



OWNING RESPONSIBILITY

Priyanka says she felt she let women down when a female-centric movie starring her didn't do well at the box office

LEISURE P2



ASSAULT INTENSIFIES

Israeli troops and tanks push deeper into Gaza, advancing on two sides of the territory's main city

INTERNATIONAL P10



DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR ANISH

Anish Bhanwala bags India's 12th Paris Olympics quota in shooting as he clinches a bronze at the Asian Championships

SPORTS P12

Terrorists shoot UP civilian dead

Srinagar: Terrorist attacks hit the Kashmir valley for the second consecutive day Monday when a labourer hailing from Uttar Pradesh was shot dead by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in Pulwama district. A local LeT terrorist from Pulwama district, identified as Rayees Dar, and one unidentified terrorist are responsible for the killing, police sources said. This incident came less than 24 hours after a police inspector was shot at in downtown Srinagar Sunday. **P9**

ED summons Kejriwal Nov 2

New Delhi: In a first, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for questioning in an excise policy-linked money-laundering case November 2, official sources said Monday. Kejriwal (55) has been issued the summons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and according to the sources, the agency will record his statement once he deposes before the investigating officer of the case in Delhi.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



By the way, are cricketers and film stars allowed to share their social media passwords with the govt?

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	64112.65 ↑ 329.85
NIFTY	19140.90 ↑ 93.60
DOLLAR	83.31 ↑ ₹0.00
EURO	88.22 ↑ ₹0.20
GOLD	₹61,308 ↑ ₹152
SILVER	₹ 72,717 ↑ ₹1000

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.9°C	30.8°C
TEMP MIN	20.0°C	20.4°C
Humidity	70%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	



COURTESY CALL: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik greets Governor-designate Raghubar Das at Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

LEOPARD MAULS MINOR TO DEATH



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Oct 30: In a terrifying incident, a minor boy was mauled to death by a leopard Monday evening while he was playing on the street in front of his house in Nuapada district. The horrific attack on the eight-year-old boy, identified as Dambaru Majhi occurred at Katingpani village under Dharambandha police station. Incidentally, the village is located close

to the Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary. The leopard pounced on the boy who was playing and dragged him into the forest before other inhabitants of the village could even react, police said. The villagers raised an alarm and launched a search in the forest to trace the missing boy along with staff of the Forest department. After more than a couple of hours, Forest department personnel found the mutilated body of the kid in a bush. The boy was rushed to the Nuapada district headquarters hospital here, but the doctors declared the kid dead on arrival. Police then sent the body of the boy for post-mortem. The body will be handed over to his family after the autopsy, police said. The terrifying incident has sent shock waves in the locality. People are now afraid to step out of their houses. Forest department personnel have launched an operation to locate the leopard. Irate locals demanded adequate compensation to the deceased's next of kin.

AP crash mirrors Bahanaga blunder

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam, Oct 30: The collision between two passenger trains in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district appears to be a sordid repeat of the ghastly train disaster in Odisha's Bahanaga nearly five months ago. Both the collisions involved two passenger trains and a goods train. At least 14 passengers were killed and over 50 injured in Sunday's collision between Visakhapatnam-Palasa passenger and Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger near Kantakapalli junction in Kothavalasa 'mandal' (block). Derailed coaches rammed into a goods train moving on an adjacent track. This added to the impact of the collision. According to railway officials, overshooting of signal by Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train led to the collision. Human error is the likely reason



for the accident, they said. The collision took place 150 km from Odisha, which had witnessed one of the worst train tragedies in the country's history nearly five months ago. As many as 295 passengers were killed and scores of others were injured in the triple train crash June 2 near the Bahanaga Bazar station. The Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express had entered the loop line, instead of the main line, and crashed into a goods train parked on the loop line. Such was the impact of the collision that coaches of Bengaluru-

DEATH TOLL REACHES 14
HUMAN ERROR LIKELY REASON FOR ACCIDENT

Howrah Superfast Express on the adjacent track were derailed. Railway officials had then said lapses in the signalling-circuit-alteration at North Signal Goomty station caused the Coromandel Express to enter the loop line and resulted in the rear-collision. In Sunday's accident in Vizianagaram district, Visakhapatnam-Rayagada (08504) rammed into

Visakhapatnam-Palasa (08532), which was waiting for signal. The locomotive of Rayagada passenger train and the guard coach of Palasa passenger were badly mangled in the collision. Under the impact of the collision, a couple of coaches of the Rayagada passenger train climbed on the locomotive. These coaches then rammed into a goods train passing on the adjacent track. Two coaches of the Palasa train also rammed into the goods train. A total of eight coaches of two passenger trains and the goods train were involved in the crash. About 1,400 passengers were travelling in these two passenger trains. As the crash site was five kilometres away from Vizianagaram-Kothavalasa highway, rescue workers had a tough time in shifting the injured to ambulances. Darkness also hampered the rescue work by police, local authorities and railway personnel.

People need not know: AG

No general right to know source of political funds, Centre tells SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 30: Holding that the electoral bond scheme for political funding of parties contributes to clean money, Attorney General R Venkataramani has told the Supreme Court that citizens do not have the right to information under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution regarding the source of funds.

In a statement filed before the top court, Venkataramani said there can be no general right to know anything and everything without being subjected to reasonable restrictions.

The scheme in question extends the benefit of confidentiality to the contributor. It ensures and promotes clean money being contributed. It ensures abiding by tax obligations. Thus, it does not fall foul of any existing right, the AG told the apex court. The top court law officer said the power of judicial review is not about scanning state policies for the purposes of suggesting better or different prescriptions.

A constitutional court reviews state action only if it impinges upon existing rights and not because State action has not provided for a possible right or an expectation howsoever desirable, he said.

That contribution to political



parties has democratic significance and a fit subject for political debate and demand of governance accountability free from influences does not mean that the court will proceed to declare on such matters in the absence of a clear constitutionally offending law, Venkataramani said.

A five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court is scheduled to commence hearing from October 31 a batch of pleas challenging the validity of the electoral bond scheme for political funding of parties.

The scheme, which was notified by the government January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring in transparency in political funding.

According to the provisions of the scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by any citizen of India or entity incorporated or established in India. An individual can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

The bench headed by Chief

Justice DY Chandrachud is scheduled to take up the batch of four pleas, including those filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur and the CPI(M). The other members of the bench are justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

On January 20, 2020, the apex court had refused to grant interim stay on the 2018 Electoral Bonds Scheme and sought responses of the Centre and the Election Commission to an interim application by the NGO seeking a stay on the scheme.

Only political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than one per cent of votes polled in the last general election to Lok Sabha or the legislative assembly of the state are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

According to the notification, electoral bonds shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through an account with an authorised bank.

The apex court had in April 2019 also declined to stay the Electoral Bond Scheme and made it clear that it will accord an in-depth hearing on the pleas as the Centre and the EC have raised weighty issues having tremendous bearing on the sanctity of the electoral process in the country.

SMALL ACTS GO A LONG WAY ACT NOW

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REASON BEHIND PERRY'S DEATH INCONCLUSIVE

The cause of Matthew Perry's death remains unknown even after the autopsy of the Friends actor. The experts are further investigating the matter.

ROBBIE WILLIAMS DIAGNOSED WITH HIGHLY SENSITIVE PERSON DISORDER

British singer and songwriter Robbie Williams says he has been newly diagnosed with Highly Sensitive Person (HSP) disorder. The 49-year-old singer, who spent years addicted to food and drugs before he got sober, said he can add 'HSP' to the litany of mental health issues he battles every day.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You may find yourself in a precarious position today, says Ganesha. You may feel challenged and swim against the current, which will be counterproductive. Nothing may seem to work out. Taking a break will ease the stress at such a time.

TAURUS

In all probability, it is a favourable day to begin financial planning, says Ganesha. You will focus on your relations and leave no stone unturned to make them prosper. You may yearn for a quiet getaway and end up spending a small fortune to get what you want.

GEMINI

Today, you may resume your quest for spirituality which you had aborted some time back. However, that doesn't mean you are on your way to sainthood. You are just trying to get close to your inner self. Though you will be frugal while spending on yourself, your lavish treatment to your beloved will stump everyone, including him/her, predicts Ganesha.

CANCER

You are likely to be a little over-zealous and over-analytical today, foretells Ganesha. You should not be too forceful or severe on others. This will help you save a few friendships and will make sure that your reputation remains intact.

LEO

There are chances of conflict on the home front today. However you will be able to solve these problems owing to your understanding nature. However, these conflicts would likely not have cropped up if you would have paid more attention to your family. You appreciate the wonderful things in life today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Keep an open mind and give vent to your imagination. You will feel very creative today, and will pursue your innovative ideas. Luck will favour you, and some things on which you took some risk will bear fruits. You will be very energetic and enthusiastic about all the work you do. Ganesha says it is an auspicious day to arrange social gatherings.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that your social status will increase now. Today is an auspicious day for venturing in new business or changing your profession. For those involved in the fields of interior designing, or running beauty parlours, now is an especially bountiful time for making progress in your business.

SCORPIO

A cheerful day lies ahead of you especially for the business community. It's a clincher, as good deals not only come to your door step, but yield good business. Feel, that you are the king of the world; bring out the best in you and you are bound to succeed.

SAGITTARIUS

Murmurs of discontent will reach your ears, especially from those very near. But if you go about pleasing one and all, you may not defuse the bomb completely. Exercise caution, and a lot of patience, says Ganesha. Your tolerance will not only help you overcome the problem, but also help you in addressing dissent in your cadres.

CAPRICORN

Good news for students! If you have been trying your luck for studies abroad, today is an opportune day, says Ganesha. Also, get your priorities straight and see that you achieve them one by one, for only a well-planned move can take you a step closer to your ambition.

AQUARIUS

Ganesha advises you to make a simple change in your routine and things will work out superbly. You also get recognition and rewards for past achievements. But that does not mean you become complacent, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Ferdinand the Bull would be the cartoon character that would most aptly describe you today. Calmness will be second nature to you, and wisdom will ooze from your pores. Communal harmony is something dear to your heart, and your amenability will see you achieve it, says Ganesha.

FAILURE OF FEMALE-CENTRIC MOVIES

Priyanka shares her inner feelings

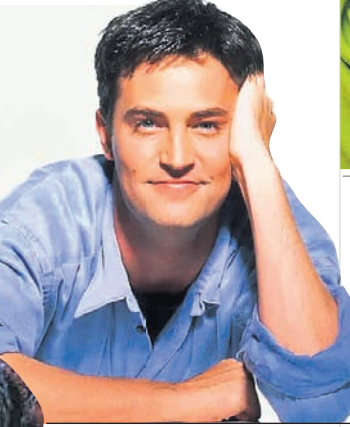
Mumbai: Having made her Hindi film debut in 2003, Priyanka Chopra has come a long way. Recently, she discussed working in female-oriented films, and how she initially felt like she let women down when her female-centric films didn't work. In a conversation with Bhumi Pednekar during a masterclass at the Jio MAMI Film Festival in Mumbai, the *Aitraaz* actress talked about the responsibility of starring in female-oriented films, and how she would initially react when those films didn't work well. "There's a lot of pressure when you have a female-led film, because we have so few, so when they don't do well you feel the collective failure on behalf of all women."

She said that she used to feel like she has 'taken women a few steps back' or that she 'let womankind down', as she felt very few actresses get the opportunity to do such films. However, she added that her outlook has changed since then, and she has now realised it's not personal. "But I've learned to pivot my mind around that - it's not personal. When a movie works, it works because it has something to say. And if it doesn't work, it didn't say what it needed to say," said the actress. AGENCIES



Eerie parallels between Perry, Sridevi's death

Mumbai: The sudden and untimely demise of *Friends* star Matthew Perry on October 29, left fans worldwide in a state of shock and mourning. It was determined that he had succumbed to accidental drowning in his bath tub. Amidst the grief surrounding his passing, social media users pointed out the striking similarities between the tragic deaths of the FRIENDS actor and Indian icon Sridevi.



They noted that both passed away at the age of 54, in incidents occurred on a Saturday, in their bathtubs. This comparison has ignited discussions and garnered attention from fans who said, "What a coincidence that Sridevi and Matthew Perry both died in their bathtub at the age of 54. No drugs or any foul things were found at both the places. FRIENDS in heaven!!!" A social media user wrote, "Just realised Perry and Sri died in the same manner. Shocking coincidence." Another said, "Its freaky how both died literally the same way, the same age." "Both died at the same age. She drowned in bath tub while he drowned in a jacuzzi at home. RIP," tweeted another. Indian cinema suffered a similar tragedy February 24, 2018 when news broke that legendary actress Sridevi passed away following an accidental drowning in her bathtub in Dubai. AGENCIES

Mumbai: Actor-comedian Vir Das, who has received the International Emmy nomination for his streaming comedy special *Landing*, has said that he loves to 'scare' himself with regards to his work and that he really enjoys the process to work on something which is 'impossible'. And it's this perspective of him towards his work that has brought him international recognition. Talking to IANS in the light of his nomination, Vir, who also actively takes up acting gigs and is currently busy directing a project, said that he enjoys making the tasks difficult for himself. "Furnishing the reason behind the same, he said: "I like to remove the trappings of comfort from my shows. I could have done this comedy special at a huge stadium with numerous cameras focusing on me from different angles but I wanted to keep it simple and Netflix was gracious enough to agree to that." He further mentioned: "In this special there's no set, there's just one stool. There's no production as such, there's only some sand on the floor, there's not even any enhanced lighting. In such a case, the special rides just on the words that come out of the comedian's mouth and the content. So, I like to scare myself in that sense." Vir Das's 'Landing' is streaming on Netflix. AGENCIES

'I enjoy making tasks difficult for myself'

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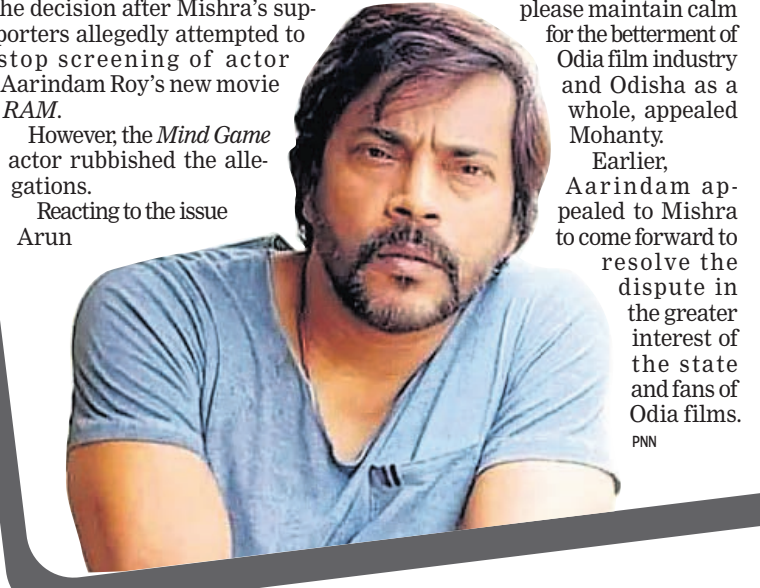
CRISIS OVER BAN ON ACTOR Cine producers' guild backs Manoj Mishra

Previously, the Utkal Cine Chambers of Commerce, another group of filmmakers, banned Manoj after his fans allegedly disrupted the screening of Odia film *RAM*, starring Aarindam Roy, in western Odisha towns

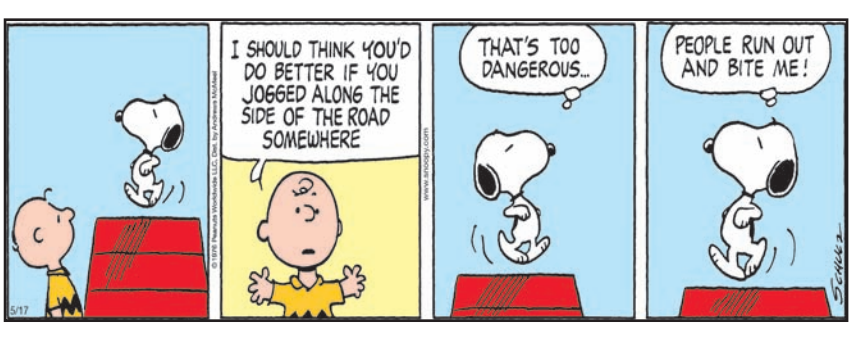
Mohanty, secretary of Odisha Film Producers and Distributors Guild (OPPDG), another association of film producers, Monday said that they support Mishra and there is no restrictions imposed on him. At a press conference, he said, "We have come to know that some producers have imposed restrictions on you from acting in Odia films, which has unfortunately hurt the people of western Odisha. Even political activities have been accelerated."

Bhubaneswar: Odia film industry is fighting an inner battle after The Utkal Cine Chambers of Commerce, a producers' body, imposed a two-year ban on actor and producer Manoj Mishra. It took the decision after Mishra's supporters allegedly attempted to stop screening of actor Aarindam Roy's new movie *RAM*. However, the *Mind Game* actor rubbished the allegations. Reacting to the issue Arun

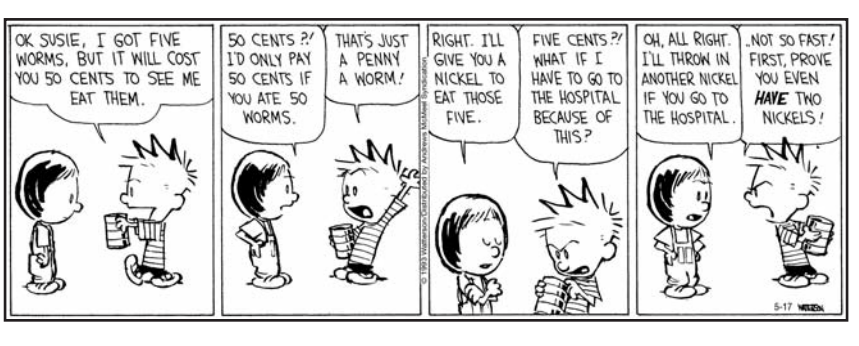
He added, "There is nothing like east, west, north & south Odisha. Our film industry and state is one. We respect all the languages spoken in Odisha." At this crucial time please maintain calm for the betterment of Odia film industry and Odisha as a whole, appealed Mohanty. Earlier, Aarindam appealed to Mishra to come forward to resolve the dispute in the greater interest of the state and fans of Odia films. PNN



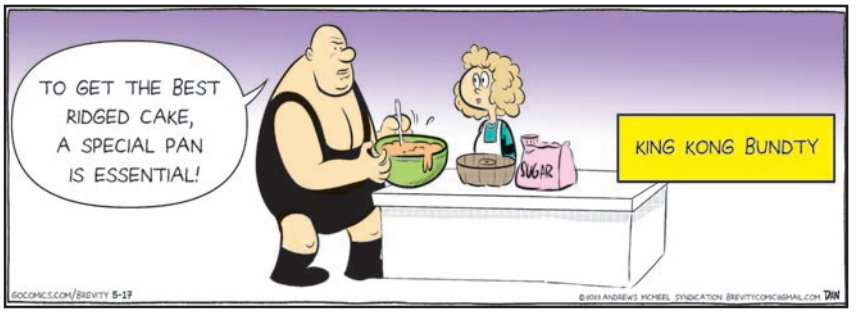
PEANUTS



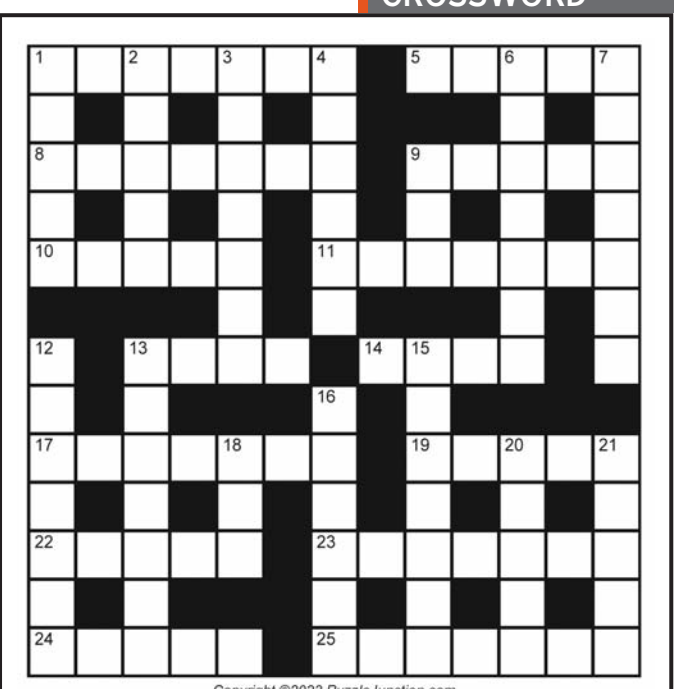
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Fit of anger
 - 5 Flower holder
 - 8 Trinket
 - 9 Contest official
 - 10 Welsh dog
 - 11 Really bad
 - 13 After lily and knee
 - 14 Dentist's request
 - 17 Russian revolutionary assassinated in Mexico
 - 19 Hungarian composer
 - 22 Commendation
 - 23 Manoeuvres
 - 24 Some showdowns
 - 25 Sled parts
 - 6 Exercise target
 - 7 Citadel of Moscow
 - 9 Cousin of a crow
 - 12 Marsh
 - 13 Tank contents
 - 15 Large long-winged seabird
 - 16 Shellfish
 - 18 Needing a lift
 - 20 Angler's gear
 - 21 Walrus or elephant attachments
- Down**
- 1 Cloak
 - 2 ___ a dull moment!
 - 3 Came from behind
 - 4 Distress call

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

C	H	A	R	I	O	T	O	D	O	U	R
O	G	A	N	D	O	N	O	T	O		
R	O	L	O	N	E	T	O	T	E	M	
A	W	H	I	T	T	L	E	D	O	W	N
		S	A			M	C				
B	I	G	B	E	N	C	H	E	E	S	E
U	A										
R	O	M	A	N	C	A	N	D	L	E	M
I	C	I	N	G	L	E	O	P	A	R	D
T	A	S									
O	A	S	I	S							

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

EXPO IN CITY

Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda visiting a photo exhibition organised at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday



SC: Fill vacancies in info commissions

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 30: The Supreme Court Monday expressed dissatisfaction over the failure of the state governments and the Union government to fill the vacancies in the Information Commissions and observed that it will defeat the very objective of the RTI Act.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud directed the states to take steps to start the process of filling up the vacancies in information commissions.

The failure of the states to fill vacancies of information commissioners defeats the objective of the RTI Act, the Chief Justice said.

The bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, directed the Department of Personnel and Training to prepare a chart on the number of vacancies and number of complaints in all the commissions. The court will hear the case after three weeks.

Advocate Prashant Bhusan appearing for the petitioner submitted in the court that several states haven't filled the vacancies yet which has resulted in a large number of pending cases and long delays in disposal of complaints.

He submitted that in Odisha

KEY POINTS
- Odisha State Information Commission has four vacancies till October 6
- State information commission is functioning with three commissioners
- In 2019, the apex court had directed to fill all the sanctioned 4 vacancies
- It also took a decision regarding sanctioning 3 additional posts

16,703 CASES ARE PENDING BEFORE THE ODISHA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

State Information Commission there are four vacancies as on October 6. He further submitted that the state information commission is functioning with three commissioners - Chief Information Commissioner and two information commissioners. In 2019, the apex court had directed to fill all the sanctioned four vacancies and also take a decision regarding sanctioning three additional posts, Bhusan stated.

It is to be mentioned here that the apex court, in its February 15, 2019 verdict, had said that selection of information officers should include people of eminence from various other fields and not be limited to bureaucrats and the exercise be conducted in a transparent manner. It had directed the Centre and eight states namely Odisha, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka to fill up the vacancies of ICs in the CIC and SICs without any delay within a period of one month to six months.

GUV-DESIGNATE VISITS SRIMANDIR

AGENCIES

Puri, Oct 30: Governor-designate Raghubar Das arrived in Odisha Monday, and visited Srimandir here ahead of his swearing-in ceremony Tuesday.

Das, the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, reached Puri by train in the early hours. He was received at the station by Puri Collector Samarth Verma and superintendent of police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh.

He then went to the Raj Bhawan in the seaside town, and later went to the 12th-century shrine.

Minister of State (MoS) for Home Tusharkanti Behera welcomed the Governor-designate at Srimandir Lion's Gate.

"I am fortunate enough to get the opportunity to serve the people of Odisha. I sought the blessings of Lord Jagannath to give me the energy to serve the downtrodden. Development of the state is my priority. The Raj Bhawan of Odisha will remain open for the people round the clock," Das told reporters after visiting the temple.

He also expressed grief over the death of 13 people in the train accident in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Later in the day, Das reached Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar where he was welcomed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Speaker Pramila Mallik, Chief Secretary PK Jena, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian and DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal.

Das will also visit Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar Tuesday morning before being sworn in as the 26th Governor of Odisha. The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to start at 11:45am Tuesday.

A number of his supporters from Jharkhand, and members of his family are likely to join the swearing-in ceremony.

Das was named as the new Governor of Odisha by President Droupadi Murmu October 18. He will replace Ganeshi Lal.

Das was Jharkhand's only non-tribal chief minister, who served the state from 2014 to 2019. He started his political career as an activist in the students' movement spearheaded by Loknayan Jaiprakash Narayan in 1976-77.

'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' in Rayagada, Jharsuguda

The govt has sanctioned 2,613 projects worth ₹91 crore for Rayagada and 957 projects worth ₹39 crore in Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday launched 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha', an ambitious initiative of the state government to boost rural infrastructure and promote Jagannath culture, in Rayagada and Jharsuguda districts.

The state government sanctioned 2,613 projects worth Rs 91 crore for Rayagada, Gunupur and Bissam Cuttack constituencies of Rayagada district, while Rs 39 crore was approved for execution of 957 projects in Jharsuguda and Brajarajnagar constituencies of Jharsuguda district.

People of 182 gram panchayats under 11 blocks of Rayagada district and 78 gram panchayats under five blocks in Jharsuguda district will benefit from the projects.

With this, the Rs 3,397 crore initiative has so far been launched in 11 districts including Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Kendrapara,



Khurda and Jagatsinghpur.

Under the scheme, as many as 90,723 projects will be implemented in 6,794 gram panchayats with each getting an assistance of Rs 50 lakh.

Under the initiative, steps will be taken for preservation of Jagannath culture, sites of historical significance and development of places of worship in villages. Development of digital infrastructure in villages is another objective of the ambitious scheme.

"Villages will get internet connectivity, science parks, skill development centres and banking facility while village primary schools will also be involved under the initiative," according to Patnaik.



AT LORD'S ABODE: Huge rush of devotees at Srimandir in Puri on the first Monday of the holy month of Kartika

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

365 booked by Vigilance till October

The anti-corruption wing detects disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹93.29cr in these cases

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Odisha Vigilance has registered 202 criminal cases against 365 people, including 38 Class-I officers, till October 27 this year, an official statement said Monday.

On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023, the anti-corruption wing of the state government said these criminal cases have been registered against 236 officers, 7 Class-IV employees and 48 other public servants.

Of the 202 cases, "61 were instituted for the acquisition of disproportionate assets against 72 public servants and 34 private individuals," the statement said.

In all these cases, the total disproportionate assets worth Rs 93.29 crore were detected, it said.

The Vigilance department has laid 75 traps against 86 public servants and 13 private individuals for demand and acceptance of bribes, amounting to ₹24.24 lakh.

During the year, 66 cases relating to the misappropriation of public money of ₹44.38 crore have been registered against 168 people.

Chargesheets have been filed in 198 cases against 486 people, including 42 Group-A and 31 Group-B officers of which 87 cases have ended in a conviction, a senior vigilance official said.

Moreover, 27 public servants have been dismissed from service and the pension of 14 retired

'USE TECH TO DETECT COMPLEX CRIMES'

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday urged the Vigilance department to take steps for infusion of new technology and engage more professionals with domain expertise for effective detection of complex financial crimes. "The department (Vigilance) should take steps for adoption of new technology and engage professionals with necessary expertise for effective detection of 'benami' transactions, money laundering, corruption through digital transactions and investments in cryptocurrencies," Patnaik said at a function organised on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 at Lok Seva Bhawan here.

The CM administered integrity pledge to all, especially public servants, through Odisha State Wide Area Network (OSWAN) and asserted that his government has adopted a 'zero tolerance' approach towards corruption so as to ensure availability of public services to people in a fair and transparent manner.

government employees stopped following their conviction in Vigilance cases, he said.

Last year, Vigilance department conducted searches at over



According to the latest statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Odisha Vigilance is among the 'top performing anti-corruption agencies in the country' in all major parameters, Patnaik said.

Highlighting the "transparency" element in the 5T initiative undertaken by the state government to achieve transformational goals in governance, the Chief Minister appealed to the people of Odisha to renew their resolve to fight against corruption and usher in a corruption-free and a 'new empowered Odisha'.

Vigilance director Yeshwant

Jethwa said in 2022 and 2023 so far, the department has unearthed disproportionate assets worth Rs 268 crore with 'record seizures of concealed ill-gotten cash'.

On the occasion, Patnaik inaugurated the computer-based investigation and prosecution management system, and new buildings of Vigilance offices at Balasore and Rourkela through videoconferencing.

Chief Secretary PK Jena said implementing honesty and integrity in public life is already one of the main pillars of Odisha's State Policy.

5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian was present on the occasion.

AP train mishap: Passengers thank God for being alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: As the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada Passenger Special train jumped the track Sunday evening in Andhra Pradesh, the six-year-old daughter of Dilip Kumar Patro fell from the upper berth but fortunately did not suffer any major injury.

While recounting the horror of the train's collision with Visakhapatnam-Palasa Passenger that left 14 people dead and 50 others injured, the child's mother thanked the Almighty for saving them.

Patro, a resident of Rayagada district, was returning home with

his wife, daughter and three others when the accident took place between Alamanda and Kantakapalle in the Vizianagaram-Kottavalasa Railway Section of Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway Zone.

"At around 7:10pm, we felt a major jolt. Everything happened in seconds. My daughter who was sitting on a top berth fell down. There were screams for help and cries all around the coaches. Initially, I did not understand what had happened but later realized it was an accident," said Patro after reaching Rayagada station Monday.

The 35-year-old man said he took his daughter and belongings



and asked his wife and other family members to get down from the tilted coach.

"With much difficulty and fear in our hearts, we could manage to get down from the train. I found people running helter-

skelter near the track and two rail cars were derailed," he said.

Patro said he had seen someone lying under a coach, who was apparently dead.

"Many were saved as the number of passengers in the train was less as it was a Sunday. Had there been a packed coach, many lives could have been lost," he said.

His wife said that she would never forget the evening in her life. "We must thank God that we are alive today. At that time our lone priority was to get out of the train," she said.

They virtually ran for around a km to reach the nearby National Highway from where

MARNDI VISITS ACCIDENT SITE

Following the tragic train mishap between Alamanda and Kantakapalle stations of Andhra Pradesh that claimed 14 lives and injured at least 50, Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi Tuesday visited the spot in Vizianagaram district. The minister also interacted with officials of Railway, district and local administrations, volunteers and ODRAF team regarding rescue and treatment of the injured persons. Meanwhile, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) has cancelled several trains including 12840 Chennai-Howrah Mail from Chennai October 30, 08522/08521 Visakhapatnam-Gunupur-Visakhapatnam Special from both the directions October 31, 08504/08503 Visakhapatnam-Rayagada-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam October 31 and from Rayagada November 1, 08532/08531 Visakhapatnam-Palasa-Visakhapatnam Special from Visakhapatnam October 31 and from Palasa November 1 and 22856 Tirupati-Santragachhi Express from Tirupati October 30. Railway sources also claimed that the first passenger train, 18463 Bhubaneswar-Bangalore Prashanti Express, passed on the affected line at 1436hrs before a goods train passed on the down line at 1423hrs. Eight Poclairn machines, a 140-tonne Rail Crain and 800-900 people were engaged in the restoration work on a war footing, said the sources. ECoR general manager Manoj Sharma monitored the restoration work at the accident site along with principal heads of departments of ECoR and Divisional Railway Manager of Waltair division. PNN

they could be lifted by a rescue van of the Railways. Similar was the story of many people at the Rayagada railway station who reached there by bus from the accident site.

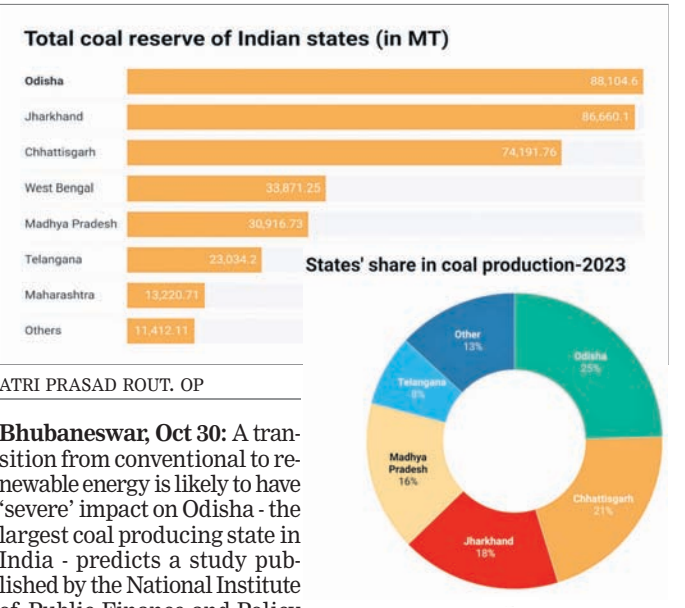
Though none of the passengers from Odisha was on the list of the 14 deceased persons,

some people from the state suffered injuries in the accident.

Meanwhile, East Coast Railway CPRO Biswajit Sahoo said both up and down lines have been restored and trains have started passing the area. Now the priority is to restore the middle line, the CPRO said.

Renewable energy shift likely to hit Odisha hard

A new study says the impact of transition to renewable energy from conventional could be 'severe' for coal-rich Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh



Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: A transition from conventional to renewable energy is likely to have 'severe' impact on Odisha - the largest coal producing state in India - predicts a study published by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi.

The working paper, released by two researchers from IIT Delhi's School of Public Policy, has also cautioned Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, the two other major coal producing states in India, about a similar situation if alternatives were not worked out by the respective governments from now.

The study makes the case that decarbonisation of India's electricity sector and shift away from coal and thermal power towards renewable sources of energy could enhance the economic inequality that exists between states in India.

As coal mines and thermal power plants shut down, these three states might have to purchase electricity from states in the western and southern parts of the country that are rich in solar and wind energy. The expenditure on power and infrastructure may push higher their budget deficits (adding an estimated 8.66 per cent to combined deficits of the renewable energy-poor states), the paper says.

According to Provisional Coal Statistics of the Union Coal Ministry, Odisha in 2022-23 recorded the highest coal production in the country with a volume of 218.96 million tonnes (MT), accounting for 25 per cent of total coal production for the year. The state was followed by Chhattisgarh (184.85 MT), Jharkhand (156.44 MT) and Madhya Pradesh (146.02 MT).

The coal produced in Odisha falls almost entirely in the non-coking category, the type of coal used specifically for power generation.

dominantly a government operation, the road to renewable energy could be bumpy because it's mostly private corporations that are leading in that front.

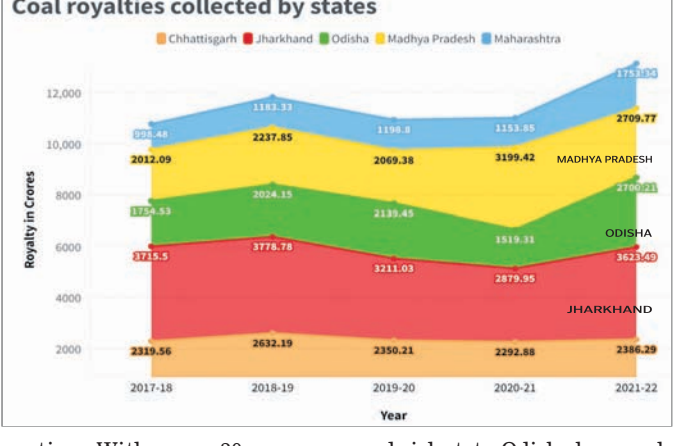
As per the coal inventory data provided by Geological Survey of India (2022), Odisha has the highest 'total' coal reserves (measured plus inferred) in the country at 88,104.61 million tonnes. In the process of transition, the state stands to lose all potential revenue from these sources. That amount could be significant as Odisha had collected ₹2700.21 crore in royalty from coal companies in 2022, as per the information given by Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi in a Lok Sabha reply in April, 2023.

However, Sangram Keshari Swain, Special Secretary Steel and Mines Department, says the impact won't be that severe. "The phasing down of coal will take 30 to 40 years, so it's not an immediate concern. The state now earns some ₹40,000 crore from other minerals, compared to which coal is only a minor fraction," he says.

Swain says tough there has been no definite government shift away from coal, "as a min-

The phasing down of coal will take 30 to 40 years, so it's not an immediate concern. The state now earns some ₹40,000 crore from other minerals, compared to which coal is only a minor fraction,

SANGRAM KESHARI SWAIN |
SPECIAL SECRETARY, STEEL AND MINES DEPARTMENT



eral-rich state, Odisha has much more potential for mineral-based industrialisation other than coal." When asked about coal reserves, he says, "It's up to the Central government to take decision to use the mineral or not."

Odisha's coal conundrum, in that way, is reflective of the larger question facing all developing nations like India; which on one hand has growing economies with soaring energy demand and on the other hand feel the need and pressure to swiftly transition to renewable energy.



SAVE FOR TOMORROW: A 'Sanchaya Rath' being flagged off from the office of Sub Collector in Bhubaneswar, Monday, to create awareness on saving on the occasion of World Thrift Day

'Goila butter chicken' outlet opens in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: The popular master chef Saransh Goila opened his famous 'Goila Butter Chicken' outlet in Metro House here, Monday. The culinary masterpiece founded by Goila and Vivek Sahai in Mumbai 2016 is currently operating in more than 18 cities in India and UK. The brand reinvented the iconic butter chicken connecting with its original flavour and delivering a unique taste. Also, there is an array of signature dishes including Naan Bombs, Classic Chicken Tikka, Goila Butter Paneer and Dal Makhani that have garnered nationwide acclaim.

Each dish is meticulously crafted to showcase the distinctiveness of Goila Butter. Whether you're a connoisseur of traditional cuisine or an adventurous foodie seeking new thrills, this pop-up is designed to captivate every palate.

Saransh is a prominent Indian chef, author, and culinary entrepreneur who has left an indelible mark on the culinary world with his innovative approach to Indian cuisine.



OVER 5,000 FAMILIES TO GET LAND RIGHTS TODAY

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: On the eve of the World Cities Day, BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said 5,542 families residing in slums in Bhubaneswar will be rewarded with Land Rights Certificate under Jaga Mission. The event is stated to commence in three places such as Baragarh Brit Colony Netaji Playground, Unit-8 Community Centre and Chandrasekharpur Kalyan Mandap.

Jaga Mission is an initiative, exclusively governed by Housing and Urban Development Department which seeks to upgrade the slums in urban cities, in addition to granting land rights to slum dwellers.

The concept of 'infrastructure development' has posed as basic norm for cities across the world. The uneven distribution of wealth among urban and rural pockets of India is now pushing majority to relocate from villages to cities.

However, the ground reality of Indian cities to fend off basic services is alarming if the parameters such as drainage, climate change, transportation and housing among others are to be considered.



World Cities Day observed every year October 31 by United Nations, is an initiative by the International Community to push concerns for global urbanisation by addressing the challenges. This year's theme for World Cities Day is - 'Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All'.

Addressing these shortcomings, Jaya Krushna Panigrahi, Secretary at Orissa Environmental Society (OES) said, "Cities are confronting a myriad of problems at the present juncture, more importantly in the developing world. With further expansion of population, the problems will aggravate further putting the livability of cities into jeopardy and their dwellers into the state of physical and mental turmoil. Thus, it will be wiser on the part of the city financiers to focus on sustainability aspects of the developmental projects."

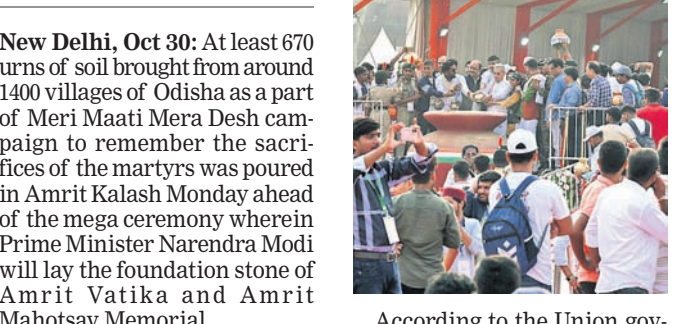
Reportedly, UN's 'World Habitat Report' released on 2022 stated that India's urban population is expected to remain at 675 million in 2035, second to China's count of 1 billion. The elaborative study by the report concluded that urban poverty and inequality stands as one of the complex problems in today's cities. Piyush Rout, an urban planner based in Bhubaneswar said, "Strategic changes in policymaking are the need of the hour. We need to disrupt the age-old idea of centralizing every development and infrastructure at a single city or place. By diversifying the provided resources, we will be able to decongest our cities and provide a better life to everybody." Sujit Mahapatra and Suchi Smita Nayak, who Co-owns Cafe 16 at Bhubaneswar, said that, "Bhubaneswar has seen a change in its culture with the arrival of cafes. Likewise restaurants are for food, similarly pubs and bars are for partying, but cafes are for conversations, where everybody can hang out."

"Before Cafe culture got mixed in city life, girls would hang out in each other's houses. However, the lines of gender chauvinism are gradually diminishing with the upbringing of such social developments", they added.

MERI MAATI MERA DESH

Soil from Odisha poured in Amrit Kalash

POST NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi, Oct 30: At least 670 urns of soil brought from around 1400 villages of Odisha as a part of Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs was poured in Amrit Kalash Monday ahead of the mega ceremony wherein Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Amrit Vatika and Amrit Mahotsav Memorial.

The Prime Minister Tuesday will participate in the programme marking the culmination of Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign's Amrit Kalash Yatra at Kartavya Path at around 5 PM. The programme will also mark the closing ceremony of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He will address thousands of Amrit Kalash Yatri joining the programme from across the country.

During the closing ceremony, at least 20 artists of Odisha will participate.

According to the Union government, Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign is a tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country. Under this campaign, the soil of the birthplace of immortal martyrs is being taken in Amrit Kalash to the National Martyrs Memorial in Delhi. Under the Amrit Kalash Yatra, 'Amrit Vatika' will be created at the Kartavya Path by mixing soil and plants coming from 7,500 urns from across the country, mentioned in the official statement.

Common chemotherapy drugs don't work as thought

Chemotherapy may not be reaching its full potential, in part because researchers and doctors have long misunderstood how some of the most common cancer drugs actually ward off tumours, according to a new study.

For decades, researchers have believed that a class of drugs called microtubule poisons treats cancerous tumours by halting mitosis, or the division of cells.

Now, a team of University of Wisconsin-Madison scientists has found that in patients, microtubule poisons don't actually stop cancer cells from dividing. Instead, these drugs alter mitosis - sometimes enough to cause new cancer cells to die and the disease to regress.

Cancers grow and spread because cancerous cells divide and multiply indefinitely, unlike normal cells which are limited in the number of times they can split into new cells.

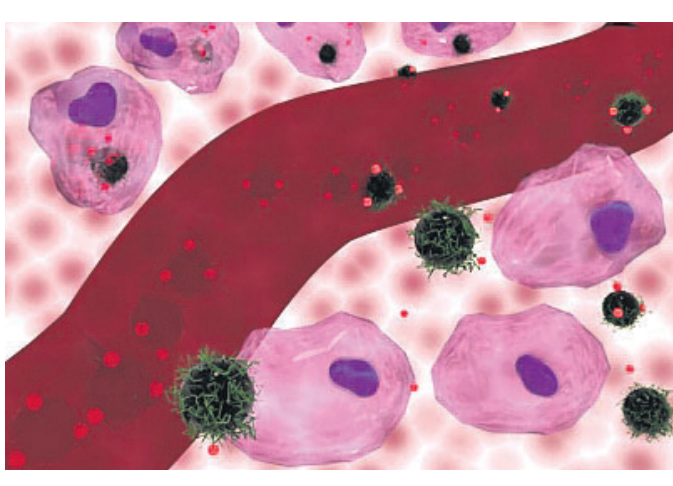
The assumption that microtubule poisons stop cancer cells from dividing is based on lab studies demonstrating just that.

Published in the journal PLOS Biology the study broadens previous findings about a specific microtubule poison called paclitaxel.

Sometimes prescribed under the brand name Taxol, paclitaxel is used to treat common malignancies including those originating in the ovaries and lungs.

"For decades, we all thought that the way paclitaxel works in patient tumours is by arresting them in mitosis. This is what I was taught as a graduate student. We all 'knew' this. In cells in a dish, labs all over the world have shown this. The problem was we were all using it at concentrations higher than those that actually get into the tumour," said Beth Weaver, a professor in the departments of oncology and cell and regenerative biology about the previous research.

Weaver and her team wanted to know if other microtubule poisons work the same way as paclitaxel - not by stopping mitosis but by messing it up.



The team studied tumour samples taken from breast cancer patients who received standard anti-microtubule chemotherapy. They measured how much of the drugs made it into the tumours and studied how the tumour cells responded. They found that while the cells continued to divide after being exposed to the drug, they did so abnormally.

Normally, a cell's chromosomes are duplicated before the two identical sets migrate to opposite ends of the cell mitosis in a process called chromosomal segregation. One set of chromosomes is sorted into each of two new cells. This migration occurs because the chromosomes are attached to a cellular machine known as the mitotic spindle. Spindles are made from cellular building blocks called microtubules. Normal spindles have two ends, known as spindle poles.

These findings reveal the likely reason why microtubule poisons are effective for many patients. Importantly, they also help explain why attempts to find new chemo drugs based solely on stopping mitosis have been so disappointing, Weaver said.

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Man gets 10 yrs in prison for rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 30: A fast track court here sentenced Monday a man to 10 years in prison after convicting him for the rape of a woman under Patkura police limits in this district.

Judge Tribikram Keshari Chinhara also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on Sahu, apart from the prison sentence. If he fails to pay, Sahu has to undergo an additional one year in prison, the judge said while delivering the order.

This information was given by additional public prosecutor Sanjay Kumar Jena pleading the matter on behalf of the Odisha government. The judge passed the order after examining the statments recorded by 14 witnesses and the police chargesheet, Jena said.

Jena said that the survivor resides in Bhubaneswar. She had come to her village in 2014 when Sahu, a friend of her husband visited the victim's residence. Sahu then requested the woman to allow him to stay that night at her home as it was already past evening.

Later, Sahu tried to kill the victim's husband June 1, 2015 following which she lodged a complaint at Patkura police station. The woman later, gave birth to a baby boy and a DNA test proved Sahu as the father.

Housing scam surfaces in Jajpur

Many families allotted more than one house under various Awas Yojana programmes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 30: Housing schemes for the poor have gone haywire in Jajpur district with 26 members of seven families being sanctioned with a residence each under the state as well as Centre-sponsored schemes, sources said Monday.

What is more shocking is that six members of a particular family have managed to get a house each sanctioned in their names. More than 20 families have been illegally sanctioned more than one house under the various Awas Yojanas.

The Centre has launched housing schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) while the state has unveiled the 'Mo Kudia' and the 'Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana' (BPGY) for the poor.

The district administration has assured people time and again that it will conduct probe into the irregularities in the various housing schemes and strike off the names of ineligible beneficiaries. It has also promised to take action against negligent officials who are involved in the goop-ups. However, nothing has happened till date.

As a result, the list of ineligible beneficiaries is increasing day by day. The aggrieved villagers have drawn the attention of the Jajpur Collector, Chief Minister, Panchayatiraj Minister, Chief



Secretary and Dasarathpur BDO but to no avail. Earlier, similar allegations had surfaced from Dharmasala and Binjarpur blocks in the district. Later, steps were taken to trace the illegal beneficiaries and get the money back from them. However, no action was taken against the officials responsible for these irregularities. Sources alleged that influential people have managed to get houses sanctioned in their names by paying bribes to officials in charge of enlisting the names of beneficiaries under these housing schemes. In the process the poor who are actually eligible to get a house have been left high and dry. Sources pointed out that irregularities like hijacking of serial numbers of beneficiaries and swindling of lakhs of rupees by forging signatures have become rampant in this district. Funds have also been allotted to dead persons. Many government officials and financially sound persons are becoming beneficiaries of the housing schemes floated by the Centre and the Odisha government, they added. Some social activists have

Some social activists have lodged complaints in this regard before the Orissa High Court and the state Lokayukta but without any success. Residents have demanded a proper probe to unravel the irregularities

Train services hit due to agitation



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 30: The 'rail roko' demonstration led by former MLA of Biramitrapur George Tirkey under the aegis of Bisra Public Action Committee (BPAC) passed off peacefully Monday. The agitation was a complete success with not a single train being allowed to pass through the station here.

The agitation began at 6.00am with Tirkey and his supporters squatting on the tracks. As a result most of the trains scheduled to pass through Rourkela station were either terminated at Bisra or diverted. The agitators demanded that all trains stopping at Bisra should also get a halt at the Rourkela station.

Railway officials led by ACM Rourkela, Vineet Kumar held a discussion with Tirkey and others. The squatters relented only after Railway officials gave a written assurance that the demand will be looked into and a final decision on the matter will be taken within six weeks.

Later talking to mediapersons, Tirkey said that he had no expectations from the meeting. "Railway officials have told us that they will take a final call on the matter within six weeks. We will wait for that time frame and then decide on the next course of action. Today the agitation was peaceful. However, I can't promise that in future the demonstrations will be peaceful," Tirkey asserted.

Bishnu Mohanty, All India vice-president of CITU, who also joined the strike, demanded quick action from the Railways. "It is really unfortunate that the Railways have been sitting on this issue for such a long time. We support the strike and will also join in future agitations," stated Mohanty.

Newly-appointed district president of BJD and former MLA Halu Mundari pointed out that the Railways must respect public sentiment. "This had been a very old demand raised by me. The Railways should act quickly on it," Mundari stated.

Earlier, Tirkey had held three rounds of talks with the Railway authorities, but nothing happened regarding the stoppage of trains at Rourkela station.

Women take back seat in Ganjam politics

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 30: The country has witnessed 17 Lok Sabha elections after independence from 1951-1952 to 2019. Odisha's Ganjam district has two Lok Sabha constituencies. However, only three women have been elected to the Lok Sabha from these two constituencies in the last 68 years. Also only one woman from the district has been elected to the Rajya Sabha in the same time frame. It definitely proves that women politicians get a raw deal as far as Ganjam district is concerned.

The representation of women to the Lok Sabha from a large and politically conscious Ganjam district has been quite dismal and disappointing, to say the least.

This development has come at a time when a Bill seeking 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state Legislative



Assemblies has been passed in both Houses of the Parliament and will be implemented in the 2029 elections. Now women politicians in Ganjam district are hoping that they will get greater prominence in the 2029 polls.

The Berhampur Lok Sabha constituency was first known as Ganjam and later changed to Chhatrapur before finally getting its present-day name. In the past, the constituency comprised of Chhatrapur, Gopalpur, Berhampur and Chikiti Assembly segments in Ganjam district and Paralakhemundi,

Ramgiri and Mohana Assembly segments of neighbouring Gajapati district.

Ramgiri was separated from the Berhampur constituency due to delimitation in 2009. Also a new Assembly segment, Digapahandi was formed and included in the Berhampur Lok Sabha constituency.

The late Jayanti Patnaik contested as a Congress candidate from the Berhampur Lok Sabha seat and won defeating BJP's Gopinath Gajapati in the mid-term elections held in 1998. She thus became the first woman to become a Lok Sabha member from Ganjam district.

The second Lok Sabha constituency in the district is Aska. This constituency comprises of Khallikote, Kabisuryanagar, Sorada, Aska, Hinjili, east Kodala, Polsara and Sanakhemundi Assembly segments. BJD supreme and Odisha Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik contested from this Lok Sabha seat in the 1998 elections and won by a huge margin defeating Chandra Sekhar Sahu of the Congress.

Patnaik again contested in the general elections in 1999 from Aska and emerged victorious a second time. In the 2000 state elections Patnaik won from Hinjili Assembly segment and became the Chief Minister and subsequently resigned as a Lok Sabha MP.

BJD's Kumudini Patnaik, wife of late political leader Ramakrushna Patnaik contested from the vacant Aska seat and was elected to the Lok Sabha. She thus became the second woman from Ganjam district to go to the Lok Sabha.

In the 2019 elections, Patnaik nominated Pramila Bisoi as the BJD candidate from Aska. Bisoi won from this seat and became the third woman Lok Sabha member from Ganjam district.

BURGLAR GANG BUSTED, 9 HELD



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 30: Khantapada police with the help of their counterparts from Cuttack have successfully solved a burglary case. So far nine people have been arrested in this connection, Balasure SP, Sagarika Nath informed here Monday.

Those arrested have been identified as Rohit Mohanty, Manas Mahalik, Sanjay Singh, Indu Mallick and Saroj Mallick residing in Khantapada police station area and Sharan Mahalik, Sudha Mallick and Rahul Jena residents of Soro police station

locality. Police also arrested Tapan Mahalik from Cuttack for helping the miscreants.

Police said that the residence of Shankar Satapathy at Manjari village under Khantapada police limits in Balasure district was burgled October 26 night. Miscreants first sprayed chemical-laced black pepper on the faces of the family members and then looted valuables including gold jewellery, mobile phones, laptops and ₹8,000 in cash.

A case (No-236/23) was registered at Khantapada police station and police launched an investigation. Within 48 hours, police

successfully arrested the gang involved in the crime and seized all the valuables stolen. Police also seized from the miscreants three two-wheelers and four phones, the SP informed.

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender No. e-Tender-Optg-KUR-5-23 NAME OF WORK PROVISION FOR PRINTING, XEROX AND SUPPLY OF DIVISIONAL CAUTION ORDER (DCO) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION ON DAILY BASIS AT PURI (PUJ), KHURDA ROAD (KUR) & BHUBANESWAR (BBS) (TOTAL 03 LOCATIONS) ASSIGNED UNDER ZONE-A FOR A PERIOD OF 2 (TWO) YEARS AND 214 DAYS OF OPERATING VALUE. Advertisment Value (₹) : 20,77,744.00, EMD (₹) : 41,600.00, Period of Completion : 944 Days. Bidding Start Date : 31.10.2023. Date and Time of Closing of Tender : At 1500 Hrs. of 14.11.2023. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete details and Tender documents will be available at website http://www.irreps.gov.in. Divisional Operations Manager/Coaching, PR-710/OI/23-24 Khurda Road

TIGER SPOTTED AGAIN AT DEBRIGARH FOREST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 30: A Royal Bengal Tiger was recently spotted at the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in this district, Forest department officials informed Monday. The picture of the big cat moving around in the forest was caught by a trap camera.

A Forest department official informed that the tiger moves around over a vast stretch of area. "Usually the tiger stays in the core area of the Debrigarh forest during the day. However, it comes out during evening and night. It was caught on camera when it was moving over a stretch of road in the evening," the official stated. "It is a healthy animal and in good shape as there is plenty of food available in the forest," the official added.

Incidentally, the tiger was first seen by a group of tourists in December 1, last year. It was the first instance of a tiger being seen in the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in six years. The big cat was sighted for the second time at the sanctuary, located close to Hirakud dam, in February this year.

The Forest department had then said that the tiger had moved to Debrigarh from a forest in Chhattisgarh. Tigers by nature can travel for miles without getting tired. Forest department officials had also said that as there is no competition for the tiger in Debrigarh, it frequently moves around in the area.

It is worth mentioning that the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given approval to a proposal of the Odisha government to declare Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary as a tiger reserve.



ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LTD. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, LIFT IRRIGATION DIVISION, BOUDH e-mail id- eeolicboudh@gmail.com Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.-OLIC-BOUDH- 11/2023-24/ No.-474, Date-30-10-2023 The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Boudh on behalf of OLIC invites Percentage Rate bids in single cover system to be received in Online Mode only for the work Installation and Energisation of 55 No New Lift Irrigation Projects under Boudh, Harbhanga & Kantamal Blocks in Boudh District as detailed in the table below. The Bid should be submitted by the eligible class of contractors as mentioned below registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade / class registered with Central Government / M.E.S. / Railways / C.P.W.D. for execution of Civil Works with valid Electrical (H.T) License issued by ELBO Odisha through On-Line in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (with own digital signature certificate). The registered bidders from outside Odisha can also participate in this on-line tender process after necessary portal enrolment but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with appropriate authority of the State. 1.Name of the Works:- Installation & Energisation of New River Lift Irrigation Projects-55 Nos with supply of all materials on Turnkey basis. 2.Total Nos of Package:-55. 3.Approximate Estimated Cost:-Rs.28.196 Lakhs to Rs.66.940Lakhs, 4. Class of Contractor:- As mentioned against each package, 5. Period of Completion:- 120 Days for all projects from the date of issue of work order. 6.Other details as follows-

FOREST ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, ODISHA OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KORAPUT DIVISION Email: - dfo.koraput@odisha.gov.in INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No.DFO-KPT-03/2023/ (F) e-Procurement Notice No.MM-241: 1. Name of the work : Construction of Police Out Post-cum-Office at proposed Eco-Cottage Complex at Deomali for the year 2023-24. 2. Total No. of Works : 01 No. 3. Estimated cost : Rs. 18,62,008/- (Excluding GST & Labour cess) 4. Class of Contractor : As Per DTCN 5. Period of Completion : 03 (Three Calendar Months) 6. Type of tender : Single Cover Tender 7. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal : From 11.00 A.M. of Dt. 03.11.2023 to 17.00 hrs of dt. 17.11.2023. 8. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt. 17.11.2023 up to 17.00 hrs 9. Date of opening of Bid through online : Dt. 18.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs in the office of the undersigned. 10. Name & address of the O.I.T (Officer Inviting tender) : Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Division, Koraput Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in. N.B. Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required in this regard will be made available in the website as indicated above. Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer Koraput Forest Division OIPR-08067/11/0007/2324

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH At/PO-Nabaghanpur, Dist-Nayagarh, Ph-06753-252049, Email:nayagarhrw2006@yahoo.in 2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.Tender Online Division. Nayagarh-05/2023-24 dtd.06.10.2023 No.O-1375: In partial modification to this office Tender Call Notice No.05/2023-24 invited vide this office Memo No.4867 dtd.06.10.2023, the date & time of availability of tender on online for bidding and date & time of opening of tender have been re-scheduled as follows.

ବନଶୁଧି ଅଧିକାରୀ ତଥା ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ଡ଼ଭାବ୍ୟାଚରକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ରାଉରକେଲା OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER CUM WILDLIFE WARDEN ROURKELA FOREST DIVISION, ROURKELA, SUNDARGARH, ODISHA Phone No.0661-2664637, Fax No.0661-2664638, e-mail:dforourkela.od@gov.in. Order No.483/ Dtd.30.10.2023 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) E-Procurement Bid Identification No.MM-243: Sl. No. Name of the Work No. of Work No. of Covers Estimate Cost (in Rs.) Period of Completion Date & Time of availability of bid documents Last date/ time Opening Date of Bid documents Class of Contractor Name and address of officer

FOCUS UNEMPLOYMENT

FOG AROUND PICTURE



Since growth in employment is imperative and an urgent need, we need an accurate 'thermometer' which is a reliable indicator of employment and unemployment in the economy

remaining workforce is in the informal or unregistered sector. These too are workers without written contracts. Many people who say they are "working" may be holding several part-time jobs. Not having a full-time job can be thought of as being "unemployed" but that would be misleading. In a country where 90 per cent of the workforce does not have secure jobs, the slogan from those seeking work is "mujhe naukri nahi kaam chahiye" (give me work, if not a job). The formal sector job growth is dismal either because of restrictive labour laws or because economic growth is capital intensive, labour-saving or labour-displacing.

How then is it possible to get the true picture and the health of the labour market? Since April 2017 the government publishes a quarterly statement called the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). The PLFS estimates three quarterly indicators only for urban areas, the Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and the Unemployment Rate. It also provides annual estimates of unemployment in both rural and urban areas. The key findings as per the latest report up to the end of the July quarter shows the following: over the past five quarters, the LFPR for males was steady at 73.5 per cent and for females rose from 18.9 to 21.1 per cent. Secondly the un-

employment rate has fallen from 7.1 to 5.9 per cent for males, and from 7.6 to 6.6 per cent for females. These are heartening improvements although the LFPR for females is still low. At this reported rate of 21.1 per cent, India's female LFPR is the lowest among all G20 countries. But contrast this data with another statement published by the Press Trust of India this week, which quoted the Education Minister who said that female LFPR had risen to 37 per cent during 2022-23. That is a whopping 16 per cent more than what is quoted in the PLFS April to July data (albeit for urban workers only).

There has been some concern that India's low female LFPR could be due to measurement issues. Or maybe the questionnaire is faulty. When women who work for household enterprises, are asked "are you working," they might respond in the negative. But if asked, "are you contributing to the household product (say handicraft, or cottage industry)" they might respond in the affirmative. The ILO has also agreed that Indian data collection needs to be tweaked to get the true picture of the commercial and economic value of women's work. Despite this deficiency in the methodology the difference between 21.1 in PLFS and 37 per cent is too big to explain. So, who is right?

Adding to this confusion is the labour market data collected

by the private company called Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). Much discussion, debate and criticism has been made around CMIE's methodology. We won't go into those details here. But suffice to say that CMIE's estimates paint a more gloomy picture of unemployment, especially among the youth. In some states of India, CMIE reported youth unemployment as high as 37 per cent.

Another source of data, especially about formal sector employment comes from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. It is claimed that EPFO enrollment is showing healthy growth in employment. But EPFO captures data only on those firms complying with PF rules that is those who employ more than 10 employees. If an organisation goes from 9 to 11 workers, the EPFO will show new registrations of 11, but actual employment growth was only two new jobs. Besides if a worker leaves one job and joins another, the EPFO only records new entrants and does not deduct those who have left.

Data is also collated from job portals like Naukri.com and companies like TeamLease. Guessing the true picture is much like the story of the blind men and the elephant. It all depends on which part of the labour force is being "touched." Agriculture workforce share increased from 42.5 to 46.5 per cent in four years from 2018-19, before coming down a bit. That is worrying because livelihoods in agriculture are precarious, low paying and low productivity. The share of employment in manufacturing is stagnating or falling and is even lower than in construction or in hotels and restaurants. Since growth in employment is imperative and an urgent need, we need an accurate "thermometer" which is a reliable indicator of employment and unemployment in the economy.

The writer is a noted economist. THE BILLION PRESS



Ajit Ranade

THE FORMAL SECTOR JOB GROWTH IS DISMAL EITHER BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIVE LABOUR LAWS OR BECAUSE ECONOMIC GROWTH IS CAPITAL INTENSIVE

The three most important macroeconomic variables for a country are the foreign exchange rate, the inflation rate and the unemployment rate. The first is accurately and officially reported every working day, by the RBI which is also responsible for its management. The second is reported every month by the government's Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The official announcement comes with a one-month lag. That means in the month of November you get to know what the inflation rate was in October. Unlike the forex rate the official inflation rate can be criticised for not being accurate or representative enough. It is based on the movement of average prices over a basket of commodities. So, the criticism is valid and inevitable. But the number is widely used to determine interest rates, the Dearness Allowance hike for government employees, and the cost escalation clause in various contracts. Keeping the inflation rate low and stable is the job of the RBI. But the RBI is overwhelmed by the fiscal overhang caused by the spendthrift tendency of government. Just this month as we swing into election mode, political parties are merily promising freebies which will further burden the exchequer and aggravate inflation. And neither the RBI nor the government will take the blame for high inflation.

It is the third macroeconomic variable about which we do not have a clear picture. That is the unemployment rate. Why this fog around the true picture of joblessness? Firstly, because half the workforce in agriculture is seen as entrepreneurial or self-employed. Forty per cent of agriculture output is estimated to be by landless workers or small farmers who work as labourers on other farms. These workers have seasonal employment but do not have any written contracts nor benefits from their so-called employers. Beyond agriculture another four-fifth of the

SPECTRUM TRADE

Time for a coffee cartel?

Coffee prices have soared in recent years, owing to unfavourable weather conditions and supply shortages in major producing countries like Brazil, India, and Vietnam. But even if consumers are paying more for their daily cup, coffee farmers are seeing little of the gain, because they lack sufficient bargaining power.

Since the 1950s, coffee has been among the world's most-traded commodities – at one point, it ranked second, behind only oil – and many governments regard it as a strategic good. But not all coffee trade is created equal.

Countries in the Global South export low-value-added unprocessed coffee – raw beans and dried and seedless coffee – with Brazil, Columbia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Ethiopia controlling a combined market share of about 70%. Countries in the Global North dominate exports of higher value-added processed coffee – such as roasted beans and instant coffee – with Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, and the Netherlands accounting for 70% of the market. Moreover, the coffee sector is dominated by just three developed-country firms –

Nestle, Starbucks, and JDE Peet – which together account for 77.7% of the total revenues of the sector's ten biggest players.

Prices of processed coffee dwarf those of unprocessed coffee: \$14.30 per kg on average versus just \$2.40. In fact, coffee producers in Global South claim a small and declining share of the market's value. Whereas in 1992, producer-country exports captured one-third of the value of the coffee market, by 2002, they captured less than 10%. Coffee farmers themselves get 1% or less of final retail price of a cup of coffee, and about 6% of price charged for a package of coffee sold to consumers in Global North. The obvious solution would be for coffee producers in Global South to develop processing capabilities, in order to increase their exports' value-added. But there are formidable barriers to progress on this front, beginning with the high tariffs developed countries impose on processed-coffee imports – 7.5-9% in EU, 10-15% in US, and 20% in Japan. Unprocessed coffee is not subject to tariffs.

While developing economies also impose tariffs, they tend to be more symmetric across

processed and unprocessed coffee. In Brazil, for example, both types of imports are subject to a 10% tariff. So, while developed-country-led multilateral banks and research organizations advise developing countries to increase their exports' value-added, developed countries' trade policies are discouraging them from doing so. With developed-country governments apparently unwilling to change their tariff regimes, developing-country governments must rely on financial incentives to counteract them.

Would-be exporters of processed coffee in the Global South also face non-tariff or technical barriers, such as sanitary and phytosanitary rules. These are, of course, entirely justifiable. Overcoming them will require the Southern exporters to invest in building technological capabilities and developing planting and processing approaches that meet international safety, environmental, and social standards. The problem is that entry barriers in consumer markets are very high, and it takes considerable resources – and a significant risk appetite – to build up a new brand. One way firms could circumvent

some of these barriers would be to acquire existing brands.

Producers in the Global South have another option: they can create an OPEC-style coffee "cartel," which would have far more bargaining power on prices and tariffs vis-à-vis Global North. While this solution may appear radical, it is feasible, given that Global South's top ten coffee producers command nearly 90% of market. It is also justifiable, as supply-side oligopoly that a cartel represents would be intended specifically to confront an existing demand-side oligopoly.

Of course, asymmetries in the global coffee market could be addressed in multilateral fora, such as the UN or G20. But as long as developed countries actively impede their developing-country counterparts' ability to make money from the coffee they produce, Southern producers have little choice but to take matters into their own hands. Tariffs and subsidies, hostile takeovers, and even the formation of a coffee cartel should all be on the table.

The writer is Professor of Economics at Seoul National University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

The first step on this long path is to consecrate all our works as a sacrifice to the Divine in us and in the world.

SRI AUROBINDO



Likonomics & Xi

The demise of China's popular former Premier Li Keqiang October 27, only 10 months after retiring from a decade in office, has triggered conspiracy theories and an inevitable comparison between his model of China's economic growth and that of current President Xi Jinping. China watchers smell conspiracy behind his death for two reasons. He died rather too young by Chinese standards at the age of 68, whereas China's top leaders usually live much longer due to the special health care taken for them. Secondly, the death comes in the wake of a purge of top leaders perceived to have fallen from Xi's grace. Only a few months back the high-profile Foreign and Defence Ministers both were unceremoniously removed from their positions. This has fuelled speculation about the real cause of Li's death.

Li was premier and head of China's cabinet under Xi for a decade until stepping down from all political positions in March. In the top echelons of the government he was an economist of stature among technocrats. His vision of Chinese economic growth on the basis of less government control and reliance on market economy was shared by many leading lights of China as well as a large section of common people. But, he faced roadblock from Xi and his coterie who are staunch followers of state control. As he increasingly became lonely in the party Politburo, his model was also dumped by Xi's followers. At this stage he almost raised a banner of revolt while laying a wreath in August 2022 at a statue of Deng Xiaoping – the leader who had brought transformational reform to China's economy. He then vowed: "Reform and opening up will not stop. The Yangtze and Yellow River will not reverse course."

Video clips of the speech went viral but were later censored from Chinese social media. These were widely viewed as a veiled criticism of Xi's policies. Earlier, Li had sparked debate on poverty and income inequality in 2020 when he revealed 600 million people in China earned less than the equivalent of \$140 per month.

His unexpected death is therefore a significant event as much for the sadness it has caused among the people as for the alternative vision for governing the country that he represented in sharp contrast to his boss Xi's. No wonder then that the administration under Xi took extreme care to announce his death 10 hours after he breathed his last. Normally, the obituary of a leader of such a stature in China is put out soon after his death. But, in Li's case, China's official daily took longer to do so.

However, this did not stop an outpouring of grief in the social media reflecting the popular sentiments for the departed leader. Seemingly alarmed by the development, the authorities immediately swung into action and cracked down on access to a section of social media to stem the tide of condolences for a man once seen as a potential rival to Xi. People posted videos of Li standing in ankle-deep mud, visiting victims of a flood and shared a speech of his promising China would remain open to the outside world.

A widely circulated social media post noted that many Chinese people identified themselves with Li, as they too have struggled over the past decade but have gradually lost ground. It was remarkable the way a closed society like China reacted to Li's death. People shared quotes attributed to Li, such as "power must not be arbitrary." This is an oblique criticism of Xi's leadership.

It is a measure of Li's courage that he could stand up to Xi not wearing masks at a university programme along with students defying Xi's severest lockdown diktat during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also encouraged street vendors to sell their products during the pandemic and try to overcome the hardships COVID-19 brought in its train.

With the passing away of Li the possibility of an alternative approach to China's development is virtually gone. This does not appear to be a good sign for the Chinese economy. International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts released this month show China's real GDP growth slowing from 5 per cent this year to 4.2 per cent in 2024 and the 3 per cent range in 2027 and beyond. China's income inequality widened in 2022, in a year when growth clocked in at 3 per cent amid zero-COVID restrictions. Average per-capita disposable income in the top 20 per cent of urban households was 6.3 times that of the bottom 20 per cent, the widest gap in comparable data going back to 1985.

WISDOM CORNER

- Cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always. HIPPOCRATES
- Where the willingness is great, the difficulties cannot be great. NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI
- Happiness is holding someone in your arms and knowing you hold the whole world. ORHAN PAMUK

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1517:** Luther's Ninety-five Theses posted. According to tradition, Martin Luther this day in 1517 posted on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, his Ninety-five Theses, a manifesto that turned a protest about an indulgence scandal into the Protestant Reformation.
- 1922:** Benito Mussolini became Prime Minister of Italy; he was the first of Europe's fascist dictators in the 20th century.
- 1941:** After nearly 15 years of work, the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota was completed; the colossal sculpture features the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.
- 1984:** Indira Gandhi assassinated. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, was assassinated by two of her Sikh bodyguards. Her death sparked riots in India and New Delhi, where thousands of Sikhs were killed.
- 1992:** Catholic Church regrets its handling of Galileo Galilei's case. Then Pope John Paul II acknowledged the errors committed by the Catholic Church while dealing with Galileo Galilei in the 17th century.

LOL

Prisoner with skills

Several years ago, Andy was sentenced to prison. During his stay, he got along well with the guards and all his fellow inmates. The warden saw that deep down, Andy was a good person and made arrangements for Andy to learn a trade while doing his time. After three years, Andy was recognised as one of the best carpenters in the local area. Often he would be given a weekend pass to do odd jobs for the citizens of the

community... and he always reported back to prison before Sunday night was over. The warden was thinking of remodelling his kitchen and in fact had done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the job for him. But, alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I'd really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place."



Keun Lee

SINCE THE 1950s, COFFEE HAS BEEN AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST-TRADED COMMODITIES – AT ONE POINT, IT RANKED SECOND, BEHIND ONLY OIL

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Existential challenge

Sir, In a setback for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, the Supreme Court has rejected his bail plea in the alleged Delhi Excise Policy case. The SC said that Sisodia can apply for bail at a later stage if the case progresses at a slow speed. Importantly, the top court also noted that the aspects regarding the transfer of money trail of Rs 338 crore is tentatively established. The SC's observation on money trail implies the investigative agency appears to have established an air tight case against Sisodia. ED has already told the SC that it was going to make AAP an accused in the scam. The investigative agencies have often suggested that AAP was a beneficiary of the kickbacks received from stakeholders who got liquor licences as part of a quid pro quo. They have alleged the AAP used the money for campaigning in the Goa Assembly elections. However, with three prominent AAP leaders in jail on corruption charges and Parliament elections around the corner, AAP faces an existential challenge in its lifetime. In case, money trail to AAP is proved, the prospects of AAP's disqualification can't be ruled out - causing a death knell to the party in the cases of corruption, against which the party was found and evolved as a force.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Lack of intention

Sir, India abstained from voting on the United General Assembly resolution that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict. The resolution was bought by Jordan and co-sponsored by 40 other countries. New Delhi abstained from voting citing various reasons. India was the only country among all South Asian nations to distance itself from voting. The intensity of war between Hamas and Israel is rising each day and many civilians are dying due to attacks from both ends. In such a grave scenario, New Delhi should have voted to clarify its intention in the global forum. Abstention on a topic that adversely affects other regions of the globe shows a lack of intention and irresponsible behaviour from a rising global power like India.

Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL

Hamas leader's speech to be probed: CM

VIJAYAN ALLEGED THAT THE BJP WAS AIMING AT IMPLICATING PEOPLE IN FALSE CASES FOR MERELY EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 30: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Monday said the alleged virtual address by a Hamas leader at an Islamist group's event in the state recently would be examined by police, and if something wrong has happened, appropriate action would be taken.

The CM alleged that the BJP was aiming at implicating people in false cases for merely expressing support for Palestine,



and asserted that it would not be permitted in Kerala.

He pointed out that the state and the country have always supported Palestine, and it is only now that the stance has changed at the Centre.

Vijayan was responding to a query inviting his attention to remarks by BJP chief JP Nadda

and Union Minister of State for Electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar that neither the Left government nor the police intervened to prevent the Hamas leader's address.

The CM said the address appears to have been a recorded one, and what was said in it has to be examined. "The person referred

to as a Palestinian warrior spoke at an event organised by the Solidarity Youth Movement, the youth wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. We need to see what he said. It appears that the speech was a recorded one. We need to understand that issue properly," he said, speaking to reporters at Cochin International Airport Ltd here. He further said that when Jamaat-e-Islami or any other organisation approaches the police for permission to hold an event, it is not denied. "That is what happened in the instant case," he said, adding, "If something is wrong in that, the police will examine it, and action will be taken." At the same time, he alleged that Chandrasekhar and his friends "are trying to find ways to lodge cases against those who are showing support for Palestine."

"They are trying to implicate them (Palestine supporters) in cases. That will not happen in Kerala," the CM said.

Nadda accuses Left govt of 'soft pedalling' radicalisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 30: BJP chief JP Nadda launched a scathing attack on the Left government in Kerala Monday, accusing it of 'soft pedalling' the 'radicalisation' in the state.

A day after bomb blasts at a Christian religious gathering near Kochi rocked the state, the BJP chief alleged that it indicates how the law-and-order situation in Kerala has deteriorated under the governments of the Congress and Left parties, and how 'terrorism' is thriving.

He also accused the Left government of remaining a 'silent spectator' when a leader of the Islamist militant group Hamas addressed a virtual meeting organised in Kerala a few days ago.

Nadda made the allegations



while addressing workers of the BJP-led NDA who laid siege to three of the four gates of the Kerala Secretariat in protest against the alleged misrule of the Left government in the state. Later in a Hindi post on 'X', Nadda charged that radical forces are consistently gaining strength in Kerala, yet the approach of the

Kerala government towards these radical forces is quite lenient.

"Even the Congress remains silent on this," he alleged. Referring to Hamas leader Khaled Mashal's virtual participation in a protest programme organised by an Islamist group in the state recently against Israel's war with the militant outfit, Nadda alleged that he spoke openly about his organisation and that the Left government was a 'silent spectator'.

He said it was surprising that the ruling LDF government, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and the opposition Congress have all chosen to maintain silence on this.

"What does it mean? You are bringing a bad name to the land of 'God's Own Country' Kerala," Nadda said.

Allahabad HC adjourns hearing in Gyanvapi case till November 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, Oct 30: The Allahabad High Court Monday adjourned the hearing till November 8 on a petition filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (AIMC) which has challenged the maintainability of a suit seeking restoration of a temple at the site where the Gyanvapi mosque exists in Varanasi.

When the case was taken up, the court was told by the AIMC that it had filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court against the order of the chief justice of the high court to withdraw the case from a single-judge bench that had been hearing the matter since 2021.

The apex court has fixed November 6 for hearing the matter, Chief Justice Pritinker Diwakar was informed after which he adjourned the hearing on the AIMC's plea till November 8. The AIMC has challenged the maintainability of a suit filed before a Varanasi court in which the plaintiff had sought restoration of a temple at the site where the Gyanvapi mosque exists.

The Chief Justice while giving reasons for the order dated September 18, 2023, which has been challenged before the SC, stated that the decision was taken on the administrative side in the "interest of judicial propriety, judicial discipline, and transparency in the listing of cases".

SP's 'PDA' includes women, tribals, forwards: Yadav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 30: Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav Monday said his party's 'Pichhde, Dalit, Alpsankhyak' (PDA) includes the half of India's population - the women, the tribals, as well as the forward section of the society.

"Be it 'Agde' or 'Adivasi,' or 'Adhi Abadi' everyone is included in the PDA for whom our party is battling," Yadav, who reached Lucknow with his PDA yatra, told reporters.

"PDA" is a term coined by the party to refer to the backward, Dalits, and minorities.

He said the rally, which reached Lucknow Monday, has already covered more than 5,000 km across the state. The yatra will conclude in Etawah's Saifai November 22.

He said the yatra is being taken out to raise awareness about the threat to social justice and rights and honour of the people, and to press for a caste census.

Akhilesh Yadav has on several occasions demanded caste census like the one done in Bihar to know the numerical strength of castes in UP.

Roughly, it's said that the constituencies of PDA forms near about two-thirds of the UP population.

Replying to a question on PDA, he said, "PDA is the party's strategy while INDIA is the opposition's alliance. PDA is important and we are working to associate people with it."

"It is also for saving the coun-



try from the forces conspiring to divide it," he said.

"The path to the nation's (Delhi throne) will go through

Uttar Pradesh only," said the SP president, in an obvious reference to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Yadav also criticised the state of health infrastructure in UP under the Yogi Adityanath government.

"Dengue is spreading fast and in some villages 20 deaths were reported. But the state government is sleeping. Son of an MP died in SGPGI here for lack of treatment," he said, adding that the government is not spending enough money on health.

"BJP only indulges in conspiracies and spreads rumours through you (media). It has nothing new to show," said Yadav before starting his yatra.

The yatra started from Purvanchal Expressway and covered a distance of about 20 kms on cycle, which is also the party's election symbol, to culminate at Janeshwar Mishra park in the Gomti Nagar area.

The yatra took over 3.30 hours to reach the park. Its route was chosen to highlight the works done during the SP government helmed by Yadav.

It passed through Amul plant, cancer hospital, HCL, Palassio Mall/Ekana stadium, the police headquarter, and also Janeshwar Mishra park, all constructed under the SP government.

On the Andhra Pradesh train accident, Yadav said such events have exposed the government's claims of having the technology that will alert about potential risks. "What kind of 'kavach' is this?"

Talking to reporters after the yatra, Yadav said 'Sabka, Saath, Sabka Vikas' slogan of BJP is 'farzi' (fake).

Scrutiny of cops in UP to weed out the 'unfit'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 30: The Uttar Pradesh police officials will now review the performance of senior policemen to weed out the unfit.

Heads of various units and district police chiefs have been instructed to carry out thorough screening of the police personnel who have attained the age of 50 on March 31 and shortest names of those who are deemed unfit. This is being done to improve the efficiency of the state machinery.

The Yogi Adityanath government had initiated a thorough annual screening process for the government employees who are over 50 years of age.

Additional Director General (establishment) Sanjay Singhal has sought a detailed report from unit heads and district police chiefs latest by November 30, after which a compiled list will

be forwarded to the home department for further action.

After scrutinising the service records and remarks of the supervisory officials, the police headquarters will recommend the names of men in khaki who need to be retired from the services on an immediate basis.

The establishment department conducts the exercise every year and goes through the annual confidential reports of the policemen while seeking feedback on their day-to-day working and long-term conduct.

The police force in UP, including PAC personnel, has a strength of about 3.5 lakh. The screening process will have to be followed for group C and D category personnel under which constables, head constables, sub-inspectors and inspectors and followers (support staff which works as cooks, peons, barbers and other roles) over the age of 50 would be evaluated.

Kochi's Water Metro wins India's top award



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 30: Kochi has won the country's top award with the city's Water Metro project being rated as the Best Green Transport Initiative in India while Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh has won the award for the most innovative financing mechanism for its city transport services.

The awards were given at the valedictory session at the Urban Mobility India conference and exhibition which concluded Sunday night. Cities in the other categories that won awards include Srinagar Smart City for the Best Public Transport System and Shillong for the Best Record of Public Involvement.

While speaking at the valedictory session, Secretary Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Manoj Joshi underlined the importance of smart cards as a convenient and efficient

means of payment for commuters. He said that the government is working on the adoption of the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) which has the potential to enhance the interoperability of various modes of urban transport.

Highlighting the importance of an effective fare collection system, Joshi said that the good fare collection is paramount for a viable transport system. He also talked about harnessing the potential of real estate around roads for better financial viability of these projects.

The financing and viability of urban transport projects were explored in depth. Joshi stressed the need for innovative funding mechanisms and public-private partnerships to meet the growing demands of urban transportation infrastructure.

The Secretary also highlighted the importance of electric vehicle adoption.

B'day parties, pre-wedding shoots: UPMRC goes extra mile

THE 'CELEBRATION ON WHEELS' IDEA HAS RECEIVED GOOD RESPONSE FROM RIDERS OF BOTH LUCKNOW METRO AND KANPUR METRO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: Birthday parties in coaches and pre-wedding and movie shoots on station premises - the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation is going the extra mile to connect with the people and explore sources of added revenue.

Officials of UPMRC claimed that the 'celebration on wheels' idea has received a very good response from riders of both Lucknow Metro and Kanpur Metro.

The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation received an Award of Excellence in Public Transport' in the 'Metro Rail with Best Passenger Services and Satisfaction' category for Lucknow Metro on the concluding day of the Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2023 in New Delhi Sunday.

Enthusied by the accolades, the metro corporation authorities are urging people to make the mass rapid transit system a 'mobile venue' for their special moments. "Lucknow Metro, which now spans 23 km, has many firsts



to its credit. Birthday parties being hosted in metro coaches is one such initiative. It has become more popular in Kanpur where the metro was opened in December 2021," a senior official of the UPMRC told PTI here.

Panchanan Mishra, the deputy general manager of UPMRC, who attended the three-day UMI conference hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in Delhi, said a 'very nominal fee' is charged from people who want to hold such events in metro coaches or on station premises.

"Those taking part in a birthday celebration have to buy tokens for the duration for which they wish to be onboard the

metro and pay a one-time fee of ₹500 which we use to decorate the coach," he said.

Since consumption of eatables is not allowed inside metro trains, 'we only allow family members or friends to click pictures with a cake'. Cake-cutting and eating can be done at designated places on metro premises, Mishra said.

There are shopping outlets on the station premises where they can cut a cake and also get about "20-30 discount on purchases with our smart cards," he said.

According to officials, the one-time fee is currently being charged at a discounted rate to encourage people to be a part

of 'this ethos we are trying to build'.

"The idea is to let people connect more with the metro they otherwise use only for transportation purposes. This way, a metro station or a train becomes more than a civil or electro-mechanical structure and we also get to boost our link with our passengers by covering miles and spreading smiles," he added.

Mishra said the policy to let people celebrate birthdays inside metro coaches was brought in last year and has since gained popularity.

For pre-wedding shoots, the official said that both the coaches and station premises can be used by a couple. "There is a one-time

fee of ₹10,000. With that, six to eight hours of shooting can be done in Lucknow Metro or Kanpur Metro," he added.

"For feature or commercial films, rates are defined. It varies from ₹75,000 to ₹2 lakh. Some do two to three days of shoot. The film 'Paglaith' starring Sania Malhotra was shot in Lucknow Metro. Another film was shot about a month ago. Six to seven movies have been shot in the last one year and these include short films," Mishra added.

Lucknow city itself is becoming a popular shooting destination for filmmakers, but Kanpur Metro, it is yet to witness a film shoot on its premises, he said.

Government of Odisha No.O-1388
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Jharsuguda
 Email: eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel: 06645-271643
Bid Identification No. Online-SEJSC-14 of 2023-24
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the Work: Road works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
- Total No. of Work : 05 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost: Rs 5.87 Lakhs to Rs. 16.78 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 03 (Three) Calendar Months.
- Period and Time of availability of bid document in the portal for Bidding: Dt. 03.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 13.11.2023 upto 05.00 PM.
- Date and Time of bid Opening: Dt. 14.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid: S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda.

(1) Other details can be seen from Detailed notice inviting Tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
 (2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
 OIPR-25104/11/0015/2324



Models pose during the unveiling ceremony of 26 finalists of Elite Miss Rajasthan event in Jaipur



Soldiers display their skills of Army Marshal Art Routine (AMAR) during Indian and Malaysian armies' joint exercise 'Exercise Harimau Shakti-2023' at Umroi Cantt. in Meghalaya



Members of All Assam Students' Union light earthen lamps in memory of the victims of the 2008 Assam bomb blasts on its anniversary, in Guwahati



A person dressed as Spider-Man holds a "mate", used to drink herbal tea, at the Obelisk in Buenos Aires, Argentina. People gather to set a record for the largest assembling of individuals dressed as the comic book hero



Smoke billows out after a fire broke out at a bus garage in Bangalore. Several buses belonging to private bus companies were gutted in the massive fire



School students pay homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a day before his birth anniversary in Surat



Soils brought from various parts of the country being placed in a large vessel near the Kartavya Path during 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign programme, which will culminate October 31, in New Delhi



NCC cadets of naval wing during flag off ceremony of Prayagraj Nauka Abhiyan 2023 in Prayagraj

national

of the day quote

Our current focus on primary health centres through AB-HWC emulating a synergistic approach will result in immeasurably positive health outcomes and reduction in out-of-pocket expenditures and become a model for other countries engaged in health sector reforms

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Customs authorities should share information among themselves to curb the network of illicit trade and efforts should be made to ensure that information shared is actionable

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

Dear Punjabis, a tractor is called king of fields. Do not make it a messenger of death. A ban is being imposed on any kind of stunt or dangerous performance with a tractor and related implements in Punjab...rest of details soon

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

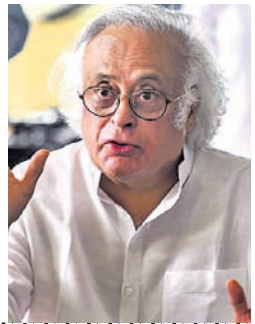
SHORT TAKES

Kerala blasts: Toll rises to three

Kochi: The death toll in the blasts at a Christian religious gathering near this port city of Kerala has risen to three, while four others are in critical condition, the state Health Department said Monday. A 12-year-old girl, identified as Libina from Malayattor in Ernakulam district, succumbed to her injuries in the early hours of Monday at the Kalamassery Government Medical College Hospital. Among the four in critical condition, two are the brother and mother of the 12-year-old girl and they have suffered over 50 per cent burns, state Health Minister Veena George said Monday.

Ashok Gehlot's son appears before ED

New Delhi: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday for questioning in a foreign exchange violation case and got his statement recorded for almost eight hours. The federal agency issued a summons to Vaibhav Gehlot (43) last week, asking him to appear before the investigating officer of the case at its headquarters on A P J Abdul Kalam Road here under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Gehlot arrived at the ED office around 11 am. Vaibhav Gehlot is also the president of the Rajasthan Cricket Association and a member of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). Following the summons, he had said the agency was putting up "10-12 years old false allegations against him and that too, after election dates were declared".



“The biggest mystery in corporate India has to be how Adani has escaped prosecution by various arms of the government despite a deluge of information about its corrupt and illegal activities from top to bottom. Quite clearly the PM has no interest in investigating his close friend and benefactor”

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY
IN-CHARGE COMMUNICATIONS

BOOSTING TIES

PM Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina will jointly inaugurate a key cross-border railway project Wednesday, officials said. The Prime Ministers of the two countries will launch the Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link Project at 11 am in a virtual ceremony, they said



MARATHA QUOTA STIR TURNS VIOLENT

HOMES OF TWO NCP MLAs TORCHED; GOVT BUILDING SET ON FIRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar/Mumbai, Oct 30: Amid an escalation in the Maratha quota protest, legislators in Maharashtra faced the heat as agitators targeted their homes and offices Monday, while two Lok Sabha MPs of the ruling Shiv Sena resigned in support of the reservation demand as the state government scrambled to find a way out of the impasse. Angry quota protesters torched, vandalised homes or offices of three MLAs -- two of the NCP and one of the BJP -- targeted a municipal council building and disrupted road traffic in different parts of the state, police said, adding no casualties were reported.



The incidents of violence and arson were reported from central Maharashtra's Beed and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar districts even as Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange continued his indefinite fast in support of the reservation demand at a village in Jalna district. Jarange's health condition worsened on the sixth day of the fast when he collapsed on the stage, prompting those present at the site to rush to his aid. On their request, he took a few sips of water.

The residence of NCP MLA Solanke at Majalgaon town in Beed district was set on fire and stones were hurled at it by a group of quota agitators late in the morning, police said. The group also set ablaze a car parked at the residence of Solanke after an audio clip of the MLA, in which he purportedly spoke about the Maratha quota agitation and made a veiled comment on the fasting quota activist Jarange, went viral.

It is not clear whether the Majalgaon MLA, who belongs to the NCP faction led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, was present inside the residence at the time of the incident at around 11 am. "The incident occurred after an audio clip of MLA Solanke about the Maratha reservation issue went viral. A bandh was called locally. The house of the MLA and a car were torched by some people and stones were also hurled," an official said.

In the audio clip, Solanke was purportedly heard saying that "the issue (the demand for reservation and the ultimatum of 40 days given to the government for its implementation by October 24) has become a child's game. "The person, who has not even contested a gram panchayat election, has become a smart person today," he said in an apparent dig at Jarange. Solanke told a news channel he was in Majalgaon when the incident occurred. "Agitators surrounded my residence from all sides and nobody was in the mood to listen. Stones were thrown at my house and vehicles were also set on fire. I stand with the demand for the Maratha reservation. I have won the elections four times with the help of the Maratha community and I am a Maratha MLA," he said.

After the arson at the legislator's home, a group of Maratha reservation activists dispersed from there and later set ablaze the first floor of the Majalgaon Municipal Council building and vandalised it, another police official said. The group, armed with wooden sticks and stones, first damaged the window panes of the building. The vandals then went on the first floor of the building and torched it, burning down the furniture there, said the official. Beed SP Nand Kumar Thakur said, "The mob that torched the residence of Prakash Solanke later moved to the municipal council of Majalgaon. They torched the first floor of the municipal council building. Police teams that quickly reached the civic office took people out well in time so there was no injury to anyone."

Meanwhile, a group of Maratha quota activists barged into the residential premises and office of NCP MLA Sandeep Kshirsagar in Beed city and set them on fire in the evening, another official said. Police swung into action and dispersed the crowd which had gathered outside the MLA's residence and the office, said the official.

BRS MP stabbed while campaigning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Hyderabad, Oct 30: BRS assembly election candidate Kotha Prabhakar Reddy was Monday stabbed while he was campaigning in Siddipet district by a 38-year-old man, police said.

The accused, identified as Raju, was taken into custody following the incident and a case was registered against him on the charge of attempt to murder, they said.

Prabhakar Reddy, who is an MP from Medak Lok Sabha constituency, suffered injuries in his stomach and was shifted to a hospital in Hyderabad after initially being rushed to a hospital in Gajwel of Siddipet district. His condition is said to be stable, police said.

The accused who came to meet the MP went close to him and attacked him with a knife, Siddipet Commissioner of Police N Swetha said.

Some party workers immediately caught hold of the accused and handed him over to the police. The incident took place in Surampalli of Doulthabad mandal when Prabhakar Reddy, who has been fielded by BRS from Dubbak for the November 30 assembly elections, was campaigning, police said.

Reacting to the incident, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said at a rally in Banswada that everyone should unequivocally condemn the attack on the candidate. "I am saying the attack on our Dubbak candidate is an attack on me," he said.

"If the attacks are not stopped, if there is no self control, we also have courage. If we also resort to the same acts, you will not remain. Even (your) dust also will not remain," he further said. He appealed to the people of Telangana and intellectuals to condemn violence in politics.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan expressed shock over the incident and directed the state Director General of Police to take stringent measures to investigate the incident and ensure the safety of contesting candidates and campaigners during the election period.

No court relief for Manish Sisodia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: In a setback for former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, the Supreme Court Monday rejected his regular bail pleas in corruption and money-laundering cases related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, saying that tentatively transfer of Rs 338 crore was established in the matter.

A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice SVN Bhatti said it has recorded the statements of the probe agencies that the trial in these cases will conclude in six to eight months. But if the trial proceeds in a "sloppy manner", Sisodia will be at liberty to apply for bail in these cases in three months, the bench said.

"In the analysis, there are certain aspects which we have said are doubtful. But one aspect with regard to the transfer of money Rs 338 crore tentatively is established. We have therefore dismissed the applications for bail.

"We have made one pointed observation that they have said that the trial will conclude in six to eight months. So within three months, if the trial proceeds in a sloppy manner or slowly, he will be entitled to file an application for bail," Justice Khanna said while pronouncing the verdict.



The bench said that in the verdict it has referred to the arguments and some of the legal questions which arose but were not answered.

"Most of them are not answered and if they have been answered, they have been answered in a very limited way," Justice Khanna said.

The top court pronounced its verdict on Sisodia's two separate regular bail pleas filed in corruption and money-laundering cases related to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. It had on October 17 reserved its verdict on both the pleas.

Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 26 for his alleged role in the "scam".

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader has been in custody since then.

The incident took place at Tumchi Nowpora of Pulwama district in South Kashmir when the labourer, Mukesh Kumar, was in the market to buy some vegetables

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 30: Terrorist attacks hit the Kashmir valley for the second consecutive day Monday when a labourer hailing from Uttar Pradesh was shot dead in Pulwama district, officials said.

The incident took place at Tumchi Nowpora of Pulwama district in South Kashmir when the labourer, Mukesh Kumar, was in the market to buy some vegetables, they said. This incident came less than 24 hours after a terrorist of banned Lashkar-e-Taiba shot and critically wounded police inspector Masroor Ahmed Wani in downtown Srinagar on Sunday when he was playing cricket.

UP man shot dead by terrorists

Kumar, who was engaged with the weaving industry, succumbed to injuries at the hospital, the officials said. Another labourer from Uttar Pradesh, who was sharing a room with the deceased, said that they heard the gun shot but came to know about the killing only after they were asked to identify the deceased.



Several non-local labourers have been working in the Kashmir valley for long as carpenters, masons, plumbers, and in brick kilns as well as in weaving industry. The attacks on minority workers have seen an increase. Monday's attack was the third such attack this year. A circus employee was killed by the terrorists in May this year in Anantnag district followed by gunning down and injuring three labourers from Bihar in Shopian district in July.

Security has been beefed up across Kashmir valley, especially in Srinagar and South Kashmir areas, following the two terror attacks, the officials said. The security forces have intensified the checking of vehicles and pedestrians in several parts of Srinagar city and other towns, especially in the south Kashmir district of Pulwama, they said.

Mobile vehicle checkpoints have been established at all major intersections in Srinagar as well as at the city's exit points, they added. Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said threats are still around and policemen have to be cautious about incidents like the attack on a police officer.

"We have to be cautious. The threats are still around, we cannot take these so lightly. We have to be careful, and I pray that he would come out of it," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a function.

SC sets Dec 31 deadline for Maha Speaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: Observing that the sanctity of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution should be maintained, the Supreme Court Monday directed Maharashtra assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to decide the cross-petitions filed by the rival factions of the Shiv Sena seeking disqualification of each other's MLAs by December 31.



A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said procedural wranglings should not be permitted to delay a decision on the disqualification petitions. The top court also asked the assembly speaker to decide the NCP petition seeking disqualification of nine MLAs of the Ajit Pawar group by January 31, 2024.

"We are concerned that the sanctity of the 10th Schedule must be maintained. Otherwise, we are throwing these provisions to the wind," it said.

The 10th Schedule of the Constitution is designed to prevent defection of elected and nominated members of Parliament and state legislatures from their political parties and contains stringent provisions against it.

Jaishankar meets kin of 8 Indians detained in Qatar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday met the family members of eight former Indian Navy personnel, who have been sentenced to death by a Qatari court, and assured them that the government will make all efforts to secure their release.

Jaishankar told them that the government attaches the "highest importance" to the case and fully shares their "concerns and pain". The eight former Indian Navy personnel were on Thursday sentenced to death by Qatar's Court of First Instance, a ruling described as "deeply" shocking by India which vowed to explore all legal options in the case.



"Met this morning with the families of the 8 Indians detained in Qatar. Stressed that the Government attaches the highest importance to the case. Fully share the concerns and pain of the families," Jaishankar said on X. "Underlined that Government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release. Will coordinate closely with the families in that regard," he said.

A 'FAKE' GOVERNMENT OFFICE SIPHONS OFF 93 PROJECTS!

India presents a kaleidoscope of emotions and contrasts. It leaves us amused, entertained and yet sad and sorry. Five states across the country are set to go to polls next month with over 161 million casting their vote for a result that will set the tone for the general elections due next year. Isn't it amusing that the best of the political creme de la creme can conjure up is a wrestling bout between India and Bharat, shadow advantage of the Israel-Hamas conflict and the 'lolly-popping' that is now a routine feature.

The Ram temple, off course remains the leitmotif of the Indian poll process for decades now. If the ruling BJP-led government has its 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', the Congress which is battling it has its 'Adani' to drive home the difference in choice between a government for the rich

and one for the poor. To each party its own, to political pundits the impact of the poll outcome and its implications, but when one is done with the high flying it is the itsy-bitsy that present the mosaic of the commoners daily grind and the environment that he exists in. It happens only in India, as they say!

How otherwise could one account for a conman setting up a fake government office in a tribal district of Gujarat and avail of genuine government grants of Rs 4 crores over two years? The case came to light on October 25, not only showcasing the audacity, impertinence and prowess of conmen but also the gullibility of the labyrinthine government network which abysmally failed to detect a 'leeching' in their system for such an inordinately long period of time. The main accused Sandeep Rajput, a self-



styled Executive Engineer in the 'main project division' in Bodeli town and his partner-in-crime, Abu Bakr- Saiyed, a government contractor had set up the fake government office complete with fake government seals, forged documents and the like.

According to the FIR lodged on Thursday" it appears to be a conspiracy hatched in connivance with former and/or current employees". Between July 26, 2021 and October 25, 2023 a total of Rs 4.16 crores had been 'conned' out as government grants for 93 projects which had been approved by the former project administrator of Chotta Udepur district. The 'fraud' was busted when the current administrator, IAS officer Sachin Kumar raised questions pertaining to 12 pending applications seeking a grant of over Rs 3 crores. Official wheels moved fast thereafter and the two had been arrested by late night of October 27.

While investigations will follow its due course, the unsettling question it raises is that an administrative juggernaut that reaches the moon, aspires for the sun and sets sights on global leadership is like a sieve when it comes to conditions on the ground. In preceding months, a person faking as an officer of the Chief Ministers

Office (CMO) has been brought to heel as has been a con who faked proximity to union ministers and thereafter, the most daring of them who breached the multi-layered security in the most sensitive region of Jammu and Kashmir faking credentials of the PMO. Heartening that all con-culprits were nabbed, not so very that they managed some headway before nemesis caught up with them. More alarming is the rising audacity and the increasing frequency and the lethargy of the system to effect an overall review of its antiquated apparatus. Piecemeal, slapstick band-aids do take place but a serious review at the administrative level to effect an overhaul remains elusive. How else would a 'fake' make it as a potential trainee in a state-level police sub-inspector training establishment?

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international



Washington has absolutely no intention to send combat troops to Israel or Gaza
KAMALA HARRIS | US VICE-PRESIDENT

DOGS TO BE STERILISED IN BHUTAN

The Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan has become the first country in the world to declare its entire street dog population fully sterilised and vaccinated following years of investment in a humane dog management programme with global animal charity Humane Society International (HSI)



of the day quote

The United States is fuelling geopolitical tensions to uphold its hegemony. Western countries aim to escalate the conflict with Russia and increase the risk of major country confrontation
SERGEI SHOIGU | RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTER



We asked the American side to help bolster our defence system with Patriot air defence missile systems
BRIGADIER GENERAL MUSTAFA HIYARI | JORDAN'S ARMY SPOKESPERSON



China and Australia's relations have stabilised, improved and developed under the joint efforts of both countries
WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



SHORT TAKES

US, UK condemn political violence

Dhaka (Bangladesh): Seven countries, including the US, the UK and Canada, Monday, condemned the political violence in Bangladesh following clashes between the supporters of the main opposition BNP and the ruling Awami League during a nationwide general strike that killed at least four people. Condemning the deaths of those killed in the violence over the weekend, Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, the UK and the UK called on all stakeholders to work together to "create conditions for free, fair, participatory, and peaceful elections". The diplomatic missions of the seven countries expressed concern at the violence, urging all parties to "exercise restraint" and "eschew violence", in the joint statement issued Monday.

Sunak chairs security meet

London: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is chairing a high-level meeting at 10 Downing Street in London Monday to assess domestic security issues for the UK amid the Israel-Gaza conflict and against the backdrop of widespread protests on the streets of the country. The Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms A (COBRA) meeting attended by UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman and counterterrorism officials follows another weekend of thousands of people protesting against the conflict in the Middle East, resulting in nine arrests and five being charged with public order offences including for racially aggravated crimes.

SL renews Lanka IOC petroleum license

Colombo: The Sri Lankan government has renewed the petroleum products licence granted to Lanka IOC, the local subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation, for another 20 years, officials said Monday. The licence originally issued in 2003 was to expire in January 2024. This will allow Lanka IOC to continue its retail operations on the debt-trapped island nation until January 22, 2044.

Oz, EU free trade deal collapses

Canberra: The Australian government's free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) has collapsed after failing to make progress in negotiations. Australia Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell on Sunday said following talks on the sidelines of the Group of Seven (G7) trade minister meeting in Osaka, Japan, no deal has been reached on the FTA, Xinhua news agency reported.

Ground assault intensifies

Israeli troops and tanks attacked Gaza's main northern city from both sides Monday, three days after they began a major ground offensive in the Palestinian enclave that has drawn more international calls for civilians to be protected



Palestinians leave their homes following Israeli bombardment on Gaza City

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip), Oct 30: Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza Monday, advancing on two sides of the territory's main city, as the UN and medical staff warned that airstrikes have hit closer to hospitals where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded.

Video circulating on social media showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking the territory's main north-south highway, which the Israeli military earlier told Palestinians to use to escape the expanding ground offensive. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in the north would no longer be able to escape if the road is blocked since it's the only useable route south. When asked whether forces had positioned on the road, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said "we expanded our operations" but would not comment on specific deployments. The video, taken by a local journalist, shows a car ap-

proaching an earth barrier across the road. The car stops and turns around. As it heads away, a tank appears to open fire, and an explosion engulfs the car. The journalist, in another car, races away in terror, screaming, "Go back! Go back!" at an approaching ambulance and other vehicles. The Gaza Health Ministry later said three people were killed in the car that was hit.

The militant Hamas movement ruling Gaza released a video Monday purporting to show three women captured during its October 7 attack inside Israel. One of the women delivers a brief statement, likely under duress, criticising Israel's response to the hostage crisis.

Hamas and other militants captured around 240 people during the deadly raid and have said they will release them in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Israel has dismissed the offer. The Israeli advances put their forces on both sides of Gaza City and the sur-

- Militants say fighting Israeli troops east of Gaza city
- City's residents report Israeli attacks from both sides
- Israel says ground forces are calling in air strikes
- Four Hamas commanders among fighters killed, Israel says

rounding areas of northern Gaza, in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a "second stage" of the war ignited by Hamas' brutal October 7 incursion. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise sharply if Israeli forces expand their ground operation and end up battling Palestinian militants in dense residential areas.

Though Israel ordered Palestinians to flee the north, where Gaza City is located, and move south, hundreds of thousands remain, in part because Israel has also bombed targets in so-called safe zones. Around 117,000 displaced people hoping

to stay safe from strikes are staying in hospitals in northern Gaza, alongside thousands of patients and staff, according to UN figures.

The death toll among Palestinians passed 8,300, mostly women and children, the Gaza Health Ministry said Monday. The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. More than 1.4 million people in Gaza have fled their homes. Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure. Israeli forces appeared to be driving deeper into Gaza from the north. Video released Monday by the military showed armoured vehicles moving among buildings and soldiers taking positions inside a house.

Hagari said additional infantry, armoured, engineering and artillery units had entered Gaza and the operations would continue to "expand and intensify," though Israel has stopped short of calling its operations an all-out invasion.

The military said Monday that overnight its troops had killed dozens of militants who attacked from inside buildings and tunnels. It said that in the last few days, it had struck more than 600 militant targets, including weapons depots and antitank missile launching positions. The reports of targeting could not be independently confirmed.

Hamas' military wing said its militants clashed with Israeli troops who entered the northwest Gaza Strip. Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel, including toward its commercial hub, Tel Aviv.

CHINESE MILITARY FORUM

CHINA, RUSSIA TAKE AIM AT US



China's Central Military Commission Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu arrive for the Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, China

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 30: Chinese and Russian military chiefs targeted the United States for criticism at a security forum in Beijing Monday, even as China's second most senior military commander vowed to boost defence ties with Washington.

The lack of regular communications between the US and Chinese militaries has been a worry for Washington as tensions rise over various issues and given the risks of an accidental clash in the South China Sea or near Taiwan.

The Xiangshan Forum, China's biggest annual show of military diplomacy, began Sunday without a Chinese defence minister, who typically hosts the event, but including a US delegation.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu warned the West that its involvement in the Ukraine war created grave danger.

"The Western line of steady escalation of the conflict with Russia carries the threat of a direct military clash between nuclear powers, which is fraught with catastrophic consequences," Russia's TASS state news agency cited Shoigu as saying at the forum.

Shoigu said the West intended to inflict "strategic defeat" on Russia in what he called a "hybrid war", and praised Russia-China relations as "exemplary", Russian state media reported.

Zhang Youxia, vice chairman, under President Xi Jinping, of China's Central Military Commission, delivered veiled criticism of the United States and its allies, accusing "some countries" of trying to undermine China's government.

But Zhang also stressed the need for improving military ties with the United States.

Zhang held talks with Shoigu on the sidelines of the forum, China's Xinhua state media reported. China's defence minister has in previous years delivered the forum's keynote speech but Li Shangfu was sacked as defence minister last week without explanation and a replacement has not been named.

China and the US have had no high-level military-to-military communications since the Washington-sanctioned Li was appointed in March.

'HERE AND LISTENING'
The US defence department has sent a delegation led by Cynthia Xanthi Carras, China country director in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense. Carras had a brief exchange with defence ministry spokesperson Wu Qian at the forum, a social media account affiliated with state broadcaster CCTV reported. Chad Spragia, a former US deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, stressed the importance of US participation.

Trump's ballot disqualification trial begins

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denver, Oct 30: Efforts to use the US Constitution's "insurrection" clause to bar former President Donald Trump from running for the White House again entered a new phase Monday as a hearing began in the first of two states' lawsuits that could end up reaching the US Supreme Court.

A weeklong hearing on one lawsuit to bar Trump from the ballot in Colorado got underway, while Thursday oral argu-

ments are scheduled before the Minnesota Supreme Court on an effort to kick the Republican former president off the ballot in that state.

At the start of Monday's hearing in Colorado, the judge rejected a Trump motion that she step aside because she once contributed money to a liberal group.

Whether the judges keep Trump on the ballots or boot him, their rulings are likely to be swiftly appealed, eventually to the US Supreme Court. The nation's highest court has never



ruled on the Civil War-era provision in the 14th Amendment that prohibits those who swore an oath to uphold the

Constitution and then "engaged in insurrection" against it from holding higher office.

"We've had hearings with presidential candidates debating their eligibility before — Barack Obama, Ted Cruz, John McCain," said Derek T. Muller, a Notre Dame law professor, listing candidates challenged on whether they met the constitutional requirement of being a "natural born citizen." But these cases, Muller added, are different from using an obscure clause of the Constitution with the "in-

centenary" bar against insurrection. Even if they're long shots, Muller said, they have a plausible legal path to success and raise important issues. "Those legal questions are very heavy ones," Muller said.

Dozens of cases citing Section Three of the 14th Amendment have been filed in recent months, but the ones in Colorado and Minnesota seem the most important, according to legal experts. That's because they were filed by two liberal groups with significant legal resources.

WHY AREN'T THE ARABS THE 'COLONISERS'?

AGENCIES

The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem sits atop the site of the Second Temple, the central place for Jewish worship before its destruction during the Roman siege of Jerusalem in 70 C.E.

One wonders if any of the people braying about the alleged "settler colonialism" of Israel ever wonder how Al-Aqsa got there.

Did the Jews voluntarily erect a version of it in an eighth-century homage to multiculturalism? If not, how did the Muslims who built it come to be in Jerusalem in the first place?

These are rhetorical questions, of course. The caliphate besieged Jerusalem and took it from the Byzantines in the early seventh century.

Since the "decolonisation" agenda is meant only to target Western nations and peoples, you rarely hear of the conquests and empire-building of the non-Western world, which is conveniently forgotten behind a narrative of pervasive victimisation.

The earliest phase of the seventh-century Arab expansion was truly explosive, and then it continued at a slower but still impressive clip.

Indeed, it is one of the most sweeping acts of conquest and successful exercises in colonialism in world history. This wasn't the Mongols driving all before them and then receding to leave little in their trace, or the Normans getting absorbed into the England they conquered. No, the Arabs followed up their military conquest with a cultural imperialism still felt today.

Dan Jones writes in his history of the Middle Ages, Powers and Thrones, "Syria was one of the first major triumphs of a new power that was about to sweep across the world, branching out to the borders of China and the Atlantic seaboard of Europe, establishing an Islamic state that covered more than twelve million square kilometers."

Its armies "appeared everywhere from central Asia, through the Middle East and north Africa, throughout the Visigothic Iberian Peninsula, and even into southern France." Everywhere they



Palestinian fighters from the armed wing of Hamas take part in a military parade to mark the anniversary of the 2014 war with Israel, near the border in the central Gaza Strip July 19, 2023

REUTERS PHOTO

conquered, they put in place "Islamic governments and introduced new ways of living, trading, learning, thinking, building, and praying."

The caliph Abd al-Malik imposed Arabic as the official language of the empire, an act of the highest cultural significance, since Arabic and Islam were so intertwined. "Arabization," Jones writes, "was gradually followed

by conversion across the Muslim-held territories—a shift that can still be seen, felt, and heard in almost every part of the old caliphate in the twenty-first century." Once they had Islam foisted on them, these territories, by and large, never went back, except in the cases of Spain, Portugal, and Sicily.

In the Levant, in particular, as the archaeologist and historian

Alex Joffe writes, there was an imperial project that included bringing in new people. Settlers came of their own volition or were moved there by political authorities, Joffe notes, including Egyptians in the early 19th century and Chechens, Circassians, and Turks at the hands of the Ottomans later in the century.

A Hamas official once said, "Half of the Palestinians are Egyptians and the other half are Saudis." Should all this shuffling of population be reversed? Should the land conquered by the Arabs so long ago go back to the Byzantines or Persians, or their legates? What do Ben and Jerry think? Obviously, the decolonisers don't care about any of this, or the fate of the Kurds, Assyrians, and Amazighs, peoples who have suffered more recently from the Arabization of the broader region. What they really favor is another act of Arab colonisation to eliminate the Jewish people, who must succumb, finally and completely, to the long tide of Islamisation and Arabization "from the river to the sea."

DHAKA 2016 CAFE ATTACK

Court commutes death sentences of seven militants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 30: Bangladesh's High Court Monday commuted the death sentences of seven Islamist militants to life imprisonment unto death, nearly four years after they were convicted for their role in the country's worst terror attack at a popular Dhaka cafe in 2016 that killed 23 people, including an Indian girl.

The heavily armed militants attacked the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in Dhaka's posh diplomatic area July 1, 2016, and took the diners hostage. They subsequently killed three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians and one Indian.

The militants were killed during a rescue operation conducted by commandos, and two police officers and a cafe chef lost their lives during the 12-hour standoff.

On November 27, 2019, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Dhaka convicted and sentenced seven militants from the Neo Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh to death for their involvement in the attack, the country's worst terror incident.

On Monday, a two-member bench of the High Court comprising Justices Shahidul Karim and Md Mostafizur Rahman commuted the death sentences of seven men to imprisonment until death, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

The verdict came after the conclusion of the hearing on the death case and appeals in the case, as confirmed by Deputy Attorney General Bashir Ahmed and defence lawyer Ariful Islam, the paper said.

of the day quote

The inclusion or exclusion of cryptocurrencies and the diverse positions of influential nations will shape the future of international e-commerce policies

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

The government of India can play a vital role in influencing all neighbouring countries in initiating individual as well as collaborative efforts to curb food loss and waste

SHOBHA KARANDLAJE | MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE

We are thrilled to welcome a globally renowned investor like Temasek putting their trust and joining us in this exhilarating phase of our journey

BHARATH DAKA | CO-FOUNDER & COO, SKYROOT

RESULTS CORNER

Apple profit rises

New Delhi: iPhone maker Apple India witnessed a 48 per cent jump in revenue on a year-on-year basis to Rs 49,322 crore in the financial year ended March 2023, according to financial details provided by business intelligence firm Tofler.

Petronet net up

New Delhi: Petronet LNG Ltd, India's largest liquefied natural gas importer, Monday reported a 9 per cent rise in the September quarter consolidated net profit as margins rose.

AGEL profit shines

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Monday posted nearly 149 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 371 crore in the July-September quarter, compared to a year ago, mainly due to higher sales.

DLF profit up 31%

New Delhi: Realty major DLF Monday reported a 31 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 622.78 crore for the second quarter of this fiscal year on higher revenue.

TVS Motor's net flat

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Monday reported flat consolidated net profit at Rs 386.34 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, even as its overall sales witnessed a 5 per cent year-on-year rise.



We have cleared all payments for Russian oil purchases. As of today nothing is there beyond the due date

VETSA RAMAKRISHNA | HEAD OF FINANCE, BPCL

BAN ON ZEE'S GOENKA LIFTED

The Securities Appellate Tribunal Monday quashed the market regulator Sebi's order that had barred Zee Entertainment Enterprises' promoter Punit Goenka from holding key managerial posts in the company and other group firms



Blackstone enters Indian healthcare

Blackstone to acquire majority stake in CARE Hospitals for \$700mn, marking the US-based private equity firm's entry into India's healthcare services sector



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: Blackstone Monday said it has inked a pact to acquire a majority stake in Hyderabad-based CARE Hospitals from Evercare, a platform of TPG RISE funds, for \$700 million (around Rs 5,827 crore), thus foraying into country's healthcare services sector.

Private equity funds managed by Blackstone have acquired 72.5 per cent in Care Hospitals at an enterprise value of Rs 6,600 crore.

GANESH MANI | MD, BLACKSTONE PRIVATE EQUITY

Blackstone will commit \$1bn in the hospital chain in India and hold over 75% in Care Hospitals

In a separate deal, Care Hospitals will buy a majority stake in KIMSHEALTH, to form one of India's largest hospital platforms

The value of both the deals is between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion

The deal comes as a post-pandemic boom in demand for private healthcare in India has made the sector attractive, with global investors seeking an entry into healthcare chains in the country

in India, the investment management firm stated.

The combined platform will have more than 4,000 beds. TPG, whose shareholding in CARE Hospitals is held in its Evercare Health Fund, will retain a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

KIMSHEALTH will continue under the leadership of MI Sahadulla in the next wave of growth of the platform.

CARE Hospitals and KIMSHEALTH are trusted brands in the Indian healthcare space with a reputation of prioritising patients and have a track record of excellence in medical ethics and clinical outcomes.

"We aim to build a patient centric hospital platform focused on high clinical care quality and top-notch service," Mani said. CARE Hospitals has presence in Aurangabad, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Indore, Nagpur, Raipur and Visakhapatnam.

1.2L jobs: Hiring surge seen ahead of festive season

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: There has been a significant surge in hiring demand ahead of the festive season as over 1.2 lakh job openings were recorded in August and September 2023 across key Indian cities, as per a report.

According to the report by Apna.Co, a leading jobs and professional networking platform, there was a significant 61 per cent year-on-year increase in women applicants during July-September 2023.

The festive season saw active participation from leading companies like Bajaj, Axis Bank, Paytm, Flipkart and Reliance, which offered attractive incentives to secure top talent and boosted hiring for various roles like sales, marketing, finance, HR and business development.

According to apna.Co, the platform witnessed a substantial increase in employer engagement from July to September 2023, with 78,000 new employers joining the platform, a significant rise from 42,000 in 2022.

This growth was accompanied by a notable increase in job postings, reaching 2,13,000 compared to 1,70,000 in the same period in 2022, it added.

LALCHND HOLDS LUCKY DRAW FOR CUTTACK STORE

Cuttack: On the third day of Lalchnd's 'Kaun Banega Lakhpati', the lucky draw was organised for Cuttack store Sunday. In this lucky draw, Achyutananda Acharya from Cuttack won a car, Sanjaya Rath and Biji Jena, both from Cuttack, won a motorcycle each and eight customers became 'lakhpati's.



Siddhi Soujanya Sahu from Angul, Gyana Ranjan Sahu from Jajpur, Pabitra Mohan Mohanty, Sheikh Meherub Ali, Puspalata Behera and Simran Swain from Cuttack, Subhalaxmi from Keonjhar and Dilip Kumar Sahu from Jagatsinghpur have earned the fortune of becoming a 'lakhpati'.

Insurers told to simplify policy terms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IRDAI INSTRUCTS INSURERS TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF BASIC FEATURES OF POLICY TO CUSTOMERS FROM JAN 1, 2024

New Delhi, Oct 30: Insurance companies will have to provide basic features of a policy like sum assured, what the policy covers as well as exclusions, and claim procedure, to policyholders in a prescribed format from January 1, for easy understanding of terms and conditions.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has revised the existing customer information sheet so as to convey basic information about the policy purchased in a manner that is easily understood.

"The revised customer information sheet (CIS) shall be implemented with effect from January 1, 2024," the regulators said in a circular to all insurance firms.

"Since a policy document may be fraught with legalese, it is imperative to have a document that explains in simple words, the basic features with regards to the policy and provides necessary in-

formation," the circular said. It also noted that several complaints are still emanating as a result of asymmetry of information between insurer and the policy holder, Irdai said, while providing rationale for introducing revised CIS.

As per the revised CIS, insurers will have to provide 'name of insurance product/policy'; 'policy number'; 'type of insurance prod-

uct/policy'; and 'sum insured'.

Policyholders will also be informed about policy coverage (like hospital expenses), exclusions (what the policy does not cover), waiting period, financial limits of coverage, claims procedure, and details about grievances/complaints redressal mechanism.

The circular further said that insurers, intermediaries, and agents will forward the CIC to all policyholders, and also obtain an acknowledgement regarding the same. Also, CIC should be made available in local language if the policyholder so desires.

BigBasket tops Fairwork India Ratings 2023

AMONG THE 12 PLATFORMS REVIEWED, OLA AND PORTER SCORED ZERO POINTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: Digital platforms Ola and Porter have scored the lowest in terms of working conditions of gig workers on digital labour platforms, in a rating that was topped by Tata-owned BigBasket, says a report.

The Fairwork India Ratings 2023: Labour Standards in the Platform Economy report evaluated 12 platforms offering location-based services in sectors such as domestic and personal care, logistics, food delivery, and transportation, in India.

The Fairwork India Ratings 2023 scores 12 platforms, including Amazon Flex, BigBasket, BluSmart, Dunzo, Flipkart, Ola, Porter, Swiggy, Uber, Urban



Company, Zepto and Zomato. "This year, no platform scored more than six out of the maximum of ten points, and none scored all the first points across the five principles," the report said.

BigBasket scored the most six out of 10, followed by BluSmart,

Swiggy, Urban Company and Zomato each scoring five out of 10, Zepto (4/10), Flipkart (3/10), Amazon Flex (2/10), Dunzo and Uber (1/10). While Ola and Porter scored nil.

Fairwork assessed platforms against five principles: Fair Pay,

Fair Conditions, Fair Contracts, Fair Management, and Fair Representation.

Each principle is broken down into two points: a first point and a second point that can only be awarded if the first point has been fulfilled. Every platform receives a score out of 10.

"In a year that has seen the formulation of a significant regulation based on inputs from workers, [The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023]...

"We hope that highlighting the experiences of workers will point to the structural changes that platforms, consumers and the state alike will need to undertake if the platform economy is to offer its workers decent

Equities witness topsy-turvy trade

INDICES LOG GAINS FOR 2ND DAY ON BUYING IN RELIANCE, HDFC BANK



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 30: Equity Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty closed higher for the second straight session Monday as buying in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank helped the indices rebound from early lows amid a mixed trend in global markets.

Besides, weakening Brent crude oil prices overseas also boosted investor confidence amid simmering tensions in the Middle East, traders said.

Recovering after a sell-off in morning trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 329.85 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 64,112.65. During the day, it rallied 401.78 points or 0.62 per cent to 64,184.58. The Nifty advanced 93.65 points or 0.49 per cent to 19,140.90.

The rupee traded on a flat note and settled 1 paisa lower at 83.26 against the US dollar.

Among the Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Kotak Mahindra Bank and State Bank of India were the major gainers.

In contrast, Tata Motors, Maruti, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, NTPC, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finserv were the major laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge gained 0.13 per cent and smallcap index advanced 0.06 per cent. Among the indices, realty jumped 1.99 per cent, telecommunication climbed 1.52 per cent, energy (1.24 per cent), oil & gas (1.16 per cent) and bankex (0.54 per cent).

Consumer Discretionary,

Domestic equities saw some buying interest boosted by impressive corporate earnings and increasing hope that US Fed might keep the interest rate on hold in its upcoming meeting on November 1

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD (RETAIL RESEARCH), MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

FMCG, auto and metal were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled in the negative territory. European markets were trading with gains. The US markets ended mostly lower on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.55 per cent to \$89.18 a barrel.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pulled out over Rs 20,300 crore from Indian equities this month so far, primarily due to a sharp surge in the US treasury yield and the uncertain environment resulting from the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The BSE benchmark jumped 634.65 points or 1.01 per cent to settle at 63,782.80 Friday. The wider gauge Nifty surged 190 points or 1.01 per cent to 19,047.25.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Monday as they sold shares worth Rs 1,761.86 crore.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves declined by \$2.36 billion to \$583.53 billion during the week ended October 20, according to the Reserve Bank of India data. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had increased by \$1.153 billion to \$585.895 billion.

Centre asks private cos to dematerialise securities by Sept '24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: The government has asked private companies to dematerialise their securities by September 2024, a move that will help enhance transparency and will have a broad impact.

The requirement will be applicable to private companies, excluding small companies and government companies.

There are about 1.4 million private firms registered under the companies law with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). Private companies can issue securities only in dematerialised form and should facilitate the dematerialisation of all securities by September 2024, according to an MCA notification.

Dematerialisation refers to the conversion of securities held in physical form to dematerialised or digitised form. In this regard, amendments have been made to the Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Second Amendment Rules, 2023.

"A private company, which as on the last day of a financial year, ending on or after 31st March 2023, is not a small company as per audited financial statements for such financial year, shall, within eighteen months of the closure of such financial year, comply with the provisions of this rule," the notification dated October 27 said.

The move is also expected to enhance transparency and help curb possible unscrupulous activities with shares in the physical form.

Feisty Afghans thrash SL

PAK FACE BANGLA IN MUST-WIN TIE



FAZALHAQ FAROOQI

Pune, Oct 30: Rahmat Shah, skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi and Azmatullah Omarzai slammed well-timed half centuries to complement the superb bowling effort of pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi as Afghanistan defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets in their World Cup match here, Monday.

Chasing 242 for victory, Afghanistan went past the target in 45.2 overs. A 111-run partnership between Shahidi (58 n o, 74b, 2x4, 1x6) and Azmatullah (73 n o, 63b, 6x4, 3x6) for the unbroken fourth wicket stand formed the cornerstone of the big win, their third in this tournament.

The result also helped them climb to fifth place on the table with six points and with three more matches remaining the Afghans will dream of making a run for the semifinals. Sri Lanka remained on sixth spot with four points from six matches.

Following their breathtaking performances against England and Pakistan, Afghanistan went into the match against Sri Lanka as slight favourites and pacer Farooqi (4/34) made a huge statement by unleashing his full fury to demolish the Islanders for 241. Rahmat (62, 74b, 7x4), Shahidi and Azmatullah then played with determination to help their side reach the target.

Despite the early dismissal of his opening partner



Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi, Rahmat Shah (inset, L) and Azmatullah Omarzai (inset, R) scored half centuries

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, dismissed by left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka (2/48) for a duck, Ibrahim Zadran (39) steadied the innings during a 72-run second wicket stand with Rahmat.

Rahmat and Shahidi then put their heads together to do the repair job, with the former doing the bulk of the scoring in the 58-run stand for the third wicket. Luck ran out for Rahmat soon after he had completed his 25th ODI half century.

After the batting stalwart was grassed at backward point by Sadeera Samarawickrama off the previous delivery from Kasun Rajitha in the 28th over, Rahmat ended up getting a leading edge that popped up to Karunaratne at mid-on. However, Shahidi and Omarzai's partnership saw Afghanistan achieve another memorable victory in the World Cup.

Earlier, Afghanistan pacer Farooqi played a pivotal role in demolishing Sri Lanka on an easy-paced pitch. While left-

armer Farooqi's fiery pace made life difficult for the rivals, Afghanistan spinners Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2/38) and Rashid Khan (1/50) showed the right intent and energy to create pressure and restrict in-form batters like Pathum Nissanka and Samarawickrama.

After being asked to bat first, Lanka batting never got going as Farooqi, Mujeeb and Rashid, who was playing his 100th ODI, bowled tight lengths and varied pace despite them getting little assistance from the MCA Stadium surface that played true through the 50 overs.

While opener Nissanka batted with confidence and kept the scoreboard ticking, wasting no opportunity to take singles and 2s while scoring an occasional boundary, his partner Dimuth Karunaratne, who replaced Kusal Perera in the playing XI, looked tentative and missed the line on a few occasions.

Karunaratne was finally done

in by a Farooqi delivery that darted in and led to a vociferous lbw appeal. Though the umpire wasn't convinced, the review indicated otherwise and Karunaratne walked back with the score reading 22/1.

Nissanka continued his fine form, but the aggression seemed missing on this day as he dealt mostly in 1s and 2s with skipper Kusal Mendis. Nissanka tried to play a back of length delivery outside off from Omarzai towards backward point but the ball took the thinnest of edges en route wicketkeeper Gurbaz.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 241 (Pathum Nissanka 46, Kusal Mendis 39, Sadeera Samarawickrama 36; Fazalhaq Farooqi 4/34, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 2/38) lost to Afghanistan 242/3 (Azmatullah Omarzai 73 n o, Rahmat Shah 62, Hashmatullah Shahidi 58 n o, Ibrahim Zadran 39; Dilshan Madushanka 2/48) by 7 wickets.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 30: All but out of semifinal race, Pakistan would be desperate to snap their four-match losing streak and add some semblance of respect to their floundering campaign when they take on an equally struggling Bangladesh in their do-or-die World Cup match here Tuesday.

Pakistan have just four points in their kitty and they can add a maximum of six more to touch 10 by the end of league stage. Three teams are already above Pakistan and it would be a miracle of sorts if they make it to the knockout stage.

The multiple favourable results are highly unlikely given the fact that Australia have regained their form and New Zealand have also emerged as one of the toughest sides to beat in this tournament.

As of today India and South Africa look certain to make the cut while the Trans-Tasman rivals are looking in good shape to grab the other two spots for the semifinals.

Pakistan will not have to just win their remaining matches but they need to win with big margins to swell their net run rate (currently minus 0.205). A defeat against Bangladesh will certainly knock the 1992 champions out of the showpiece.

In such a scenario, it is expected that Pakistan players will go all-out and give their all. At a time when their batters have failed to last the distance in four of their six outings, it's Pakistan's bowling attack that has shone through.

On a seamer-friendly Eden wicket that offered some extra bounce from short of the length during the first match on Saturday, the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Wasim will hope to hand Bangladesh the early blows.

Pakistan's biggest positive is sparkling show by Mohammad Wasim junior who made his World Cup debut in place of an indisposed Hasan Ali against South Africa.

Wasim returned with figures of 2/62 but the way he created pressure, especially at the death overs against Keshav Maharaj, was a big plus for the embattled side. Wasim is expected to retain his place as Pakistan would look to rattle the Bangladeshi batters who have been struggling in the tournament.

Pakistan's biggest let down has been their batters who have failed to last the full quota of 50 overs on four occasions. The buck will certainly stop with skipper Babar Azam, their best batter, who has not been converting his starts into big scores. Babar has so far struck three fifties and he could be eyeing a big score against Bangladesh.

On the other hand, all is not well in the Shakib Al Hasan-led Bangladesh camp. Their batters have failed to post big totals. In their previous match against the Netherlands, four of their top-six batters failed to score in double digits to be bundled out for 142 in a chase of 230. It was their sixth defeat on the trot for the Bangla Tigers. Bangladesh have just two points from six matches and they are currently at ninth spot in the 10-team league.



Bhanwala wins bronze, seals Paris 2024 quota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: Commonwealth Games gold medallist Anish Bhanwala bagged India's 12th Paris Olympic quota in shooting as he clinched a bronze medal in the men's 25m rapid pistol fire event at the Asian Championships in Changwon, Korea Monday.

The 21-year-old from Karnal, who had 28 hits in the final, lost a shoot out to Japan's Dai Yoshioka, who won the silver medal. Local favourite Lee Gunhyeok took home the gold with a score of 34 in the eight five-shot rapid-fire series decider.

Bhanwala fetched the quota for the Paris Games by ending the qualification stage in third place with a score of 588, just one behind China's Wang Xinjie who topped the field.

Three Chinese made the six-man final as the Indian took the third qualifying spot behind world champion Li Yuehong on countback.

It was enough to give him one of the two available 2024 Olympics spots, given that China had exhausted their quotas and Lee and Dai had also secured their Paris Games berths in earlier competitions.



Among other Indians, Bhavesh Shekhawat shot 584 to be among the top-eight in the qualification but could not enter the final as he was competing for ranking points only (RPO). He was not eligible for the final.

Vijayveer Sidhu also missed out, shooting 581 to finish 10th overall and eight among the contenders. Adarsh Singh was further back in 25th with a score of 570.

The men's trap trio also won India a silver in the team competition as Zoravar Singh Sandhu, Kynan Chenai (111) and Prithviraj Tondaiman (111) shot a total of 341 to finish three behind gold medallists Qatar: Iran took the bronze. Sandhu finished sixth after reaching the individual final.

India have now picked up 30 medals from the continental event, including eight gold. Bhanwala's quota was the fifth India have secured in Changwon.

In the women's trap event, the best Indian performers where the ones who were not in medal contention. Rajeshwari Kumari and Shagun Chowdhary, both playing as RPO shooters, shot 108 and 107 to finish seventh and eighth respectively.

Colts storm into semifinals with win over NZ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Johor Bahru (Malaysia), Oct 30: The Indian junior men's hockey team remained on course to defend their title with a stunning 6-2 triumph over New Zealand that put them in the semifinals of 11th Sultan of Johor Cup here Monday.

Amandeep Lakra (second, seventh, 35th minutes), Arun Sahani (12th, 53rd) and Poovanna Chandura Bobby (52nd) got on the scoresheet for India, while Luke Aldred (29th, 60th) scored a brace for New Zealand.

Indian colts made a positive start against New Zealand. Their intent to win was evident when they earned a PC in the opening minute of the match. Lakra was on target to capitalise from the early opportunity, flicking the ball powerfully past the NZ goalkeeper Luke Elmes, and earning a confidence-inducing 1-0 lead.

Max aces Mexico City GP for season record 16th victory

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Mexico City, Oct 30: Max Verstappen split the Ferrari front row of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz at the start to snatch the lead of the Formula One Mexico City Grand Prix by the first corner, then drove off to his record 16th victory of the season.

Red Bull's three-time season champion collected his third consecutive win at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez Sunday and broke his own season victories record set last year. Verstappen started from third and won from the same spot as he did in 2021.

A hard crash by Haas driver Kevin Magnussen at the halfway point forced the race into a halt and a restart. Verstappen nailed that one as well and was never threatened for the checkered flag.

The Dutch driver's 51st career win tied Alain Prost for fourth most in F1 history. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton leads with 103. Hamilton finished second Sunday. Leclerc was third.



Amandeep Lakra reacts after scoring a goal against New Zealand

The pressure continued to pile on NZ in the following moments with India picking up yet another PC. Lakra remained the cynosure of India's PC attack, stepping up again to unleash a fierce flick to double India's lead.

The defending Champions remained persistent in testing NZ's

defence as they scored their third goal - thanks to Sahani's cross from the left wing deflecting off Luke Elmes into the goal. NZ finally breached Indian defence when Aldred converted a fine PC.

Determined to build on their lead, India made an attacking start in the third quarter. Their

India women's team exact sweet revenge

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RANCHI: The Indian hockey team survived some anxious moments to avenge their Asian Games loss with a 2-1 win over China and continue their rampaging run at the women's Asian Champions Trophy here, Monday. Deepika (15th) and Salima Tete (26th) sounded the board for the hosts, while Zhong Jiaqi scored in the 41st minute for China. China had spoilt India's bid to earn a direct qualification for the Paris Olympics after beating them in the semifinals of the Hangzhou Asian Games last month. But Monday, India returned the favours to stay atop the standing.

efforts resulted in a PC and Lakra struck his third to complete a stunning hat-trick. The 35th-minute goal put India in command with a 4-1 lead.

Halfway through the quarter, though, NZ looked to answer back as Daniel Torr dodged a couple of Indian defenders in

the circle, but India's custodian HS Mohith remained alert, rushing out to unsettle the forward and force a miss.

NZ began the last quarter with hope to bounce back in the game but the Indian defence remained resolute. Meanwhile, Indian attackers continued to showcase disciplined structure as they created crucial chances that would fetch two more goals this quarter. In the 52nd minute, Poovanna Chandura Bobby scored India's fifth goal through a PC while Arun Sahani struck his second goal in the 53rd minute taking India's lead to 6-1.

With seconds left in the game, an infringement by India's defence meant NZ would get a final go at the goal and Aldred ensured he was on point, putting the ball past Mohith with a well-executed flick. But the goal did little to stop India from marching into the semifinal, which will be played November 3.

Lyon team bus attacked, 9 detained

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 30: French police have detained nine people and are searching for other suspects after a violent attack on buses carrying the Lyon football team and fans left coach Fabio Grosso with a head injury and forced the postponement of their game at Marseille, the interior minister said Monday.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on BFM television that five police officers were also injured in the attack Sunday night, which drew nationwide attention amid concerns about football violence.

"Shame and Disgust," was the headline on l'Equipe newspaper's front page, with a picture of Grosso's bloodied face.

However, it's unlikely the attack will lead to disciplinary sanctions against the nine-time French champions. Since it took place outside the Velodrome stadium, responsibility lies with public authorities and not with the club. The case has been taken over by a French league committee in charge of scheduling competitions, and not by the discipline commission.

The team bus was hit on the



way to the Stade Velodrome, shattering some windows. Grosso was injured by falling shards of glass and needed medical treatment with his face bleeding heavily. Lyon assistant coach Raffaele Longo was also injured. Buses carrying Lyon fans were also attacked.

Grosso suffered a deep cut above his left eye that required stitches and had a large bandage wrapped around his head.

The attack was widely commented in media outside France and comes at a very bad time for the French league amid negotiations for the sale of their

TV rights abroad. Earlier this month, the auction for the domestic broadcast rights for the 2024-2029 period was cancelled after the league failed to attract bids meeting the minimum price set.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Instagram that "there is absolutely no place for violence in football, on or off the pitch" and called on "the competent authorities to ensure that the appropriate measures are taken."

"Without exception, in football, all players, coaches and fans must be safe to enjoy our sport," Infantino said. He added

a picture of Grosso with a bandage on his face, with the message "Forza Fabio".

Sports Minister Amelia Oudea-Castera called for a 'global response' and said the French league, the teams and fan groups should all take responsibility. Speaking Monday on France-2 television, she called for tougher restrictions on troublemakers. She and Darmanin defended police protection for the Lyon team even though the measures weren't enough to prevent the attack.

Marseille president Pablo Longoria said the attack was unacceptable and the club wished Grosso a speedy recovery. "Because of a handful of thoughtless people, tonight's (Sunday's) party was spoiled and 65,000 fans were deprived of attending a football match," the club said.

The atmosphere has long been tense between the teams, notably since fans from Marseille and Lyon fought in a violent brawl 10 years ago that left 17 injured.

Both clubs have been under pressure lately. Marseille are still showing poor form with one win and three losses in their last four league games, and Lyon are the only team still winless in the league.