

specting the diversity of civi-

lization and the right of each

State to its own development

Putin said the BRI fitted with

Russia which he said was de-

veloping a host of transport in-

frastructure to criss-cross the

world's biggest country, notably

from the Northern Sea Route

which runs from Murmansk

near Russia's border with

Norway eastwards to the Bering

Putin, who has attended pre-

vious BRI summits, brought a

senior delegation from Moscow.

model," Putin said.

Strait near Alaska

The misfired rocket hit the parking lot outside the hospital. Were it an airstrike, there

struction all pointed to Israel.

## 8 French airports hit by security alerts

#### REUTERS

Paris, Oct 18: Eight French airports faced security alerts Wednesday and several were evacuated for checks, the DGAC aviation authority said, and the Palace of Versailles closed again due to its third security scare in five days.

The airports affected were Toulouse, Biarritz and Pau in the southwest, Nice in the southeast, Lyon in the east, Lille in the north, and Rennes and Nantes in western France, according to a DGAC spokesperson and the interior ministry.

France is on its highest state of alert after the Oct 13 murder of a schoolteacher in a suspected Islamist attack. The Palace of Versailles, one of France's main tourist attractions, said it was again evacuating visitors for security reasons.

On Saturday, a day after the fatal stabbing of the teacher, bomb alerts that proved false forced the evacuation of the Louvre museum, the palace and Paris' Gare de Lyon train station.

# **PUTIN PRAISES 'DEAR FRIEND' XI** PUTIN HEAPS PRAISE ON BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AND SAYS

## NORTHERN SEA ROUTE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

bringing the world together. Shortly before Putin starting Beijing, Oct 18: President

speaking, a handful of European delegates, including former French Prime Minister Jean-

Pierre Raffarin, walked out of the room, a Reuters witness said. "Russia and China, like most countries of the world, share

the desire for equal, mutually



## Pakistan holds successful flight test of Ababeel Weapon System

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 18: Pakistan Wednesday successfully conducted the flight test of Ababeel Weapon System to further strengthen its de-

terrence, the army said. The latest test of the ballistic missile system was aimed at "re-validating various design, technical parameters, and performance evaluation of different subsystems," said a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations

(ISPR) - the media wing of army. "The missile system is aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region through the operationalisation of Full Spectrum

Deterrence in the overall con-

struct of Credible Minimum Deterrence," it stated.

No details about the missile system have been provided by the army. The launch was witnessed

by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), and senior officers, scientists and engineers of strategic organisations.

Mirza appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of all those who con- ২

tributed towards the successful test

President Arif Alvi, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and the services chiefs congratulated all members ofthe strategic forces on the achievement.

Vladimir Putin Wednesday

praised Chinese President Xi

Jinping for the Belt and Road

Initiative (BRI) and invited global

investment in the Northern Sea

route which he said could deepen

Speaking on his second known

trip outside the former Soviet

Union since the Ukraine war,

Putin thanked the Chinese leader

for his invitation and said Russia

could play a key role in China's

modern day revival of the ancient

friend" and heaped praise on

the Belt and Road Initiative for

Putin called Xi his "dear

trade between east and west.

REUTERS

Silk Road.



# business



Israel imports \$1.25 billion worth of polished diamonds annually from India. With the country now declaring a war on the Palestinian militant group Hamas, this number could be at risk RAHUL GUHA | DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

#### **CHINA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH SLIPS**

China's economy slowed in the third guarter. amid muted global demand, deflationary pressures and an ailing property sector. The world's second-largest economy grew 4.9 per cent year-over-year in the July-September quarter slowing from the 6.3 per cent growth in the previous guarter



# uote

India has the potential to become a regional supply hub for hydrogen production plants, playing to its

competitive position in engineering design, manufacturing and services JILL EVANKO FOUNDING MEMBER, IH2A

We have just been giver traffic rights for Riyadh, Jeddah, Doha and Kuwait. The process will take time... We will let the process unfold

VINAY DUBE CHIEF, AKASA AIR

With the right guidance, these entrepreneurs not only build a successful logistics business and a strong foundation for their entrepreneurial journey but they also create an ecosystem of opportunities for people at large KARUNA SHANKAR PANDE DIRECTOR, AMAZON LOGISTICS

## **02 RESULTS**

#### Wipro profit flat

New Delhi: IT company Wipro's consolidated profit remained almost flat at Rs 2,667.3 crore in the second guarter ended September 30 the company said in a regulatory filing. The company had posted a profit after tax of Rs 2,649.1 crore a year ago. Its consolidated revenue from operations declined marginally to Rs 22,515.9 crore in the reported period from Rs 22.539.7 crore it registered in the September 2022 guarter.

#### Bandhan shines 3X

.....

New Delhi: Bandhan Bank Wednesday reported over three- fold jump in net profit at Rs 721 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2023. The Kolkataheadquartered private sector lender had posted a profit of Rs 209.30 crore for the same quarter a year ago. Total income during July-September this fiscal rose to Rs 5,032

# **Govt hikes wheat MSP**

Wheat minimum support price raised by ₹150 to ₹2,275 per quintal for 2024-25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 18: Ahead of the assembly polls in key wheat growing states, the government Wednesday announced an increase in the minimum support price of wheat by Rs 150 to Rs 2,275 per quintal for the 2024-25 marketing season.

Besides, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for five other rabi crops -- gram, barley, lentil (masur), rapeseed-mustard seed and safflower -- have been hiked. A decision in this regard was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Currently, the MSP of wheat stands at Rs 2,125 per quintal for the 2023-24 marketing season (April-March)

Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop and its sowing begins in October while harvesting starts from April. in 2023-24.

MSP is the minimum rate at which the grain is purchased by the government procurement agencies.

Briefing media after the cabinet meeting, Information & **Broadcasting Minister Anurag** Singh Thakur said the CCEA has approved the increase in the MSP of six mandated rabi crops for the 2024-25 marketing season.

'Based on the CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) recommendation, we have increased the MSP of six rabi crops. Wheat MSP has been increased by Rs 150



season since the for 2024-25 marketing season from Modi government Rs 2,125 per quintal came to power The increase in

wheat MSP comes ahead of the assembly polls in the key wheat growing states of Madhva Pradesh and Rajasthan even as consumer prices of wheat and wheat flour have been under pressure since last

one-and-half years. The ban on wheat exports to control prices of wheat and wheat flour (atta) has been in place since May 2022. The current increase in wheat

MSP is the highest since 2015-16. The previous increase was in the range of Rs 100-110 per quintal announced for four marketing seasons -- 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24. Asked about the

impact of wheat MSP increase on food inflation, the minister said India has kept the inflation under check during and post pandemic

According to the Minister, the MSP of barley has been increased by Rs 115 per quintal to Rs 1,850 for 2024-25 from Rs 1,735 per

of gram has been increased by Rs 105 to Rs 5,440 per quintal for 2024-25 as against Rs 5,335 per quintal in 2023-24 while that of lentil (masur) has been hiked by Rs 425 to Rs 6,425 per quintal from Rs 6,000 per quintal.

creased rapeseed-mustard seed MSP by Rs 200 to Rs 5,650 per quintal for 2024-25 marketing season, from Rs 5.450 per quintal in 2023-24 season.

The MSP of safflower has been increased by Rs 150 to Rs 5,800 per quintal for 2024-25 from Rs 5,650 per quintal, Thakur said.

The minister also mentioned that the increase in the MSP of the rabi crops is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production.

In the last few years, the government has been promoting crop diversification towards oilseeds, pulses and millets to enhance food security, increase farmers' income, and reduce dependence on imports.

The agriculture ministry has kept a record wheat production target of 114 million tonne for the 2023-24 crop year (July-June), higher than the actual output of 112.6 million tonne achieved in 2022-23

As per the ministry, there is enough supply of seeds for wheat planting

According to official data, the availability of wheat seed is about 123.43 lakh quintal which is higher than the requirement of 102.63 lakh quintal for the ensuing rabi season.

The ministry has also asked the wheat growing states to promote and increase the area under the climate resilient wheat varieties this year, amid the challenges of climate change

# Curbs on exports of sugar extended

**GOVT EXTENDED ITS RESTRICTION ON SUGAR EXPORTS BEYOND OCTOBER, AS THE WORLD'S** SECOND-BIGGEST PRODUCER TRIES TO BRING DOWN DOMESTIC PRICES BY INCREASING SUPPLIES AHEAD OF KEY STATE ELECTIONS

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The government Wednesday again extended restrictions on sugar exports beyond October 31 this year and till further orders, a move aimed at increasing the availability of the commodity in the domestic market during the festive season.

Earlier, the restrictions were imposed until October 31 this year.

"Restriction on export of Sugar (Raw Sugar, White Sugar, Refined Sugar and Organic sugar) is extended beyond 31.10.2023 till further order. Other conditions will remain unchanged." the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

However, it said these restrictions will not be applicable to sugar being exported to the EU and the US under CXL and TRQ duty concession quotas. A specified amount of sugar is exported to these regions under CXL and TRQ (tariff rate quotas).

India is the highest producer and the second-largest exporter



#### Bangalore, Oct 18: Walmart-PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. Oct 18: Equity benchmark index Sensex tumbled 551 points to close below the 66,000 level Wednesday due to profit-taking in banking, financial and energy stocks amid a sharp jump in global crude oil prices

A sluggish trend in global equity markets following lingering geopolitical worries also



# in 2014 period quintal this year.

Among rabi pulses, the MSP

In order to promote oilseeds cultivation, the government in-

owned PhonePe said Wednesday

its consolidated revenue for fi-

nancial year 2023 surged 77%, as

more customers used its plat-

form to send and receive money

in India's booming digital pay-

The company's loss before in-

terest, taxes, depreciation and

amortisation on a standalone

ment to export sugar, which is in the restricted category. The government has been con-

of sugar in the world. An exporter would require a licence or permission from the govern-

cluding production, consumption, exports, and price trends in wholesale and retail markets all over the country. In the current 2023-24 marketing year (October-September), Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has projected sugar pro-

duction at 317 lakh tonne after the diversion of 45 lakh tonne for ethanol. The domestic demand is seen at 280 lakh tonne. The opening stock will be around 55 lakh tonne

The production in the 2022-23 marketing year stood at 328 lakh tonne after the diversion of 42 lakh tonne for ethanol

tinuously monitoring the situ-

ation in the sugar sector, in-

In 2022-23, the industry exported 61 lakh tonne of sugar, the entire quantity permitted by the food ministry. India had exported a record 112 lakh tonne in the 2021-22 marketing year.

this fiscal, says Deloitte REUTERS

ments market.

#### **FESTIVE, GOVT SPENDING TO DRIVE** GROWTH

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 18: Deloitte India Wednesday said it expects GDP growth in the current fiscal to be in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to upcoming festive spending as well as higher government expenditure before the national elections mid-next year.

India to grow at 6.5-6.8%

crore as against Rs 4,250 crore in the same period of 2022-23, Bandhan Bank said. 

#### IndusInd net rises

New Delhi: IndusInd Bank Wednesday posted 22 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 2.202 crore for September quarter 2023-24. aided by decline in bad loans and a rise in interest income. The lender had logged a profit of Rs 1,805 crore in the yearago period. Total income increased to Rs 13,530 crore during the quarter under review, as against Rs 10,719 crore in the same period last vear. IndusInd Bank said.

#### Bajaj Auto profit up

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto Wednesday said its consolidated net profit increased 17.51 per cent to Rs 2,020 crore for the September quarter. The Pune-based company had reported a net profit of Rs 1,719 crore in the year-ago period. Total income increased to Rs 11,207 crore for the second quarter of the current fiscal from Rs 10,537 crore a year ago, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing.

#### LTIMindtree net dips

Mumbai: The country's sixth biggest IT services company by revenues, LTIMindtree, Wednesday reported a decline in September quarter net profit at Rs 1,162 crore. The city-headquartered company had a net profit of Rs 1,189 crore in the year-ago period, and the same stood at Rs 1,152 crore in the preceding June quarter. Its overall revenues grew 8.2 per cent to Rs 8,905 crore for the reporting quarter, from Rs 8,228 crore in the yearago period and Rs 8,702 crore in the June quarter.

In its India economic outlook report, released earlier this month, Deloitte said India will need at least 6.5 per cent growth every fiscal to become the world's third largest economy by 2027, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) crossing \$5 trillion.

The country needs 8-9 per cent economic growth to become a developed country by 2047, it added

The Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the June quarter, higher than the 7.2 per cent in the year-ago period. "In light of the Q1 GDP growth,

we have revised our growth estimate for this year to reflect it. We expect GDP to grow in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarilv due to festive spending in the coming months followed by higher government spending before the upcoming national elections mid-next year," Deloitte

Deloitte India Economist Rumki Majumdar said navigating geopolitical uncertainties and the slowdown in global economy, undoubtedly, would not be

easy. India will have to rely on its own domestic demand to firepower its growth, specifically, private consumption and investment spending, she said.

"What works in India's favour on the private consumption front are the size of its consumer base, the rising income, and the aspirations of its young population, which is the largest in the world. As for investments, with the size and scale of operations it has to offer to global companies, the availability of skill and talent, technology and innovation capabilities, India continues to be an attractive investment destination," Majumdar said.

India, with a GDP size of \$3.4 trillion, is the fifth largest economy in the world, after US, China, Japan, and Germany.

The \$5 billion dollar/rupee

swap that the Reserve Bank of

India undertook in April 2022

will mature Monday, meaning

\$5 billion can potentially be taken

out of the banking system, fu-

elling a potential dollar shortage.

age, large banks are raising dol-

lars by conducting USD/INR

In anticipation of this short-

basis widened to Rs 17.55 billion from Rs 16.12 billion a year ago, PhonePe said in a statement.

Consolidated revenue grew to Rs 29.14 billion from Rs 16.46 billion a year ago.

"Revenue growth was also driven by the launch and scaleup of new products and businesses such as smart speakers, rent payments, and insurance distribution," it said

The company had last fiscal year raised Rs 70.21 billion from investors such as General Atlantic, Walmart and Tiger Global at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion, turning it the country's most valuable payments firm.

PhonePe, which has more than 490 million registered users, had a near 51% share of the value of transactions on India's instant money transfer system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), as of March end. The company, which moved its domicile to India from Singapore last October, intends to list on the domestic stock exchanges, though it is yet to give a timeline.

sapped the risk appetite of investors, traders said.

After a day's breather, the 30share BSE Sensex plunged 551.07 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 65,877.02. During the day, it fell 585.99 points or 0.88 per cent to 65.842.10.

The Nifty declined 140.40 points or 0.71 per cent to 19,671.10.

'Profit booking ensued in Indian markets, spurred by weak global sentiments and escalating Middle East tensions. A sudden rise in the tension has led to instability in energy prices; Brent prices rapidly rose above \$92.5 by the day's closing time," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance fell by nearly 3 per cent, the most among the 30 frontline companies. Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, NTPC, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the other major laggards.

In contrast, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma, Maruti and Mahindra

Fresh weakness in banking and financial maiors combined with a downtick in other heavyweights like Reliance is pointing towards further slide

AJIT MISHRA | SVP (TECHNICAL RESEARCH), RELIGARE BROKING

& Mahindra were the gainers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.85 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.32 per cent. Among the sectoral indices, power declined by 1.45 per cent, financial services fell by 1.20 per cent, bankex (1.18 per cent), utilities (1.08 per cent), consumer durables (0.95 per cent), oil & gas (0.78 per cent) and services (0.70 per cent). Healthcare and auto were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in negative territory, while Seoul and Tokyo settled in the green. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 3.36 per cent to \$92.92 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 263.68 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data

The BSE benchmark had climbed 261.16 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 66,428.09 Tuesday. The Nifty gained 79.75 points or 0.40 per cent to 19,811.50.

# Large banks preparing for maturity of RBI's \$5bn forex swap

THE \$5 BILLION DOLLAR/RUPEE SWAP THAT THE **CENTRAL BANK UNDERTOOK IN APRIL 2022 WILL** MATURE MONDAY. MEANING THE AMOUNT CAN POTENTIALLY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE BANKING SYSTEM, FUELLING A POTENTIAL **DOLLAR SHORTAGE** 

#### REUTERS

India said.

Mumbai, Oct 18: Large Indian banks are preparing for a \$5 billion forex swap maturing next week by accumulating dollars, with the trading pattern suggesting that lenders do not expect the swap to be rolled over, traders said Wednesday.

buy/sell swaps in which they will receive dollars on the spot date (in two working days) and have access to them for the tenure of the contract.

This demand has pulled down one-month rupee forward premiums to near 7 paisa, from 12 paisa late last month, which, in yield terms, is a decline of about 60 basis points.

The forex head of a private bank said the implied rupee yield, based on the 1-month forward, is lower than the domestic rupee rate, which signifies demand for the buy/sell swaps.

The RBI can, instead of allowing the swap to mature, opt to roll over to avoid the possibility



of a dollar shortage. But bankers do not expect that conducted the swap for a speto happen HDFC's Gupta said a rollover

the swap to elongate the maturity profile of its forward book and smoothen the receivables relating to forward assets.

"The maturity has (rupee) liquidity implications, but the RBI has sufficient tools to take care of that," Gupta said.

Two senior officials at large public sector banks, one of which markets believe had participated in the swap, concur that had it wanted to do so, the RBI would have already rolled over the swap.

**IDFC First Bank economist** Gaura Sen Gupta said it was possible the central bank could "allow the swap to mature ... andreplace it with sell/buy swaps of lesser maturity."







was unlikely since the RBI had

cific reason in the first place.

The RBI had said it was doing



# India face Bangla test Kiwis continue WC juggernaut



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 18: Going by the current form of the teams, the popular pre-match prediction of India's World Cup game against Bangladesh here Thursday will be a romp for Rohit Sharma's men. But if the glossy surface is

scratched, one will have to tear away that view based on the form book. Bangladesh have beaten India three times in the last four ODIs - twice in a bilateral series in December 2022 and then in the Asia Cup Super Four match recently. In this tournament, the un-

derdogs have already shown how to slay the giants. If in doubt, check with England and South Africa about their feelings after their shock losses to Afghanistan and the Netherlands respectively. India would certainly want to avoid that banana peel and keep their good run intact in this World Cup.

In the batting front, captain Rohit will look to continue his imperious form while top order batters Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli will be eager to score big. India are perched on the top spot in the points table and they would aim to extend their winning run.

While the two knocks of highest quality have put Rohit in the limelight, his younger opening partner Gill would be itching to get a big score for himself, given that he is back to full fitness and has had an impressive run in the ODIs this year.

For Kohli, a mistimed hit against Pakistan led to an early dismissal but that was a minor blip, as the batting maestro previously produced a masterful 85 against Australia and a matchwinning 55 not out against cent run against Bangladesh three defeats in the last four ODIs - makes the bowlers' role all the more important. No doubt, India will be firm

favourites against Bangladesh, considering their bowlers' top class performances in restricting Australia for a mere 199 and Pakistan for a poor 191.

Indian bowlers too have done a collective job though Jasprit Bumrah's brilliance and Kuldeep Yadav's guile made them a stand out attack from the rest in the competition, in their sheer ability to keep the opposition team's scoring rate in check and making regular inroads even on the flattest of decks.

Bangladesh are not to be blamed if they spend a large part of their preparation time drawing up plans against Rohit, whose red-hot form promises a third century in a row in World Cup encounters against the 'Tigers'

Notwithstanding their impeccable run so far, India will look to guard against any complacency knowing that this World Cup has already produced two sensational upsets.

The knowledge of conditions and an expected packed house at the MCA Stadium promises India the best atmosphere once again to record another win in this World Cup and continue their march towards the semifinals, but Bangladesh are no pushovers and they have been a tricky side to face for India.

For Bangladesh, it is imperative that their best player and captain Shakib Al Hasan overcomes the challenge of a quad injury to his left leg and is available for selection Thursday.

Shakib, who did not bowl Tuesday during the team's training session, will be essential for Bangladesh to take the fight to India. A comprehensive win in the World Cup opener followed by two defeats against better teams has put Bangladesh in a position of some desperation, given that a third loss on the trot will only dent their hopes.



Skipper Tom Latham (L) gives a fist bump to Glenn Phillips during their stand

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 18: In less than 96 hours after they beat reigning World Champions England, Afghanistan got a solid reality check from a ruthless New Zealand, which recorded a thumping 149-run victory in a thoroughly lopsided World Cup match here, Wednesday.

As a result of this conquest, the Black Caps remain unbeaten in the event so far, taking the top spot again with their fourth straight victory.

Chasing a tough target of 289 on a spinner-friendly wicket at Chepauk, Afghanistan could manage only 139 in 34.4 overs. The Afghans found Lockie Ferguson's (3/19) pace too hot to handle and had no answers for Mitchell Santner's (3/39) deliveries, which at times, turned a mile.

This was after triple half centuries from Will Young (54, 64b, 4x4, 3x6), Tom Latham (68, 74b, 3x4, 2x6) and Glenn Phillips (71, 80b, 4x4, 4x6) ensured that New Zealand put up a winning total of 288/6.

While chasing, Afghanistan were down to 43/3 by the 14th over, with skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (8) being the third man to be dismissed. Then, the pair of

Rahmat Shah (36) and Azmatullah Omarzai (27) took brief control of the chase, putting on a 54-run stand for the fourth wicket.

However, the Kiwis already had the upper hand, and with the ball turning, they hardly allowed them to score freely. In the 26th over. pacer Trent Boult (2/18) got the partnership broken, getting rid of Omarzai. Thereon, the Afghans barely had any answers as they lost wickets at regular intervals. Earlier, New Zealand recov-

ered well from a mini mid-innings slump to post a commendable total. However, a total



total on a track where strokemaking wasn't an easy proposition. Phillips and Latham put on 144 invaluable runs for the fifth wicket and it could well prove to be a game-changer.

Put into bat first, the Kiwis lost opener Devon Conway (20) in the seventh over, with spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman (1/57) trapping him leg-before. However, the pair of opener Young and in-form batter Rachin Ravindra (32) took charge and put on a convincing 79-run stand for the second wicket.

Eventually, it was pacer Omarzai (2/56) who got the partnership broken in the 21st over, cleaning up Ravindra off a straight delivery. It was at this moment the Kiwis had a brief collapse, losing Young and Daryl Mitchell (1) by the 22nd over to Omarzai and spinner Rashid Khan, respectively, as the score read 110/4.

Nevertheless, New Zealand managed to recover soon through Latham and Phillips. But, there was still some work to be done, and it was Mark Chapman (25 n o) who came up with some late blitz

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 288/6 (Glenn Phillips 71, Tom Latham 68, Will Young 54; Naveen-ul-Haq 2/48, Azmatullah Omarzai 2/56) beat Afghanistan 139 (Rahmat Shah 36; Lockie Ferguson 3/19, Mitchell Santner 3/39) by 149 runs.



Lockie Ferguson (R), Mitchell Santner (C) and Mark Chapman celebrate a wicket

# Argentina past Peru



# Messi brace guides England overcome Italy, qualify for Euro

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Star Sports

Afghanistan.

just vet.

Among others, Shreyas Iyer's

unbeaten fifty against Pakistan

has signalled that India's bat-

ting is firing in unison and there

are no real concerns. As such, the

team may not want to tinker

with the winning combination

the most of batting-friendly con-

ditions here at the MCA Stadium,

their mixed record of four wins

in seven matches at this venue

in ODIs, combined with the re-

BAN

stream

While India will look to make

London, Oct 18: England became the ninth team to book a place at next year's European Championship after beating Italy 3-1 at Wembley Stadium, two years on from losing the final to the Italians at the same venue.

Denmark and Hungary also could have qualified Tuesday but both must wait until the



Chelsea winger Mykhailo Mudryk scored a powerful longrange shot for his first international goal

#### NEARLY SAN MARINO'S MOMENT

San Marino threatened the greatest shock in their football history as they held the score level with Denmark at 1-1 until Denmark scored again to seal a 2-1 win that leaves it on the verge

**ROHIT MOVES FIVE SPOTS UP TO 6TH IN ODI BATTERS' CHART** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 18: India captain Rohit Sharma Wednesday jumped five places to sixth in the ICC ODI batters' ranking on the back of his imperious form in the ongoing World Cup at home.

Rohit amassed 131 runs against Afghanistan and then backed it

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montevideo (Uruguay), Oct 18: Lionel Messi scored twice in Argentina's 2-0 win at Peru in a World Cup qualifier Tuesday, playing the entire match for his national team. The 36-year-old appeared fit after he was sidelined for several matches with his club Inter Miami because of muscular pain

Also Tuesday, Brazil-the archrivals of the defending World Cup champions - took two serious blows at Uruguay. Brazil lost 0-2 to the hosts, their first defeat in 37 World Cup qualifying matches, and saw their star Neymar leave the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo on crutches with a left knee injury.

Elsewhere, Venezuela beat Chile 3-0. Yeferson Soteldo opened the scoring shortly before the break, Salomon Rondon added a goal in the 72nd minute, and Darwin Machis scored seven minutes later. Last week, Venezuela earlier had a 1-1 draw against Brazil

Ecuador and Colombia had a scoreless draw, and Paraguay beat Bolivia 1-0 on Antonio Sanabria's goal in the 69th minute.

Argentina lead South American qualifying with 12 points in four matches. Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela have seven points and are separated by goal difference. Colombia have six points, and Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile have four each. Peru have one point and Bolivia are

yet to open their account.

The next World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry for the top six teams in South America. The seventhplace team will contest an intercontinental playoff for a berth. Two more rounds of South

American World Cup qualifying will be played in November. Brazil and Argentina will face off at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro November 21.

Messi increased his total to 106 goals in 178 international appearances, moving within two of Iran's Ali Daei for second on the career list behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo at 127.

The defending World Cup champion never faced risks at Lima's National Stadium against a Peruvian team that has yet to score in four qualifying matches. Argentina's confident performance could be traced to Messi finally playing as a starter and appearing fully healthy.

The 36-year-old made it 1-0 after a counterattack in the 32nd minute. Enzo Fernandez passed to Nico Gonzalez on the left. A low cross found Messi at the edge of the box, and he shot it to the left angle of goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Messi scored again 10 minutes later after Enzo Fernandez found him nearly at the same spot. Messi shot it on Gallese's right corner. He later had a goal disallowed for a low margin offside caught by video review in the 57th minute.

next qualifying games in November: And tiny San Marino briefly looked on track for a historic draw in their narrow loss to the Danes.

Italy took the lead with a goal for Gianluca Scamacca – his first for his country - but England turned the game around with two goals from captain Harry Kane and one from Marcus Rashford.

England join hosts Germany and previously qualified Austria, Belgium, France, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Turkey at next year's 24-team tournament. Defeat to England deepened the gloom around the Italian team

amid a scandal around players' alleged involvement in an illegal betting ring. Premier League midfielders Sandro Tonali and Nicolo Zaniolo left the Italy camp last week after being questioned

## **Bond parts ways** with Mumbai to end 9-year stint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 18: Former New Zealand pacer Shane Bond ended his nine year stint as Mumbai Indians bowling coach, the franchise said Wednesday. Bond, who has been associated with MI since 2015, won four IPL trophies as the bowling coach of the team. The 48-year-old Kiwi also quit

as MI Emirates head coach. He was at the helm of affairs of MI Emirates team in the inaugural season of ILT20 this year.

Bond made the decision to part ways with MI after the fivetime IPL champions appointed Lasith Malinga as their bowling coach for IPL 2024 in August this year. Malinga, who retired in 2021 and had played for MI, worked with the Rajasthan Royals until this year.

Harry Kane celebrates after scoring one of his goals against Italy, Tuesday

#### by police.

Italy's game with Ukraine November 20 will decide which team get the second qualifying spot in Group C along with England. Italy are seeking to avoid missing a second tournament in a row after failing to qualify for the World Cup last year. The decider is officially a home game for Ukraine but will take place in Germany because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Ukrainians had to recover from a goal down to beat Malta 3-1. The win was sealed when

of qualification.

San Marino has tried to qualfor the European ifv Championship nine times and has lost every game with the sole exception of a 0-0 draw with Estonia in 2014. San Marino has won only one game ever, beating Liechtenstein 1-0 in a 2004 friendly.

Denmark could have secured qualification Tuesday but needed other results to go their way. A 2-1 win for Kazakhstan against Finland earlier ensured Denmark would have to wait until next month's games.

#### **HUNGARY WAIT**

Hungary needed a win over Lithuania to qualify but instead drew 2-2 after recovering from being 2-0 down at halftime. Serbia are second in Group G and edged closer to qualifying by beating Montenegro 3-1.

up with an imperious 86 from 63 balls against arch-rivals Pakistan to be one of the in-form batters in the showpiece.

South Africa wicketkeeperbatter Quinton de Kock rose three spots to third leapfrogging teammate Rassie van der Dussen in fourth.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has edged up to 836 rating points and stretched his lead in the ODI batting rankings to 18 points. India opener Shubman Gill remained in second spot.

Veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is within reach of the No.1 spot in the ODI bowling rankings following a destructive spell against Bangladesh. Boult is only one rating point behind current leader Australia's Josh Hazlewood (660 rating points) after moving up one place in the latest update.

# ICC action unlikely on PCB's complaint

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The ICC is unlikely to take any action on Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) complaint for alleged boorish crowd behaviour during their World Cup game against India in Ahmedabad since the ambit of the anti-discrimination code is restricted to individuals and does not cover group. More than one lakh fans

watched the action unfold at the Narendra Modi Stadium and only three Pakistani-American fans were in the stands to support the players from the neighbouring nation.

A section of fans had heckled Mohammed Rizwan with religious chants when the wicketkeeper batter was walking back to pavilion following his dismissal, prompting the PCB to lodge a complaint with the game's



governing body.

Pakistan's Director of Cricket Mickey Arthur had admitted that his players were overawed by the vociferous crowd during their seven-wicket thumping at the hands of India.

It is understood that ICC has taken cognisance of the com-

plaint and is ascertaining its nature and the process it might follow. "The ICC takes every complaint very seriously but code is about individuals. I don't know what exactly is PCB looking at but it will be very difficult to take any tangible action," a veteran official, who has worked

in both BCCI and ICC told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

PCB's complaint about "inappropriate behaviour" needs to be seen in relative light. "The ICC may identify individuals if there are charges of racism but if thousands of people are shouting a slogan, what can you do? No player was injured by any 'missile' hurled from the gallery? A partisan crowd is expected. That's pressure of elite sport," he added.

As a part of standard protocol, the ICC exhibits its stand on racism and zero tolerance policy through billboards during its events.

About Arthur's 'Dil Dil 🔫 Pakistan' not blaring from the sound system, a BCCI official said, "There was no problem in playing 'Dil Dil Pakistan' but in that entire match, was there any such moment where you could have played that song?

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