



SUSHMITA'S CONFESSION

Sushmita Sen says she had kind of stagnated as an actor before working in the web series *Aarya*

LEISURE P2



BOON FOR TRANSGENDERS

Transgender people can be godparents at Roman Catholic baptisms, witnesses at religious weddings and receive baptism themselves

INTERNATIONAL P10



PARNEET REIGNS SUPREME

Parneet Kaur pips compatriot compound archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam to bag gold at Asian Championships

SPORTS P12

Nabarangpur minor allegedly gangraped

Nabarangpur: A 13-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped at a locality under Kundi police limits in Raighar block of Nabarangpur district, an official said Thursday. According to a Kundi police official, the Class VI girl was taken ill Thursday following which was rushed to Hatabharandi hospital. "After learning that the minor girl was gangraped, her family members lodged a complaint with the police in this regard," an official said. Two persons, both teachers, have been detained in this connection.

Principal under Vigilance scanner

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance sleuths Thursday claimed to have unearthed disproportionate assets (DA) worth crores of rupees belonging to Sudarshan Behera, principal of Government Ayurvedic College and Hospital in Bolangir. Anti-corruption wing sleuths carried out simultaneous searches at six places belonging to him in Puri, Sambalpur and Bolangir districts. "Three multi-storey buildings, 16 plots in Puri, bank deposits worth ₹50 lakh belonging to Behera have been found," sleuths said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Some VIP tried to overtake you again today?

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	64832.20 ↓ 143.41
NIFTY	19395.30 ↓ 48.20
DOLLAR	83.30 ↑ ₹0.01
EURO	89.07 ↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹60,171 ↑ ₹162
SILVER	₹71,525 ↑ ₹457

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.6°C	31.2°C
TEMP MIN	18.5°C	19.0°C
Humidity	70%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather likely	



HONOURING ACHIEVERS: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik poses with tribal farmers after felicitating them on the inaugural day of the International Convention of Millets in Bhubaneswar Thursday (Report P3)

India appeals to Qatar

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 9: The Centre has already filed an appeal with Qatar over the death penalty to eight former Navy personnel. The eight were arrested in August last year for reasons still not known and sentenced last month. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Thursday here that the government has 'already filed an appeal'.

The Qatari government has said that the eight were involved in 'espionage' and supplying in-

ESPIONAGE

formation to Israel. The Indian government had earlier said it is 'deeply shocked by the verdict'.

Bagchi meanwhile said that the case details still remain unavailable. "The judgement is confidential... has only been shared with the legal team. We are now pursuing further legal steps," he was quoted as saying by 'NDTV'.

"We are constantly in touch with the family (of the eight

Naval officers). We will continue to extend all possible legal and consular support," Bagchi stressed. He also cautioned the media against speculation in this sensitive matter as it could harm the Indians behind bars. "Consular access to the eight was last provided Tuesday," Bagchi added.

The eight ex-Navy officers include decorated individuals who once commanded major Indian warships. They were working for Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services.

Mentally-challenged woman sexually assaulted, man held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 9: A 35-year-old mentally-challenged woman was allegedly raped by a man in an area under Itamati police limits in Nayagarh district, late Wednesday night. The accused identified as Suryakant Mohanty, 24, alias Panda a resident of Baunshiapada village has been arrested, police said Thursday. Police began probing the incident after the mother of the victim lodged a written complaint at the Itamati police station.

The incident occurred Wednesday night when the survivor was sleeping on the balcony of a house in the village. Locals and family members spotted the victim writhing in agony and lying in a pool of blood. They rushed her to the district headquarters hospital here Wednesday night. Currently she is in stable condition after undergoing treatment, her mother said Thursday.

Sources stated that the woman had been stabbed also, but there was no official confirmation from the hospital or from the police officials. According to the victim's mother, her daughter was mentally stable when she got married. However, she lost her mental balance after being abandoned by her husband.



Accused Suryakant Mohanty

Locals pointed out that due to her mental imbalance, the victim rarely stayed at her parental place. She used to wander aimlessly around the village. Taking advantage of the fact that she was sleeping alone on the balcony of a house, the accused raped her. Police zeroed in on Panda after the victim went on repeating his name constantly after the assault.

IIC of Itamati police station, Dilip Swain said a medical examination was conducted on the survivor Thursday and the report confirmed she has been raped. Medical examination of the accused will be done Friday after which he will be produced in court, he added. Sources meanwhile said that Panda has confessed to his crime.

Indians shine at 'Eco Oscar' awards

AGENCIES

Singapore, Nov 9: Indians dominated the '2023 Earthshot Awards', with eight of them winning prizes here Wednesday evening. The 'Earthshot' prize has been founded by Prince William and every winner gets an award amount of GBP 1 million. It is also known as the 'Eco Oscars'.

'S4S Technologies', founded in 2013 by six university friends Nidhi Pant, Vaibhav Tidke, Swapnil Kokte, Ganesh Bhare, Shital Somani, Tushar Gaware and Ashwin Pawade, was named the winner in the *Build a Waste-Free World* category at an awards ceremony Wednesday in Singapore. In the *Fix Our Planet* category, Aadith Moorthy's 'Boomitra' emerged as the winner for its work with struggling farm-



'S4S' co-founder Nidhi Pant and 'Boomitra' founder Aadith Moorthy

ers the world over. "The last year has been one of great change and even greater challenge. A year in which the effects of the climate crisis have become too visible to be ignored," said William, the Prince of Wales. "The light of optimism is burning bright in our 'Earthshot' finalists. From 'Boomitra', 'S4S', and 'Acción Andina', to 'GRST' and 'Wild Aid Marine

Programme', our winners and all our finalists remind us that, no matter where you are on our planet, the spirit of ingenuity, and the ability to inspire change, surrounds us all," added Prince William. "S4S", which stands for 'Science for Society', was set up with the aim of creating a waste-free food system and to transform the lives of millions of women

farmers. "S4S, along with women farmers, are creating a new food ecosystem that reduces wastage and mitigates the increase in GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions while meeting the world's food needs," said co-founder Nidhi Pant.

'Boomitra', which means 'friend of the earth' in Sanskrit, is a soil carbon marketplace which rewards farmers for sustainable land management practices. The company works with more than 1,50,000 farmers, managing more than five million acres of land in some of the poorest parts of Africa, South America and Asia.

"This prize is a recognition of the hard work and dedication of our partners on ground, the Boomitra team," said Aadith Moorthy, CEO and Founder of the organization.

Fix netas' cases fast

PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DISPOSAL OF CRIMINAL CASES AGAINST MPs, MLAs PUNISHABLE WITH DEATH OR LIFE SENTENCES, SAYS SUPREME COURT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: In a significant verdict aimed at fast-tracking trial in more than 5,000 criminal cases against lawmakers, the Supreme Court directed Thursday high courts to set up a special bench to monitor cases for their speedy disposal. It also asked these special courts not to adjourn proceedings in such matters except 'for rare and compelling reasons'.

Issuing a slew of directions to high courts, district judges and special courts designated to hear matters related to lawmakers, the top court directed that criminal cases against members of Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils be given priority.

"The learned Chief Justice of the High Court shall register a suo motu case titled as 'In Re Designated Courts for MPs/MLAs' to monitor early disposal of criminal cases pending against the Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies," said one of the directions passed by the bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.



Till Nov 14, 2022, more than 5k cases pending against politicians out of which 2,116 are criminal

Plea has sought life ban on politicians convicted in criminal cases

"Under Article 227 of the Constitution, the high courts are entrusted with the power of superintendence over the subordinate judiciary. We deem it appropriate to leave it to the high courts to evolve a method for effective monitoring of the subject cases," the bench added.

The suo motu (on its own) case may be heard by a special bench presided by the chief justice (of the high court) or judges assigned by him to the special bench that may list matters at regular intervals as felt necessary, the SC bench said.

"The designated court shall give priority to criminal cases against MPs and MLAs punishable with death or life imprisonment, then to the cases punishable with imprisonment for five years or more. The special courts shall not adjourn the cases except for rare and compelling reasons," the bench added in its directions.

Disposing of one of the aspects of the PIL relating to ensuring speedy trial of criminal cases against politicians, the bench kept the plea, filed by Ashwini Upadhyay through lawyer Ashwani Dubey, pending to deal with other aspects related to decriminalisation of polity in the country.

Besides seeking early disposal of criminal cases against politicians, the petition has sought a life term ban on politicians upon conviction in criminal cases and setting up of special courts for this purpose in the country.

Give Swadeshi Gifts, take a new initiative

On Dhanteras, Deepawali, Bhai Dooj and Chhath festivals

Gift your loved ones Patanjali products that boost immunity, protect your health during the winters and save the country from economic loot and slavery of foreign companies.

Boycott unhealthy and chemical-based synthetic products. Use Patanjali's skin care, hair care and dental care products for the best results in just 7 days.

leisure



KIM TO REMAIN SINGLE AFTER INTERNAL CONFLICTS IN LIFE

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has vowed to remain single after a lot of internal struggles over another possible marriage. On the latest episode of The Kardashians, she detailed her plans to date and possibly marry again, though she doesn't see it happening anytime soon, reports *People* magazine.

ZAC: IT'S AN HONOUR TO PLAY MATTHEW PERRY IN BIOPIC

Actor Zac Efron says he would be honoured to play the late Matthew Perry, whom he calls his mentor, on the big screen. "I'm honoured to hear he was thinking of me to play him," Zac told *People* at the premiere of his film *The Iron Claw*, reports *pagesix.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You are likely to remain careful and watchful today, foretells Ganesh. And because you'll be invited to parties and other social events, your enthusiasm will remain buoyant. You will also strike the right balance between business and pleasure, says Ganesh.

TAURUS

In all probability, you will discuss certain sacred issues with your beloved today, predicts Ganesh. In the evening, you will be possibly visiting holy places. You had better make up for the lost time to finish pending work in the afternoon. Think twice before you act, warns Ganesh.

GEMINI

The idea of being with your family will keep you motivated throughout the day. In business, your inquisitive approach will do you a lot of good. In fact, you will have the proverbial Midas touch — whichever venture you put your hands on will turn into a glittering success.

CANCER

Today, you will shift your entire focus on the problems plaguing your personal life, feels Ganesh. Your ability to nip a problem in the bud has helped you to have a good personal life so far. And today, you will have to use your skills to mend the strain in your relationship with your loved ones.

LEO

Even slender shoulders gain the strength when the time comes to handle responsibilities. And so shall you, says Ganesh, as today brings with it an increased amount of responsibility. You may find yourself drained of all your energy by the end of it.

VIRGO

A cocktail of business and pleasure is on the house today. Parties will run till dawn. You will also take the correct route to success by making important decisions. People will stand to gain if they involve you in their do, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

"Efforts made are never in vain, even when they may seem otherwise". Let this be your motto for the day. Today may not seem to be the most productive day, especially when it comes to interviews. You may feel like the rook in the chess set — sometimes coming back to square one despite making many moves forward to the ultimate checkmate! So remember, persistence is the key, says Ganesh. Keep trying and your efforts will bear fruit.

SCORPIO

The day just went from bad to worse today, says Ganesh. Troubles are coming in faster and thicker than a locust swarm. But keep a leash on yourself, says Ganesh, and steer clear of it all. Take criticism in your stride today and pay attention to what is being said, not who is saying them.

SAGITTARIUS

Hedge your bets carefully, says Ganesh. Solving problems will come naturally to you. But, beware, as you may face the music from certain disgruntled individuals. Worry not, and keep the spring in your step.

CAPRICORN

Ganesh can hear the wedding bells. There is all the likelihood that you will find your perfect match today and will let him/her know about your feelings, says Ganesh. Your family means the world to you and you will be more expressive about this today than you have been in the past few years. In fact, your warm feelings will be reciprocated in equal measure and you will be showered with love — unconditional and unrestrained.

AQUARIUS

Meditate, and tune in to your inner sanctum. As you do this, you will realise you don't need others' advice all the time. Your boss will cooperate with you, while your loved ones will encourage you. An exciting date should close the day on a lovely note, says Ganesh.

PISCES

A highly productive day awaits you. You will be driven to succeed, and filled with energy and enthusiasm to achieve your goals. Meetings with your superiors ought to yield some much anticipated results, says Ganesh.

Ananya addresses nepotism debate

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday, who appeared on the third episode of the popular chat show *Koffee With Karan*, addressed the nepotism debate as at one point she found herself at the centre of it.

During an actors' roundtable conversation, Ananya said that despite being an insider, things haven't been easy for her as she too struggles with a lot of things. This coupled with actor Siddhant Chaturvedi's comments about the starting line being different for insiders and outsiders during the same roundtable led to a barrage of criticism for Ananya and even more, countless memes around her.

Talking about the incident, Ananya said, "Honestly, I don't want to sound like I'm victimising myself, saying 'Oh it's so tough for me'. It's tough for everyone. It's not easy for

anyone in this business no matter at what stage they're in their careers. All I have ever worked for is validation. I'm the daughter of a man who is a huge people pleaser. In every aspect of my life, I just want love from people."

She further mentioned, "I do want people to think that I'm worthy of the opportunities I have got so far. I'm waiting for good work to come to me and I'm quite excited for the kind of work I'm doing."



3-day Kalinga Literary Festival from Feb 9

Bhubaneswar: The 10th edition of the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF), a three-day literary event, will be held here from February 9, 2024, informed KLF's founder director Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Thursday.

The festival, themed *Legends of Ancient Bharat and Beyond*, will showcase diverse literary forms ranging from poetry and politics to art and athletics, he added.

More than 300 speakers, including poets, musicians, artists, and performers have given their consent to join the extravaganza, it was learnt.



Over the course of three transformative days, the KLF

will weave a tapestry of themes celebrating the intricate relationships between literature

and liberty, claimed the organisers.

"Luminaries such as Bibek Debroy, Amish Tripathi, Sitakanta Mohapatra, Pratibha Ray, Ramakanta Rath, Paramita Satapathy, Arundhati Subramaniam, Uday Prakash, K.R Meera, Yatindra Mishra, Hindol Sengupta, Milee Ashwarya, Milee Ashwarya, Yashpal Sharma, Maria Goretti, Koral Dashgupta, Nila Madhab Panda, and Sandeep Bamzai are expected to grace the event," concluded Parida.



POPULARITY MATTERS, REAL WORK DOESN'T: NEENA

Mumbai: Actress Neena Gupta, during a recent interview opened up on how she is recognized for only *Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai* song from *Khalnayak* in small towns and not for a movie like *Badhaai Ho*.

In a recent podcast with daughter Masaba Gupta, she said, "In a lot of places, especially the smaller towns and cities, people don't know my work in *Badhaai Ho* or *Saans*, they only know me for *Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai*, till today."

Recalling a shooting incident with Jackie Shroff, she said, "The producers gave a bouncer to accompany me. But no one knew me there. Those who recognized me only recognized me for *Choli Ke Peeche Kya Hai*."

During the shoot, Neena shared that the crowd went crazy for Jackie but "no one even looked at me. He was a hero, he was a star." When Masaba asked her mother whether someone's popularity on social media has anything to do with their popularity in real life, she said, "It is all about how commercially popular you are. It doesn't really translate into anything in the real world. Your work has to be seen by people," she said.

On the work front, Neena Gupta was last seen in the web series *Charlie Chopra* and in the Netflix anthology *Lust Stories 2*.

'I'd stagnated as a performer'

Most a creative endeavor. Then I met Ram, and he showed me *Aarya*. In flat five minutes, I said yes, and I thought, 'My god, I have to pull this off'."

She added, "He came to me and said, 'I'll need you to do workshops. You'll have to unlearn and relearn.' I was like, 'This is what I've been wanting. There's a lot I have to unlearn because I'm a 90s kid and a 90s actor.' So there was a lot to do there, and the process was made so friendly and so warm that I came back as a newcomer with a completely different approach."

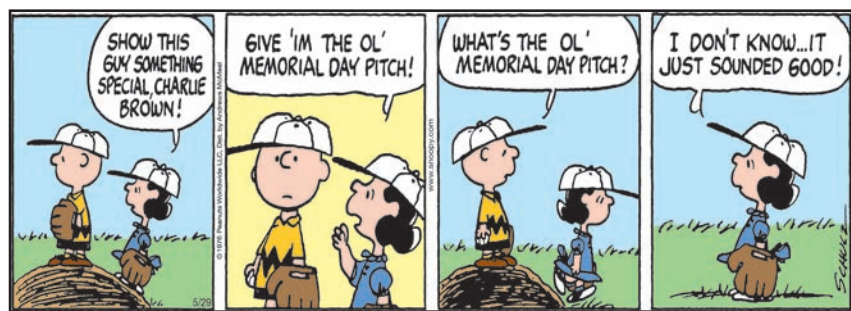
Aarya Season 3 streams on Disney+ Hotstar.



Mumbai: Actress and former beauty queen Sushmita Sen has talked about her transformative experience of working in *Aarya* and said that she had kind of stagnated as an actor.

Sushmita said: "I had kind of stagnated as an actor. I was not learning anything, and I wanted to learn. I did not want to do the old stuff again, almost like running a factory of what is al-

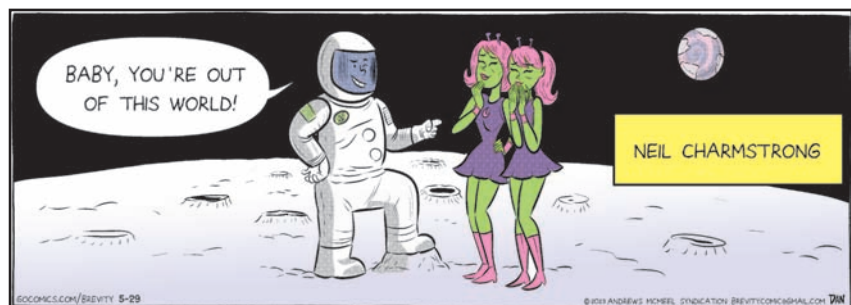
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

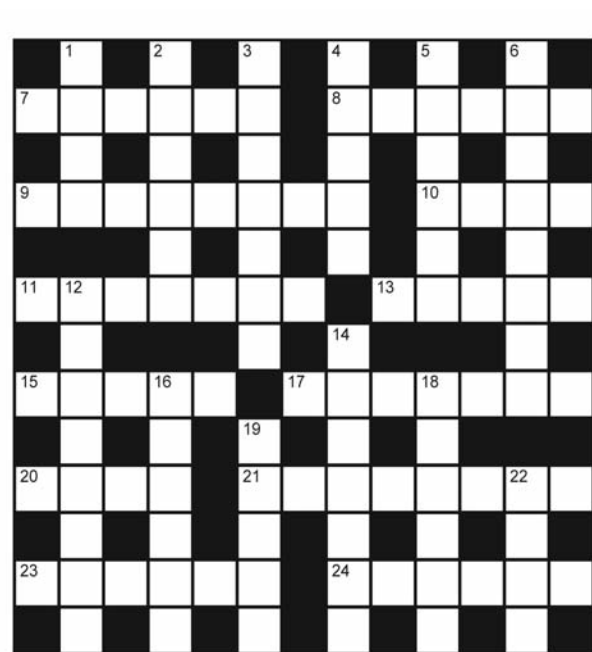


BREVITY



FUN post

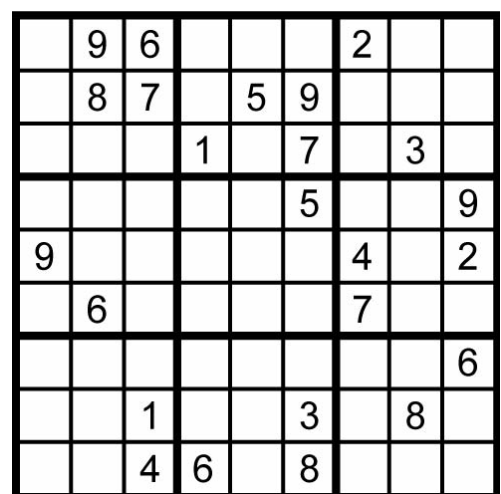
CROSSWORD



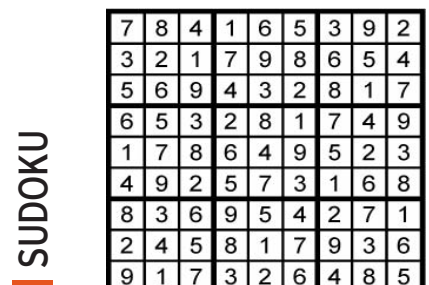
- Across**
- 7 Undo, as a law
 - 8 No-show
 - 9 Fairy bell, e.g.
 - 10 Beige
 - 11 Wet blanket
 - 13 Pathfinder
 - 15 Historical period
 - 17 Black magic
 - 20 Celestial bear
 - 21 Fortifications
 - 23 Winter coat
 - 24 Bookstore section
 - 5 Bedroom furniture item
 - 6 Unwelcome visitor
 - 12 Places in danger
 - 14 Crooked
 - 16 Loquacious
 - 18 Secret code
 - 19 Reject
 - 22 It could be a spare
- Down**
- 1 Medal recipient
 - 2 Tiger type
 - 3 Spirits
 - 4 Cousin of a mink

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Artists perform during an event organised by Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya Alumni Welfare Committee at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



downtown

₹2,500 crore shot in the arm for millet farmers



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday said his government is investing over ₹2,500 crore for providing income and livelihood support to millet farmers of the state.

The state government recently launched the Odisha Millets Mission in 2017 with a focus on reviving an ecosystem of the cereal.

For the government, the promotion of millets is about justice and equity to rain-fed farmers of Odisha, Patnaik said.

The authorities have increased the direct benefit incentives for millet farmers and laid out assured procurement of ragi (millet), he said after inaugurating a two-day International Convention on Millets here.

Odisha is the "pioneer in designing a people-centric Millet Mission with focus on livelihood and nutrition of tribal communities," he said.

"My government will put all the efforts to make Odisha a centre of excellence on millet and contribute to economic growth, wellbeing and health of the people of Odisha," Patnaik said.

Noting that the United Nations has declared 2023 as the

Sundargarh, Koraput, Rayagada and Nuapada for best production district in millets. He also felicitated five millet farmers for achieving exceptional success in production.

Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said millets are cultivated in 177 blocks of the state and Mission Shakti women are leading farming and processing of the cereal.

After the bumper production, the next big challenge was to market it, he said, adding that Odisha started a procurement regime to buy back millets at a minimum support price.

From a mere procurement of about 17,000 quintals in 2018-19, it has now increased to over 6 lakh quintals in just four years.

Officials were directed to include millet in the public distribution system and mid-day meal programme at Anganwadi centres. These steps increased the adaptability of millets as a diet by choice, the minister said, adding, "We are working with many schools, hospitals, health centres and hotels to include millet-based diet in their food."

Union Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja said that Odisha Millets Mission is not just a success in Odisha and India, it has also created a buzz across the globe.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Director General Himansu Pathak said ICAR has developed 125 varieties of nine millets in last five years and it will provide support for the growth of the cereal.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representative in India, Takayuki Hagiwara said that India and Odisha are champions of millets.

It can transform the agricultural landscape of India, he added.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Odisha becomes the first state to organise an international convention on millets after the UN declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets
- Chief Minister says his govt will pull out all the stops to transform Odisha into a centre of excellence on millets
- Sundargarh, Koraput, Rayagada and Nuapada rewarded as the best millet production districts

International Year of Millets, he stressed that Odisha is the first state to organise such an international convention involving all the stakeholders.

The Chief Minister praised the role of Mission Shakti women self-help groups (SHGs) in the millet value chain.

Under the brand of Millet Shakti, these SHGs have shown the world how millet-based enterprises can play an important role in improving livelihoods.

Patnaik hoped that a roadmap for millets for the future would be prepared at the convention. On this occasion, he awarded



FACELIFT: Chairman of ST & Nabin Odisha VK Pandian and District Collector Ananya Das taking stock of Samaleswari project in Sambalpur, Thursday

2nd WSC campus soon

Bhubaneswar: With a view to augmenting 'Skilled in Odisha' vision, the state government has signed an MoU for setting up a second campus of World Skill Center (WSC). The MoU was signed Thursday with Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES) for establishing and managing the global skill facility. Skill Development and Technical Education department principal secretary Usha Padhee and ITE Education Services, Singapore, CEO Bruce Poh were the signatories of the MoU. The second WSC campus is scheduled to be operational soon. It will offer advanced skill programs in nine contemporary fields, including, hospitality - food and beverage operations, hospitality - hotel operations, digital animation, healthcare assistant training, logistics and supply chain management, aerospace technology, aerospace avionics, marine engineering and nursing.

Stolen from Jajpur, Kotrakshi idol to be back after 2 years



MAA KOTRAKSHI IS AN INCARNATION OF GODDESS CHAMUNDA

THE 26-INCH HIGH ASTADHATU IDOL, WEIGHING 38 KG, WAS STOLEN FROM A TEMPLE AT DARPANIGARH VILLAGE OF JAJPUR DISTRICT IN JAN 2021

It was sold to a buyer in Hong Kong for ₹3 lakh

ASI found out the value of the idol was ₹3 crore in international market

THREE PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED FOR ILLEGALLY EXPORTING THE STOLEN IDOL

Customs dept returns the 9th century astadhathu idol to Odisha govt for re-installation in a temple at Darpanigarh village of Jajpur district from where it was stolen in January 2021

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Nov 9: A ninth century idol of Maa Kotrakshi, an incarnation of goddess Chamunda, stolen from a temple at Darpanigarh village of Jajpur district in January 2021, was handed over to the Odisha government by officials of the Customs department here in the presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Thursday.

The officials said the 26-inch high astadhathu idol, weighing 38 kg, would be placed back in the

temple in a couple of days.

The Customs department recovered the antique idol in September 2022 when it was being exported to Hong Kong via Delhi airport. The officials said an ASI officer deployed at cargo got suspicious after she spotted the idol in the consignment at the documentation stage and halted its export. The idol was then sent to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for investigation.

After a thorough investigation, the ASI found that the idol was stolen from Odisha and was being sold to a buyer in Hong Kong for ₹3 lakh. However, its value at the international market was around ₹3 crore, the officials said.

The Customs department has prosecuted three persons for illegally exporting the precious idol of Maa Kotrakshi. The officials handed it over to Odisha government Thursday after completing all the relevant procedures.

A three-member team of Jajpur police and priests of temple along with others received the idol in presence of Pradhan here.

Pradhan appreciated the efforts of Customs and ASI officials for recovering the precious stolen idol.

"I had the privilege of being present on the auspicious occasion of handing over of the precious ancient idol of Maa Kotrakshi to Odisha government by the officials of Customs. Mother Kotrakshi is a symbol of the faith, heritage and belief of the villagers. Very soon, this scheduled idol will be re-established in the Kotrakshi temple. Today is a very happy day for entire Odisha. I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy for respecting the sentiments of the villagers and fulfilling their long-standing aspirations and expectations," Pradhan said.

Cong demo for opening of all Srimandir gates

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: In a novel way of protest, Congress leaders, workers and supporters Thursday performed 'Sankirtan' in front of several Jagannath temples across Odisha demanding opening of all the four gates of Puri Srimandir.

The agitation named as 'Sankirtan Satyagraha' (mass chanting in praise of God accompanied by music) was organised in all the 314 blocks, urban local bodies across the state.

Apart from the four gates of Puri Srimandir, they also demanded opening and inventory of Lord's Ratna Bhandar (treasury) of the temple.

They alleged that the Ratna Bhandar was not opened for 45 years even as there is provision in the law to undertake inventory of valuables in the Lord's treasury.

The air was filled with 'Jai Jagannath' slogans as the Congress workers shouted at top of their voice in name of the Lord by beating cymbals and mridangam.

While a group of party workers performed Sankirtan near Shree Mandir in Puri, a similar show was also seen near Congress Bhawan in Bhubaneswar; the party's state headquarters here.

In Puri and several other places, the Sankirtan Satyagraha also witnessed participation of the Lord's devotees.

The idols of the sibling deities - Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath - were also placed near the agitation site.

Earlier, the party during its agitation October 16 had given ultimatum to the state government to open four gates of the Puri temple by October 28 or else it would intensify its agitation.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Yoga may help reduce frequency of seizures

YOGA MAY NOT ONLY HELP REDUCE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH EPILEPSY, BUT ALSO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND MINDFULNESS

For people with epilepsy, doing yoga may help reduce feelings of stigma about the disease along with reducing seizure frequency and anxiety, claims new research. The study, published in the journal Neurology, involved a small group of 160 people with epilepsy who had an average of one seizure per week and on average took at least two anti-seizure medications and faced stigma.

"People with epilepsy often face a stigma that can cause them to feel different than oth-

ers due to their own health condition and that can have a significant impact on their quality of life," said Manjari Tripathi, from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi.

"This stigma can affect a person's life in many ways, including treatment, emergency department visits and poor mental health. Our study showed that doing yoga can alleviate the burden of epilepsy and improve the overall quality of life by reducing this perceived stigma," she added.

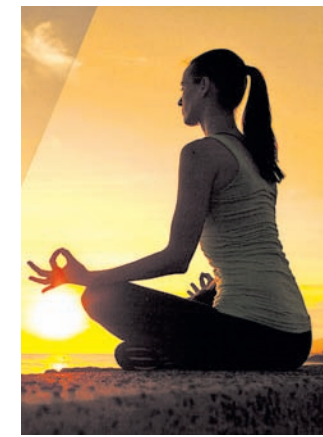
In the study, the researchers randomly assigned participants to receive yoga therapy or sham yoga therapy. Yoga therapy included exercises in loosening muscles, breathing, meditation and positive affirmations.

Sham yoga consisted of exercises that mimic the same yoga exercises, but participants were not given instructions on slow and synchronised breathing, and attention to the body move-

ments and sensations during practice.

The results revealed that those who did yoga were more than four times as likely to have more than a 50 per cent reduction in their seizure frequency after six months than the people who did sham yoga.

In addition, people who did yoga were more than seven times more likely to no longer have



seizures than those who did Sham yoga. Researchers found when compared to people who did Sham yoga, people who did yoga were more likely to reduce their perceived stigma of the disease.

There was also a significant decrease in anxiety symptoms for people who did yoga versus people who did not. They saw improvements in quality of life measures and mindfulness.

"These study findings elevate the need to consider alternative therapies and activities for people with epilepsy facing stigma," said Tripathi.

"Yoga may not only help reduce stigma, but also improve quality of life and mindfulness. Plus, yoga can be easily pre-recorded and shared with patients online using minimal resources and costs," she added.

However, a limitation of the study was that participants self-reported their seizure frequency and they may not have remembered all the information accurately, the team said.

Superintending engineer with 338% DA arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Vigilance sleuths Thursday arrested a superintending engineer of the Public Health (PH) Division here on charges of possessing disproportionate assets (DA) to the tune of 338 per cent of his actual income.

Biswabandhu Panigrahi - superintending engineer, PH, office of the EIC, PH Division, Bhubaneswar - was taken into custody after he was found in possession of 338 per cent of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, which he could not account for satisfactorily.

A case (11/2023) under various Sections of Prevention of Corruption Act, 2018 has been registered against Panigrahi and his spouse with the Vigilance Cell police sta-

tion here.

During the search, the Vigilance claimed to have found a two-storey building in VSS Nagar of Bhubaneswar; a single-storey building at Mathasahi in Bhadrak and six plots in prime locations of Bhubaneswar and Bhadrak belonging to the officer and his spouse.

These apart, bank, postal and insurance deposits worth ₹4.02 crore, ₹3.18,000 in cash and gold jewellery weighing around 421 gram apart from a four-wheeler and four two-wheelers were found in Panigrahi's possession.

The agency also claimed that Panigrahi has made an agreement with Assotech to purchase a 3BHK flat in name of his spouse in Rudrapur area of Bhubaneswar. "Accordingly, the officer has paid ₹39 lakh as advance," it said.

21 open spaces marked for Diwali shops: Mayor

A team, comprising officials of the State Pollution Control Board BMC and cops will supervise shops selling items for festival



and maintaining cleanliness during and after the festival. It aims to do so by instilling a sense of environmental responsibility among the City people and align the cultural essence of Diwali with the principles of a clean Bhubaneswar," said a BMC official.

The civic body has been encouraging citizens to engage in cleaning activities before Diwali, to ensure a fresh and hygienic environment. Various citizens' groups have been actively participating in the campaign, demonstrating citizen involvement and collective commitment to a green Diwali.

"BMC is also collaborating with market associations, trade associations, business entities, resident welfare associations, ward committees, self-help groups, NGOs, and CSOs to raise awareness on various aspects of cleanliness, including waste segregation, principles of 'reduce, reuse, recycle,' and the transformation of waste into valuable resources," said the official.

Das has called upon citizens to support this initiative and contribute to a cleaner and greener City.

rected to keep dustbins, take fire safety measures and keep clean their 5-meter radius. All sweet stalls have been asked to sell good quality food items in hygienic conditions.

"A food safety team will do regular checks with a mobile food testing lab. Ward officers will check the cleanliness and other measures at the shops," said the Mayor while appealing people to avoid single-use plastic.

Notably, BMC had earlier launched the 'Swachh Diwali Subh Diwali' campaign as a cleanliness drive for this year's Diwali.

"The campaign focuses on supporting local products, reducing single-use plastic use



DEMOLITION DRIVE: An excavator deployed by BDA removing illegal constructions at Keshari Nagar located backside of Odisha State Secretariate in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

2 critical burn injury kids saved at AIIMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: Two children with severe burn injuries were given a new lease of life by AIIMS doctors who, for the first time, successfully performed allograft surgery.

Allograft is a tissue that is transplanted from a donor of the same species as the recipient, but not genetically identical.

The two children - six-year-old Shravani Mallick of Kesura area here and seven-year-old Suryakant of Puri suffered severe burn injuries after they



came in contact with live electric wires in separate incidents in June.

They were operated upon twice in August and September after

a gap of a month. They were later released, an official of the hospital said.

Shravani underwent long treatment at the Capital Hospital here and then at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack but the doctors had lost all hopes of saving her.

Her family then took her to the Burns Centre at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, where allograft was conducted and Shravani recovered.

Shravani's mother Runulata Mallick said, "The doctors in Cuttack told us that it was dif-

icult to save her. She was treated at AIIMS and recovered."

Similarly, Suryakant, who had sustained burn injuries all over his body except his face was admitted at the district headquarters hospital in Puri but the doctors could not assure him complete recovery. He too was taken to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, where he recovered after allograft.

"I had lost all hope for my son. I left his fate to Lord Jagannath. He is now doing well. The AIIMS doctors are like Gods," said Pratima Swain, the mother of Suryakant.

RSC holds science quiz competition

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: The two-day state level science quiz competition organised by Regional Science Centre (RSC), in collaboration with the Directorate of Teacher Education & State Council of Educational Research and Training (TE & SCERT), concluded here, Thursday.

The winners in district level science quiz were chosen for participating in the state level science seminar. The junior group comprised students from VI-VIII and the students from IX and X took part.

The 30 participants, each representing their respective districts, were screened through a written examination where questions were framed from various fields of science and technol-



ogy. Out of the 30 students, the first 10 participants were selected to feature in the final round. Based on a lottery system 5 teams were formed with the final 10 contestants.

The final round included the Bonus Round, Buzzer Round, Rapid Fire Round and Experimental Round.

Swarna Abha Mishra, representing the district of Bolangir and Swati Mahakhud from Kalahandi secured the first position from the junior group while Rudra Narayan Sahoo from Dhenkanal district and S Sai Krishna Achary of Ganjam topped the table from the senior group. RSC project coordinator Kapil Jain and Directorate of TE & SCERT assistant director Dilip Sahoo gave away the prizes to the students.

'Good persons committed to greater causes'



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Cuttack, Nov 9: Sri Sri University observed its 10th convocation ceremony here recently in presence of state Higher Education, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, who joined as the chief guest and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the founder and the lifetime president of the university.

The guest of honour for the occasion was Jo Leinen, former member of European Parliament.

In his speech, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said that the sign of a good person is that they are com-

mitted to a greater cause in life and understand that as the real sign of education. "The students should have broader vision for themselves and for the world. Our happiness is related to societal, national and international situations. You cannot prosper when everybody around you are not happy," he added.

Nayak, in his address, lauded achievements of the university in its short existence of 12 years, as the first private university in state. He appreciated the clean and green campus along with advancements made in the field of integrated health especially in osteopathy and Ayurveda. He assured the continued govern-

ment cooperation in the university's future growth and endeavors.

On the occasion, the honoris causa was conferred to three dignitaries namely, Padma Bhusan Vaidya Devendra Triguna, Padma Shri

Sudarshan Pattnaik, Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee Dilip Kumar Tirkey, the president of Hockey India.

This year the university conferred degrees on five PhD scholars along with 640 postgraduates and undergraduates.

MoU for 'self-employment'

Cuttack: Mo College Abhijan signed an MoU with Sri Sri University to set up E-Cells (Entrepreneurship Cells) across colleges with an aim to reinforce campus startup eco-system and support agriculture and allied startups. The MoU was signed in the presence of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the renowned spiritual leader and the lifetime president of Sri Sri University and 'Mo College' Chairperson, Akash Dasnayak and SSU president Rajita Kulkarni. The MoU focuses at setting up Entrepreneurship Cells (E-Cells) at various institutions under 'Mo College Abhijan' to sensitize the student community towards 'self employment'. It will be done through regular programs, workshops and seminars on start-up development. "We have always looked for the scopes students can inherit to grasp skills and education simultaneously and we are very much optimistic that this MoU can turn into another impetus stepping stone to create larger scale of employments in the state," said Dasnayak.



Pact signed for Kho Kho High Performance Centre



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: In a significant move towards nurturing Kho Kho talent, the state government Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS India) to establish a Kho Kho High Performance Centre (HPC).

Gracing the occasion, Chief Minister Pattnaik said, "We want to support our indigenous sports like Kho Kho. This partnership with AM/NS to establish the Kho Kho HPC will set a new benchmark for support towards Indian sports."

Chairman of 5T and Nabin Odisha VK Pandian was present during the MoU signing ceremony.

Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera and Secretary Vineel Krishna represented the Sports depart-

ment while AM/NS was represented by Keiji Kubota and Suparna Nanda.

Under the agreement, Odisha will contribute towards infrastructure support while AM/NS India will provide experienced and dedicated coaches to elevate the level of Kho Kho in the state. The MoU signing highlighted the commitment of both parties to fostering sporting excellence. A bouquet of HPCs has been established by Odisha at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and the Kho Kho HPC will be a significant addition to the ecosystem.

This is a unique partnership model between a state and a corporate that has proven to produce elite athletes in hockey, football, swimming, athletics, gymnastics, sports science, shooting, weightlifting and now indigenous sports Kho Kho will scale to glory.

1 in 3 deaths from skin cancer due to working under the sun

Working under the sun is leading to nearly 1 in 3 deaths from non-melanoma skin cancer, according to joint estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The research released in the journal Environment International finds that outdoor workers carry a large and increasing burden of non-melanoma skin cancer and calls for action to prevent this serious workplace hazard and the loss of workers' lives it causes.

According to the joint estimates, 1.6 billion people of working age (15 years or older) were exposed to solar ultraviolet ra-

diation while working outdoors in 2019, equivalent to 28 per cent of all working-age people.

In the same year, almost 18,960 people in 183 countries died from non-melanoma skin cancer due to having worked outdoors in the sun. The number increased by 88 per cent - from 10,088 deaths in 2000.

The estimates establish occupational exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation as the third highest attributable burden of cancer deaths globally, behind only asbestos and silica dust.

"Unprotected exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation at work is a major cause of occupational skin cancer," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO



Director-General, in a statement. "But there are effective solutions to protect workers from

the sun's harmful rays, and prevent their deadly effects," he added.

The WHO called for more action to protect workers from hazardous outdoor work in the sun-light. As skin cancer develops after years or even decades of exposure, workers must be protected from solar ultraviolet radiation at work from young working age onwards.

Governments should establish, implement and enforce policies and regulations that protect outdoor workers from sun-induced skin cancer by providing shade, shifting working hours away from the solar noon, providing education and training, and equipping workers with sunscreen and personal protective clothing (such as broad-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirts

and long trousers), the UN health body said.

"A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental right at work," said Gilbert F Houngbo, ILO Director-General, in the statement.

"Death caused by unprotected exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation while working is largely preventable through cost-effective measures. It is urgent that governments, employers and workers and their representatives work together in a framework of well-defined rights, responsibilities and duties to reduce the occupational risk of UV exposure. This can save thousands of lives every year," Houngbo added.

CLASSIFIED
LOST
Missing Dalil RSD No.2455, dated 17.10.1998. If found please call on 9937492075.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-977682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Maize farmers at a loss as AP traders make hay

BSF recovers Red dump in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Nov 9: Scores of farmers in Pottangi block under Koraput district have taken up maize cultivation to earn a livelihood. However, they are not benefitting much from the crop. Due to lack of marketing facilities, the farmers are having a harrowing time to sell their produce.

The farmers' loss has proved to be a boon for the traders in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh as they cash in on their helplessness. In a hurry to dispose of their harvest, farmers are forced to sell off their produce at throwaway prices to the Andhra traders.

Sources said that farmers in Ralegada, Sunki, Peturu, Ampabali, Sambai and Talagolur panchayats under Pottangi block are into maize cultivation. Like previous years, they have again cultivated maize this year. However, in the absence of marketing facilities in the area, the farmers are forced to resort to distress sale.

Taking advantage of the situation, Andhra traders are visiting the villages and buying the harvested maize from them at ₹10 to ₹15 per kg which is significantly lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹1,850 per quintal. Resultant losses have left the farmers unable to meet even their daily household expenses, let alone any



MARKETING WOES
FARMERS IN RALEGADA, SUNKI, PETURU, AMPABALI, SAMBAI AND TALAGOLUR PANCHAYATS UNDER POTTANGI BLOCK OF KORAPUT ARE INTO MAIZE CULTIVATION

THOSE IN UMERKOTE AND RAIGHAR BLOCKS IN NEIGHBOURING NABARANGPUR DISTRICT ALSO CARRY OUT MAIZE CULTIVATION TRADITIONALLY

LACK OF MARKETING FACILITY HAS LED TO HUGE LOSSES FOR THE FARMERS, AS THE TRADERS FROM ANDHRA TAKE IN THE MOOLAH FROM DISTRESS SALE

plan for the future. After buying maize from the farmers, the traders either sell it in their local market or transport to other states at a premium. As the farmers continue to suffer losses, the traders from Andhra rake in the moolah. No one has shown any concern

ernment has taken several steps for the benefit of millet growers.

Similarly, maize is also popular and rich in nutrients like millet. However, the state government is not doing enough to provide marketing facilities to the maize farmers, farmers alleged.

Farmer and Zilla Parishad member Tikai Gemel has alleged that the district administration should display some concern for maize farmers and inform the state government about their plight.

Notably, farmers in Umerkote and Raigarh blocks in neighbouring Nabarangpur district also carry out maize cultivation. Tonnes of maize are harvested from these two blocks but lack of marketing facility has disappointed the farmers in these areas.

They claimed that the decline in the prices of maize has not only aggravated the farmers' distress, but also could discourage maize cultivation altogether if not quickly addressed.

When contacted, Pottangi block agriculture officer Dushmant Swain said an increase in maize production in various panchayats under the block is inspiring. He said that farmers should get the right prices from sale of their harvest. He will apprise the state government and take steps for establishment of mandis if the farmers make a formal demand before for marketing facilities, he added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 9: The BSF recovered a Maoist dump containing explosive materials in Tuls Reserve Forest in Malkangiri district along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, a statement by the paramilitary force said.

The second battalion of BSF carried out an operation on the basis of specific information Wednesday in the general area of village Kirmitti and Tuls Reserve

Forest, it said. "During the search in the targeted area, the operation party located a Maoist dump in a rock cavity near the base of a tree in the jungle near Kirmitti village," a BSF officer said.

The recovery included an aluminium container (15 litre), a wireless set with battery and antenna, a rustic local hand grenade, and others, he said.

BSF has been carrying out operations in Maoist-affected

district of Malkangiri in southern Odisha. "Such recoveries would certainly dent Maoist strategy and dampen their spirits to take on ever-growing dominance of security forces," the officer said.

He said the Maoists used to keep their items at isolated places to be used against the security forces operating in these areas.

The BSF is actively operating in Malkangiri district and extensively dominating the area, he said.

fincare Small Finance Bank PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CHANGE OF BRANCH ADDRESS

This is to bring to the General Public and Customers of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited, that the address of following branch will be changed. All accounts/transactions currently maintained at the branch will remain the same. The details of the old vis-a-vis new address of the location along with effective date of change is enclosed with notice as Annexure-A. Customers are requested to contact the Branch Manager/visit the new location for their transactions. For more information, please visit us or contact Branch Manager of following branch. The contact number of Branch Manager is provided in the Annexure-A attached with this notice. Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited.

"Annexure-A"

No.	Branch	State	Effective Date of Change of Address	Old Address	New Address	Contact No.
1	JAJPUR TOWN - 10850	ODISHA	01-Jan-24	Fincare small finance bank ltd, first Floor, Plot No.31/1236, Khata no-337, At- Belapur, PO Devidwar, Jajpur, Dist -Jajpur, Odisha-755001	Fincare small finance bank ltd, First Floor, Ward No-1, Plot No.636/289 44 unit no-9 Akhandaleswar Jajpur Odisha Pin-755001	8018788004

पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक Punjab & Sind Bank E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Assets Recovery Branch 28 Hemanta Basu Sarani, Kolkata - 700 001, Phono No. 033-4029 2979. E-mail: c0719@psb.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

LAST DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS : 29.11.2023 UPTO 05.00 PM

In exercise of power conferred in the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the under mentioned Secured Assets in respect of credit facilities granted to the below mentioned Borrower SI. No. (hereinafter referred to as "Borrowers") it has been decided to sale on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 18.08.2023 through E-Auction of the properties mentioned hereunder for realisation of the secured debts to Punjab & Sind Bank amount mentioning below along with further interest and incidental charges incurred by the bank thereon till final payment of the amount due from the Borrower.

a) Name of the Borrower	b) Name of the Guarantor	Description of the Property	a) Reserve Price b) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) c) Bid Increase Amount
a) M/S JAGWANI PROJECTS PVT LTD. 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053	b) Directors / Guarantors: 1. Gordan Das Jagwani, S/o. Khilal Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053 2. Anil Kumar Jagwani, S/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053 3. Lajwanti Devi Jagwani, W/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053 4. Sunil Jagwani, W/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053 5. Mrs. Savitri Devi Jagwani, W/o. Shri Paras Ram Jagwani, 651, Block - O, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053 6. Mrs. Jyoti Jagwani, S/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, 568, Block - N, Gr. Floor, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053 7. M/s Transhimalyan Logistics Pvt. Ltd., 3/A/560, Block-N, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053	Equitable mortgage of existing property Flat No. 1 C, Utkal Vihar apartment in 1st floor at Mouza Sundara (Unit 13), at Barbi Orissa in the name of M/s Jagwani Projects Pvt. Ltd.	a) ₹14.40 Lakh b) ₹1.44 Lakh c) ₹20,000.00

Demand Notice Date : 20.07.2016, Outstanding Balance as per Demand Notice : ₹13,34,35,008.51
Status of Possession : Symbolic Possession

Date & Time of Inspection : 22.11.2023 (between 10.00 A.M. to 03.00 P.M.)
Date of E-Auction : 30.11.2023 (between 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.)
with an extension of 5 Minutes for unlimited times till closure of E-auction.

For Detailed Terms and Condition of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in :
1. <https://www.bankeauctions.com> 2. <https://punjabandsindbank.co.in/module/sarfaesi-list>
The Sale will be conducted through <https://www.bankeauctions.com>

Date : 10.11.2023 Place : Kolkata Authorised Officer, Punjab & Sind Bank

Fake ghee unit busted, owner held

BURNT ENGINE OIL BEING USED FOR MANUFACTURING THE HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIAL

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 9: A 53-year-old man was arrested after a fake ghee manufacturing unit was busted in Ganjam district Thursday, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, the unit, which was being run out of a house in Bada Bazar area of Berhampur town, was raided, they said.

The unit was operational for the last two years. The person arrested for allegedly being involved in running it, Epari Rajeswar Patra, was arrested last year as well for illegally op-



erating a gutkha manufacturing unit. He was out on bail, police said. It is suspected that a few more people are involved

labels of a branded ghee company, 91 tins of rice-bran oil, 1,500 cartons, and sealing and grinding machine, police said.

It was found that burnt engine oil, low-grade palm oil and dangerous chemicals were being used in making the ghee, Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M said.

The packets of ghee were not only sold in Odisha but in other parts of the country as well, he said.

The seized items would be sent for testing, he said, adding that a search was on to arrest the others involved.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-AMC-IPS-STATION-350, Dt. 02.11.2023

NAME OF WORK : PROVISION FOR COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF SMPBS BASED INTEGRATED POWER SUPPLY SYSTEMS MANUFACTURED BY M/S STATCON ELECTRONICS INDIA LIMITED IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

Tender Value in (₹) : 5,80,35,984.52
EMD (₹) : 4,40,200/-, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 11,800/- (including 18% GST).

Bidding Start Date : 10.11.2023.
Date and Time of Closing of Tender : 24.11.2023 at 11:00 Hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.irops.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) / PR-754/O/23-24 Khurda Road

2 killed in bike, tanker collision

Pregnant woman critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 9: Two persons were killed and a pregnant woman sustained critical injuries after the motorcycle they were riding collided head-on with an oil tanker at Baruhan Square in Jajpur-Kuakhia National Highway-20 under Sadar police limits in Jajpur district, Thursday.

Berhampur varsity signs MoU with Brazil's FUSC



PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 9: The Berhampur University (BU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Vernacular Language and Literature (DLLV), Federal University of Santa Catarina (FUSC), Brazil for collaborative research in the common area of interest. The MoU was signed Wednesday between

As per the MoU, the two organisations have agreed to jointly carry out different academic activities for five years. The activities include collaborative research, joint research publications, mutual academic assistance, visit of the teachers and research scholars in need-based requirements, etc.

Not only the Department of Linguistics, but also the students, research scholars and teachers of some other departments of the university will be benefited under the MoU with FUSC, said the Vice Chancellor.

Earlier Prof Oliveira gave a talk on the use of languages in science in 100 years.

Patrolling begins along Ganjam coast to safeguard Olive Ridleys

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 9: Patrolling was started along the coast in Ganjam district to check illegal fishing after a seven-month ban was imposed to protect Olive Ridley turtles, ahead of their mating season, officials said Thursday.

The fishing ban was imposed November 1, and will continue till May 31, 2024, they said.

"We have started sea patrolling to check fishing activities in the prohibited areas," said Sunny Khokkar, the divisional forest officer (DFO) of Berhampur. The sea was being patrolled with four vessels, including two speed



boats, he said. The Olive Ridley turtles usually visit the beaches during November, and start mating in December and January, before the mass nesting, which begins in the last week of February and continues till the second week of March.

The confluence of the Rushikulya river and the Bay of Bengal in Ganjam district is the second biggest rookery for Olive Ridley turtles after Gahirmatha in Kendrapara district. A record 6.37 lakh turtles had laid eggs on a three-km-long stretch between Podampeta and Bateshwar in February-March this year. The Forest department has decided to set up at least 11 camps for its personnel who will secure the beach, and clean it to facilitate the nesting, officials said. "We are sensitising the fishermen about the ban

on fishing with the help of local volunteers," said Sidhartha Sahu, the range officer of Khallikote.

Additional Fisheries Officer (Marine) Subrat Patnaik said the government would provide ₹15,000 to the families of every fisherman affected by the ban.

A total of 3,638 families of nine villages depend on fishing for their livelihood, he said.

Odisha Traditional Fish Workers' Union general secretary K Alleya said women associated with fishing, such as selling and transportation, should also be compensated as they too were affected by the ban.

Canara Bank Circle Office : BDA-J/2, Revenue: 1556(P) & 1561(P), KH-1152, Jagamara, Khadagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030, Ph. No.: 0674-2353120

E-AUCTION / SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable & Movable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(b) & 6(2) respectively of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Authorised Officer of the Concerned Branches of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "whatever there is" on 11.12.2023 between 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M. for recovery of dues to the Concerned Branches of Canara Bank from the following Borrowers/Guarantors. The Reserve Price and EMD amount for each property are as mentioned below. The Earnest Money shall be deposited on or before 07.12.2023 at 5.00 P.M.

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors	Description of the Properties	Total Liabilities as on specified Date	Reserve Price EMD
PARADEEP TOWN BRANCH / 943746343/8847877342(M) / Borrower & Mortgagor: Sarbeswar Nath, S/o- Kapil Charan Nath / Co-Borrower & Mortgagor: Akshay Kumar Nath, S/o- Kapil Charan Nath, Both are At: Nimidhi, P.O.: Paradeep Garh, P.S.: Paradeep Lock, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754141 / Guarantor: Ushashree Parida, W/o- Jagabandhu Parida, At: Bijaychandrappur, P.O.: Atharabanki, P.S.: Paradeep, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, PIN-754141.	EMT of Land in the name of Mr. Sarbeswar Nath & Mr. Akshay Kumar Nath, situated at Plot No.: 379/622, Khata No.: 225/75, Having an Area of Ac.0.04dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Nimidhi, Tahasil: Kujanga, P.S.: Paradeep No. 28, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Bounded by- North: Jagatsinghpur, South: Road, West: Sitabala Mandal, East: Basanta Das.	₹1,12,35,034.00 as on 08.11.2023 & further interest and expenses thereon	₹20,72,000/- ₹2,08,000/-
NISCHINTAKOILI BRANCH / 8249949803(M) / Borrower & Mortgagor: Sk Sakat Mohammed, S/o- Gora Mohammed / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Saida Parween, W/o- Sk Sakat Mohammed, Both are At/PO: Gottara, Mahanga, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-754207.	EMT of Land situated at Plot No.: 195, Khata No.: 329, having an Area: Ac.1.204dec., Mouza: Gottara, Tahasil: Mahanga, P.S.: Mahanga No. 43, Dist.: Cuttack, in the name of Sk Sakat Mohammed & Saida Parween, Bounded by: North: Padan Sahoo and others, South: Baranya Kumar Samal and others, East: Road, West: Vacant Land.	₹27,11,506.00 as on 08.11.2023 & further interest and expenses thereon	₹25,55,000/- ₹2,56,000/-
CUTTACK BAJRABATI ROAD BRANCH / 9437579585 (M) / Borrower: M/s. Rashmi Medicine Store, Prop.: Mr. Amrit Ananda Das, Ranihat, Plot No.: 567/853, Telisahi, Mangalabag, Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-753001 / Guarantor: Santosh Kumar Panda, S/o- Harekrushna Panda, Ranihat Medical Road, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-753001 / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Smt. Pushpanjali Das, W/o- Mr. Bichitrnanda Das, At: Jyotsna Vihar-II, PO: Bhanapur, PS: Cuttack Sadar, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-753011	Property situated at Khata No.: 1162/1499, bearing Plot No.: 1628/4995, Area: Ac.0.026dec. (Homestead) and Plot No.: 1625/4996, Area: Ac.0.020dec., Corresponding to Hal Khata No.: 1162/108, Plot No.: 1628, Area: Ac.0.026dec. and Khata No.: 930, Plot No.: 1625, Area: Ac.0.020dec. and Sub Plot No.: 2850/345, in Jyotsna Vihar, Phase-II, At: Bhanpur, Near NH-5, Dist.: Cuttack, Tahasil: Cuttack Sadar No. 252, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar, P.S. No. 42, Mouza: Bhanpur, Bounded by- North: Proposed Road, South: Sub Plot No. 2845 & 2846, East: Sub Plot No. 2849, West: Sub Plot No. 2851.	₹37,04,626.00 as on 08.11.2023 & further interest and expenses thereon	₹15,20,000/- ₹1,52,000/-
UMARA BRANCH / 8249762943/7605009098 (M) Borrowers: 1) Chitralekha Mohanty, W/o- Late Dharanidhar Mohanty, 2) Gaganbihari Mohanty (Minor), S/o- Late Dharanidhar Mohanty, 3) Pratibha Mohanty (Minor), D/o- Late Dharanidhar Mohanty, All are At/PO: Gokan, Via: Nischintakoli, PS: Mahanga, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754206 / Guarantor: Ramesh Chandra Swain, S/o- Indramani Swain, Village: Barhipur, P.O.: Osanga, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754026.	EMT of Land & Building in the name of Dharanidhar Mohanty over Plot No.: 2524/2817, Khata No.: 863/156, Total Plot Area: Ac.0.025dec., Mouza: Gokan, Thana: Mahanga, Dist.: Cuttack, Bounded by- North: B. Mohanty, South: R. Mohanty, East: M. Mohanty, West: Road.	₹14,37,827.00 as on 08.11.2023 & further interest and expenses thereon	₹6,80,000/- ₹70,000/-
KENDRAPARA-II BRANCH / 9437579542 (M) Borrower: Mir Abdul Alim, S/o- Mir Abdul Rahim, Post Office Lane, At: Kendrapada, Dist.: Kendrapada, Odisha, PIN-754211 / Guarantor & Mortgagor: SK Mahiuddin, S/o- Late SK Kamiruddin, At: Madhiala, PO/PS: Kendrapada, Dist.: Kendrapada, Odisha, PIN-754211	EMT of Land and Building belongs to SK Mahiuddin, S/o- Late SK Kamiruddin, At/PO: Madhiala, Dist.: Kendrapada, Mouza: Madhiala over Khata No.: 497/909, Plot No.: 164/2652, Area: Ac.0.040dec. (1742 sqft), Bounded by- North: SK Amiruddin, South: SK Allauddin, West: Govt. Land, East: Public Road.	₹43,43,805.00 as on 08.11.2023 & further interest and expenses thereon	₹28,90,000/- ₹2,90,000/-
ARM BRANCH, CUTTACK / 707720530(M) Borrowers: 1) M/s. Roopam Textiles Trading Pvt. Ltd., Directors: Sri Arun Kumar Agarwal and Smt. Sarita Agarwal, Address-1: At: Manamandir Showroom, Metro Plaza, Tinkonia Bagicha, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-753001, Address-2: 1, Janapath, Khavela Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001, 2) Sri Arun Kumar Agarwal, S/o- Balkishan Agarwal, Choudhry Bazar, Cuttack-753001 / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Smt. Sarita Agarwal, W/o- Sri Arun Kumar Agarwal, C/o- B K Trading Co., Jaunlia Patty, Cuttack-753001.	EMT of Commercial Shop having Shop No.: EX-4A of Metro Plaza, Phase-II bearing Khata No.: 161, Plot No.: 1280/1462, Area: Ac.0.040dec. and Plot No.: 1278/1463, Area: Ac.0.158dec. and Khata No.: 168, Plot No.: 1280/1464, Area: Ac.0.036dec. and Plot No.: 1278/1465, Area: Ac.0.144dec., At/Mouza: Cuttack Town, Unit No. 11, Odiya Bazar, PO/Tahasil: DSRO: Cuttack, PS: Cantonment, PS: No. 04, Dist.: Cuttack with Total Area: Ac.0.378dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Sarita Agarwal, Bounded by- North: Joint Passage, South: Corridor, East: Shop No. 3, West: Shop No. 5.	₹2,99,55,780.63 as on 09.11.2023 & further interest and expenses thereon	₹20,10,000/- ₹2,01,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "Announcements>Sale Notice>Orissa" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may Contact the Concerned Branch incharge during office hours on any working day.

Date : 09.11.2023
Place : Bhubaneswar

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



There is no greater pride and glory than to be a perfect instrument of the Master.

SRI AUROBINDO



Economic Nationalism

With the United States leading the way, the world seems to be entering a new era of economic nationalism, as many countries prioritise their domestic social, economic, and environmental agendas over free trade and multilateralism. While President Joe Biden's approach is more measured and open to international co-operation than Donald Trump's was, it nonetheless raises concerns among economic liberals, who see echoes of a 1930s-style return to protectionism and autarky.

But "economic nationalism" is one of those scare terms that economic liberals use to discredit practices they don't like. As with any ideologically loaded label, it hides more than it reveals. After all, economic nationalism comes in many different forms, some harmful and some beneficial. Moreover, some of the leading theorists of economic nationalism, such as Alexander Hamilton and Friedrich List, were political liberals.

Though economic nationalism can backfire when taken to extremes, so can economic liberalism. When applied judiciously in pursuit of legitimate domestic goals – such as building economic strength and reinforcing a sense of national purpose – it can be beneficial without necessarily harming other countries.

Economic nationalism frames the economy primarily in terms of the nation, much like political nationalism does with the polity. The economy exists primarily to serve the nation, just as the nation-state pursues the national interest.

Neither formulation has much content until we start to define what "serving the nation" or the "national interest" means. Focusing on the national economy can be perfectly benign, as well as compatible with significant degrees of openness to international trade and finance. According to conventional economic theory, it is in a country's own interest to adopt free trade. A government that pursues autarky will forsake the benefits of specialisation, miss out on frontier technologies, and lose access to foreign capital.

As the economic historian Marvin Suesse argues, economic nationalism therefore wavers between two somewhat contradictory impulses: the temptation to restrict economic exchange with other countries in order to advance national independence; and the desire to expand and leverage international links in the service of national economic growth and development.

In recent times, no one has done a better job of combining these impulses than the "developmental" states of East Asia. Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and, most spectacularly, China have all relied on a mix of policies that both encourage global economic integration and selectively protect key industries. Each shaped its own economic future through a wide range of industrial policies – directed credit, subsidies, tariff and non-tariff barriers, and local-content and other requirements for foreign investors – that helped it develop new areas of economic competence.

These were not just economic programmes. They were national projects of renewal, aimed at catching up with the West. As political scientist Elizabeth Thurbon of the University of New South Wales and her co-authors put it, policymakers with a developmental mindset "view local manufacturing capacity, technological autonomy, and export competitiveness as the essential foundations of domestic political legitimacy, national security, and international status and prestige, and embrace a central role for the state in advancing these goals through strategic interventions in the market."

No one can deny these countries' success. Their rapid economic growth lifted hundreds of millions of people from abject poverty, and elevated some of them to the status of advanced economies in less than two generations. China became not only an economic powerhouse but the West's main geopolitical rival.

Each country's dramatic rise met with charges that it was not being open enough, and not providing sufficient market access. Widespread government subsidies – for steel, autos, solar cells, and so on – often undermined foreign firms' competitive positions and drew their governments' ire. Yet, on balance, East Asia's economic nationalism was a boon for the rest of the world. Even with trade barriers here and there, the booming markets that it created for trade partners were much larger than any alternative economic strategy would likely have produced. Moreover, the subsidies – according to economic liberals' own logic – were a gift to other countries, because they helped lower prices for their consumers.

To be sure, China's rapid expansion of exports did create some important difficulties for advanced economies. The "China shock" led to long-term job losses in the regions most exposed to competition from Chinese imports, thereby increasing political support for authoritarian, right-wing populists in both the US and Western Europe. But if anyone bears more of the blame, it is Western governments, for failing to manage trade with China appropriately (by not liberalising their trade more slowly, for example). While China was achieving exceptionally strong export performance, these governments were clinging to an excessive faith in economic liberalism.

Economic nationalism has not turned out well everywhere, of course. Too many governments have engaged in excessive dirigisme (state ownership or control), propped up inefficient firms for too long, and closed their economies off too indiscriminately. When governments make these mistakes, it is primarily their own people who pay the price. Economic nationalism gone wrong is a beggar-thyself policy, not a beggar-thy-neighbour one. East Asian developmentalism offers an important lesson for today's world. If economic nationalism in the US focuses on creating a strong, inclusive domestic economy, it will do much good – even when it violates some of the tenets of economic liberalism. In fact, such a strategy would revive an earlier tradition of developmentalism in US history. Other countries will ultimately benefit from a healthier US economy and more cohesive society, and should have little to complain about.

As Suesse shows, economic nationalism is typically a response to being left behind by other countries. Here, the current US experience is a bit different. Though others – China especially – have been catching up, the US remains technologically and militarily the world's most powerful country. The risk, then, is that American economic nationalism will go beyond building a better society and finding purpose at home. If the US acts like a bully, imposing its policy preferences on others and seeking to undermine its rivals' technological development, it will do much harm to the rest of the world and little good for itself.

The writer is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Dani Rodrik

Economic nationalism gone wrong is a beggar-thyself policy, not a beggar-thy-neighbour one



Satya Narayan Misra

FOR POLICYMAKERS, GOLDIN'S RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES THAT FIXES FOR GENDER INEQUALITY VARY DEPENDING ON TIME AND PLACE

The latest ILO data for India states that employment gender gap in India is 50.9%, with only 19.2% women in the workforce as compared to 70% men. There is precipitous drop from 32% in 2005 to 19.2% in 2021. The sharp decline in female workforce participation coincides with a period of rapid economic growth. According to data from CMIE, unemployment rate in rural areas has experienced a sharp increase of 9.2%. The Oxfam Disparity Report 2022 highlights the gender pay gap in India, with women facing bias in recruitment and pay across the country. It is in this backdrop the pioneering work done by Claudia Golden in unravelling gender pay gaps over a period of 200 years in the USA assumes relevance and salience.

Goldin has been awarded Nobel in Economics for work largely in economic history since Robert Fogel triumphed in 1993. Before her research, many academics considered questions about historical gender pay gaps to be unanswerable because of a paucity of data. Yet she has repeatedly demonstrated that digging through historical archives allows researchers to credibly answer big questions previously thought beyond their reach. Her comprehensive history of gender labour market inequality over the past 200 year has overturned many assumptions about both historical and gender relations and what is required to achieve greater equality in the present day.

The first myth she busted was that economic growth leads to a more level playing field. She showed that industrial revolution drove married women out of the labour force as production moved from home to factory. It was only in the 20th century when service sector jobs proliferated and high school education developed that the more familiar pattern emerged. The relationship between the size of Western economies and

FOCUS GENDER PAY GAP

LEARN FROM HISTORY



The sharp decline in female workforce participation coincides with a period of rapid economic growth

female labour force participation is U shaped - a classic Goldin find!

Her findings also showed that the gender gap narrowed in bursts. Women's wages relative to men's in 1820-1850 and then again in 1890-1930, before shooting up in 1980-2005. The initial two bursts came well before the equal pay movement and were caused by changes in the labour market; first during industrial revolution, and second during surge in white-collar employment for occupations like clerical work. For the most substantial drop in the late 20th century, Goldin emphasises the role of expectations. If a young woman has more say over when and whether she will have a child, and more confidence that she can work in a wide range of jobs, she may invest more in the future, such as staying in school for longer.

In a seminal work published in 2002, Goldin and Katz, her husband, showed how contraceptive pills approved in 1960 gave women more control over decisions about children. Since around 2005, the wage gap hardly budged. Here Goldin's work questions popular narratives that continue to blame wage discrimination. Instead in a book published in 2021, Goldin blames greedy jobs, such as

being a consultant or lawyer, which offer increasing returns to long and uncertain hours.

For policymakers, Goldin's research demonstrates that fixes for gender inequality vary depending on time and place. In early 20th century America, companies barred married women from obtaining or retaining employment. A policy response came with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned such behaviour. Today policy gaps persist because of greedy jobs and parental norms, rather than because of employer discrimination. Goldin has been suggesting that greater flexibility in workplace can be a solution to the problem.

Similar monumental historical research has not been conducted in India. However, in a pioneering research paper on India for the ILO, Steven and Silberman bring out four factors that have contributed to the declining trend in female workforce participation. They bring out that during 1994-2010, the most buoyant period of economic growth after liberalisation, increase in education and household consumption levels have accounted for 38% of the decline, while diminishing employment opportunity has contributed the rest. Female employment could have increased

by 20.7 million had there been no occupational segregation. Due to a number of factors including societal norms, women have limited choice in terms of occupation. As they are disproportionately engaged in occupations like agriculture, which has experienced little to no employment growth this has limited their opportunity to find employment.

The authors highlight the structural barriers such as norms that inhibit women's labour market options, in conjunction with consistent decline in agricultural employment are likely factors in explaining long term stagnation in female workforce participation rates. The Constitution of India in Article 39(d) enjoins upon the states to ensure "equal pay for equal work for both men and women." Despite having an Equal Remuneration Act, the stark reality is prevalence of pay disparity for equal work between men and women. This is particularly manifest in unorganised sector like agriculture where female workforce participation is significantly higher than men. Sectors such as manufacturing present barriers to entry. As per the Niti Aayog Strategy for New India @75, in terms of imparting skill, there is a huge asymmetry between skilling male and female workforce and factoring in specific skill set training requirement of female workers. As inclusive growth is a major mandate of the government. It is high time that an in-depth historical study as was done by Goldin is made in India to look holistically and historically into the factors that bedevil female workforce participation, rather than making conjectures or rhetorical criticism. As Santayana wrote: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The writer teaches macro economics.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

India in a changing world

What kind of world are we living today in?

When we look around, we find the humanity caught in a race for dominance, territorial aggrandisement, debt trap, wars and the consequent changing security environment. In particular, three wars have disrupted the international political system, to be precise equations and crippled the economies. I am referring to the on-going wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and COVID-19. The last one immobilised the whole world without a bullet fired. Where does India position herself in this turbulent world?

The struggle for dominance by a few countries over the others has been witnessed over the last 350 years. For three centuries, Europe was the home of hegemony. While each of them was constantly trying to establish its dominance over others in Europe through wars and conquests, together, they tried to spread their tentacles across the world for dominance, by building separate imperial structures under them. Through the process of colonialism, they had set up an exploitative world structure, whereby the resources from other parts of the world flowed into the European metropolises.

After the Second World War, the hegemonic influence shifted out of Europe to the United States, and the Soviet Union which became two super powers. Following the Second World War, the Cold War exhausted the Soviet Union, and eventually, the Soviet empire collapsed causing its components to break free. The fall was driven by two main reasons – the Soviet Union had siphoned off much of its resources for military purposes in the arms race against the US. Second, the communist dictatorship had suffocated its citizens, taking the country to a point of logjam. That condition called for introduction of glasnost and perestroika. The rest is history.

At the same time, during the Cold War, the West propped up China as a counterweight to the Soviet Union. Now China is flexing its muscles to replace Russia as the second supreme power, or further, Beijing seeks to be the numero uno power in the world by reclaiming its old empire. It is a question of time, however, the Chinese autocratic state or its imperial ambitions would meet the same fate of as that of Soviet Union.

On territorial expansionism, a few countries suffer from an

unsatiated appetite, and others are unable to settle their disputes or reconcile the legitimate claims of others. China leads the pack on grabbing others' territories. Russia is trying perhaps to reconstitute the Soviet Union by annexing other countries' territories.

A sinister strategy was being quietly followed to coerce many countries to embrace globalisation, that was in a way, meant to slide them into a debt trap.

For four-and-a-half decades, the global security environment was marked by the Cold War and bloc-politics. A deterrent strategy, bipolarity and the arms race were its main features. Both the super powers avoided a direct military confrontation although they engaged in many proxy wars across the globe. With the collapse of one super power, the US assumed the role of the policeman and launched several assaults across the world. Even Russia, under Putin's dictatorship and design mentioned above, engaged in conflicts with its neighbours including unleashing a full-scale war against Ukraine. Moreover, the Chinese imperial ambitions make the security scenario precarious.

In view of these changing international relations what could

be the Indian imperatives? India, under Jawaharlal Nehru had its "tryst with destiny" in 1947 with a certain vision. But that vision was soon derailed by some ill-conceived and naïve decisions taken by Nehru himself. The manner in which he handled the Kashmir issue in 1948, the Chinese annexation of Tibet in 1958, the war with China in 1962, the utopian concept of non-alignment, UNSC membership, and nuclear issue. The consequences of such decisions have been detrimental to our economic conditions and security situation.

India needs to build a strong economy marked by self-reliance, full employment, a welfare state system and strategic alliances. In particular, in foreign policy, New Delhi needs to have robust strategies to contain China and thwart Pakistan. New Delhi needs to pool the destiny in South Asia with smarter neighbourhood policy. An essential pre-condition for any country to sustain peace, progress and stability is to preserve a peaceful environment in and around it. That is a fundamental existential reality.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism. ©INFRA



DK Giri

AN ESSENTIAL PRE-CONDITION FOR ANY COUNTRY TO SUSTAIN PEACE, PROGRESS AND STABILITY IS TO PRESERVE A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT IN AND AROUND IT

Science & society

Sir, Undoubtedly, science and technology have played a profound role in shaping humanity's future, but disparities in global access to them continue. Science and innovation are essential in reaching sustainability goals and creating solutions for the SDGs, as emphasized by the 2030 Agenda. Trust in science is a fundamental requirement for shaping our future and backing evidence-based solutions. World Science Day for Peace and Development, observed annually on November 10 by UNESCO, emphasises science's essential role in society. It connects science with citizens and highlights scientists' pivotal role in understanding our planet and promoting sustainability. This day unites a variety of stakeholders and offers a platform for sharing best practices and enhancing the connections between science and society to tackle global challenges. It also serves the purpose of reaffirming the global commitment to the responsible use of science for the betterment of society, with a particular focus on promoting peace and development. India, known for its rich scientific heritage, actively participates in this event, reinforcing its commitment to scientific advancement and global collaboration. India's contributions in space research, nuclear energy, and agriculture highlight its role in global scientific progress. By observing World Science Day for Peace and Development, India underscores its dedication to advancing national scientific goals and contributing to global peace and development. **Krishna Kumar Vepakomma**, HYDERABAD

Fragile land

Sir, Nepal has been battered by three earthquakes in a span of one month. India has to be on its toes in view of its proximity to the Himalayan country. The country has been divided into four zones. The most active zone being Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat's Rann of Kutch, parts of North Bihar and Andaman and Nicobar. Interconnected land plates between India, Nepal and Burma have rendered Northeast and East India susceptible to tremors. Previous quakes in the region including the ones in Nepal, have left the plates fragile, and ready to crumble. Fortunately, an old prediction about a major earthquake of more than 8 on the Richter scale in Himalayan part of India is yet to occur. Huge buildings, with minimal safety standards, cannot keep the layers of earth safe. **Ganapathi Bhat**, AKOLA

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, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1775: US Marine Corps is created. The elite military force capable of operating on land, sea and air was founded in Philadelphia during the American Revolutionary War. A resolution of the Second Continental Congress formed two battalions of Continental Marines that became the forerunners of today's Marine Corps.

1871: On this day, according to his journal, explorer Henry Stanley greeted David Livingstone, the fellow explorer in search of the source of the Nile River, with the famous words "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

MP polls: 19% candidates have criminal cases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 9: With almost a week left for the polling in the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly, out of the 2,534 candidates analysed at least 19 per cent are facing criminal charges, as compared to 17 per cent out of the 2,716 candidates in the 2018 polls, a report said Thursday.

The report has been prepared by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Madhya Pradesh Election Watch which analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all 2,534 candidates, who are contesting in the Madhya Pradesh 2023 Assembly Elections.

It said, "Out of 2,534 candidates analysed, 711 are from national parties, 103 are from state parties, 553 are from registered unrecognised parties and 1,167 candidates are contesting independently."

The report stated, "Out of the 2,534 candidates analysed in the Assembly elections, 472 (19 per cent) candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves."

It highlighted that in the 2018 Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections, out of 2,716 candidates analysed, 464 (17 per cent) had declared criminal cases against themselves.

The report further said that 291 (11 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases. In the 2018 Madhya Pradesh Assembly



Elections, 295 (11 per cent) candidates had declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

"Among the major parties, a maximum of 121 (53 per cent) out of 230 candidates analysed from Congress; 65 (28 per cent) out of 230 candidates analysed from the ruling BJP; 26 (39 per cent) out of 66 candidates analysed from AAP; and 22 (12 per cent) out of 181 candidates analysed from BSP have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits," it said.

The report further said that among the major parties, 61 (27 per cent) out of 230 candidates analysed from Congress, 23 (10 per cent) out of 230 candidates

analysed from BJP, 18 (27 per cent) out of 66 candidates analysed from AAP and 16 (9 per cent) out of 181 candidates analysed from BSP have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

The report further stated that 24 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women and one candidate has declared case related to rape (IPC Section-376).

Meanwhile, 10 candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section-302) against themselves while 17 candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section-307) against themselves.

The report stated that 79 (34 per

cent) out of 230 constituencies are red alert constituencies.

Red alert constituencies are those where three or more contesting candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

"At least 76 (33 per cent) constituencies in the 2018 Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections had three or more candidates with declared criminal cases," the report said.

The report highlighted that the directions of the Supreme Court have had no effect on the political parties in the selection of candidates in the 2023 Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections as they have again followed their old practice of giving tickets to around 19 per cent candidates with criminal cases.

All major parties contesting in Madhya Pradesh elections have given tickets to 12 per cent to 53 per cent candidates, who have declared criminal cases against themselves.

The Supreme Court in its directions dated February 13, 2020 had specifically instructed political parties to give reasons for such selection and why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

Polling for the 230-member Assembly is scheduled November 17 and counting of votes will take place December 3.

MANIPUR EXTENDS MOBILE INTERNET BAN TILL NOV 13

BARRING A FEW DAYS IN SEPTEMBER, MOBILE INTERNET HAS REMAINED BANNED IN MANIPUR SINCE MAY 3 WHEN ETHNIC CLASHES BROKE OUT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 9: The Manipur government Thursday extended mobile internet ban across the state by five more days till November 13, officials said.

The ban, however, will not be enforced in the four hill district headquarters which have not been affected by ethnic strife, officials added.

The state government said the decision to extend the ban was taken "as there is apprehension that anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speeches and video messages inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation in the state."

A home department order said, "There is imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public private property and widespread disturbances to public tranquility and communal harmony, as a result of inflammatory material and rumours, which might be transmitted/circulated to the public through social media."

"To thwart the designs of anti-



national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony, it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in public interest by stopping the spread of disinformation and false rumours through various social media platforms," the order added.

The order also said, "The state government had already opened few mobile towers in few district headquarters which had not been affected by violence in the first instance and is considering to open and operationalise more mobile towers in other district headquarters on a trial basis."

Tuesday, the Manipur government lifted mobile internet ban in the district headquarters of Ukhrul, Senapati, Chandel and Tamenglong, which are Naga-majority areas, on a temporary basis.

The step was taken after the Manipur High Court directed the state government to operationalise mobile towers, on a trial basis, in all those district headquarters which have not been affected by the ethnic clashes.

Barring a few days in September, mobile internet has remained banned in Manipur since May 3 when ethnic clashes broke out.

Dam oustees isolated on hillock

SURROUNDED BY WATER ON THREE SIDES IS THIS NONDESCRIPT HILLOCK WHERE 3,500 PEOPLE LIVE



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Dhar, Nov 9: Surrounded by water on three sides is a non-descript hillock where 3,500 people live. There is no potable water, electricity, or even a proper foot-path in this forested area in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. Yet, these people, mostly from tribes like Bhillala, have been putting up with the problems and living here since 2018.

They originally belonged to Utawali, Chauki, Kothida, Patelpura, Bhainsakho Khurd, Bhainsakho Buzurg, Jamanda Sarai, Devjhiri and Kundiya villages. Their lives changed drastically when the work on Karam dam, built on River Karam in Dharamपुरi tehsil, began in 2018.

All the nine villages fell in the area acquired by the government for construction and were at the risk of inundation once the dam was built on the Narmada's tributary. Hence, they had no option but to leave.

"Slowly, our villages began to submerge. Some shifted to nearby villages and to the relatives' houses, but those who had no place to go chose this spot to settle down," says Dharendra Badukiya (42), who has made this unnamed hillock his place of stay after the dam snatched away his home in Utawali.

"If someone is sick, we have to carry him/her on our shoulders for three km to reach the main road, from where a four-wheeler can be taken to reach the nearest hospital," he says.

Kala Bai Dawar (65) also lived in her house in Utawali with her family comprising her husband, son, daughter-in-law and grandson. They had 1.25 bighas of land, where they used to cultivate paddy and maize in the rainy season and grew wheat in the kharif season. The family received Rs 2.28 lakh as compensation for the land lost.

"Now, to make ends meet, my husband works as a labourer. When needed, I also contribute

by working as a farmhand," she says.

Detailing about the difficulties the women face, Bai says they have to walk to Sarai, a village located 3 km, to get water in summers. There is some relief during the monsoons as they can collect water from a natural spring in the forest area.

Luckily, they do not have to go that far for their ration supplies. When the villagers were displaced, the ration shops were also relocated to places they moved. So, they can access their Public Distribution System (PDS) shop located within a km distance on foot or by bicycle.

These people have come a long way - from being farmers working in their own land to becoming agricultural labourers after displacement. On average, each family had two to five acres of land. Those who did not have any, lived on leased land.

After displacement, about 90 per cent of the families now get their income through daily wage labour. People go to surrounding villages or Pithampur industrial area for work. Some have goats and poultry. Some grow paddy and maize in leftover portions of their land in their original villages. The area remained submerged until August last year, when a leakage in the main wall of the dam resulted in the emptying of water through a bypass channel. People have taken up cultivation in these plots now.

Most of the people here speak 'Bhilli', local language. Vandana (23), a village resident, said, "There are no proper roads and we have to rely on boats to connect with the outside world.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Alirajpur, Nov 9: For reaching the polling station at Jhandana village ahead of the November 17 Madhya Pradesh assembly elections, poll officials will have to first ride in a boat carrying the electronic voting machines (EVMs) with them, and then undertake a difficult journey on foot in a hilly area.

There are 763 registered voters among around a thousand residents of this remote village in Alirajpur assembly constituency, reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, but no candidate has bothered to visit the place, locals said Thursday.

The polling station has been set up in the gram panchayat building.

The village is surrounded by the backwaters of the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada river in neighbouring Gujarat.

While much of the Jhandana village was inundated years ago, its tribal residents are not ready to leave even though it means they have to live without basic facilities like a motorable road.

The village is barely 60 km from the district headquarters of Alirajpur, but seems to be decades behind in terms of development and infrastructure.

The only sign of elections is the flags of political parties seen over a couple of houses.

Most of the people here speak 'Bhilli', local language. Vandana (23), a village resident, said, "There are no proper roads and we have to rely on boats to connect with the outside world.



Whenever someone falls sick, we take the person to the nearby hospital in a boat only."

The woman, who has studied up to Class 10, said surviving here becomes especially difficult when the level of backwaters rises after the rains, and a lot of people have migrated to Gujarat in search of employment. Ironically, drinking water is a luxury in this village surrounded by backwaters. The situation worsens in the summer, locals said.

Prem Singh Solanki, 35, a fisherman, said, "Political leaders had promised in the last elections to provide drinking water to homes, but so far the promise has not been fulfilled. Water is scarce for both humans and cattle."

The villagers tried to install a borewell some time ago, but it did not strike water due to the rocky terrain of the mountainous area.

Alirajpur collector Abhay Arvind Bedekar said there is an alternative land route to the village, but one has to walk for about five kilometers.

Villagers have been demanding a concrete road, but it will have to pass through forest land, he said.

Manipur's Shirui bans hunting of animals for 3 yrs

Praiseworthy step comes at a time when forest officials and villagers have stepped up efforts to protect Amur falcons, their winged guests

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, Nov 9: People of the famed and picturesque Shirui village in Tangkhul-Naga dominated Ukhrul district have put a ban on killing and hunting of animals and birds in their area for three years.

These praiseworthy steps came at a time when forest officials and villagers of Tamenglong district have stepped up efforts to protect Amur falcons, their winged guests.

About 93 km from Imphal, Shirui, one of the key tourist hot spots of the northeastern state, is famous for its beautiful and rare Shirui lily, which grows only in Shirui mountain peaks.

Forest officials said that Britisher Frank Kingdon Ward

had in 1948 discovered Shirui Lily (*Lilium mackliniae*), a beautiful flower that blooms in the month of May and June.

The Manipur government in 1989 had declared Shirui Lily as the state flower.

According to the forest officials, Shirui village authorities besides prohibiting killing of animals and birds within the village's jurisdiction, have also put a total ban on using air guns and firearms to promote conservation and biodiversity of the area for three years with effect from October.

The village headmen of the Ukhrul district in a recent letter to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) (Ukhrul) informed them of their decision.

For proper and effective implementation of biodiversity conservation, the village heads also requested the DFO to issue a drone to them, said the letter.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who chaired a Cabinet meeting in Ukhrul last month, lauded the initiatives taken up by the Shirui village authorities to con-



serve biodiversity and for the protection of wildlife there.

The Chief Minister took to Facebook and said, "For the first time in Manipur, the people of Shirui village have decided to completely ban the hunting and killing of animals and birds within their jurisdiction. It is a remarkable step towards the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of our precious wildlife."

"I express my heartfelt appreciation for the outstanding initiative taken by the people of Shirui Village. Such actions set an example for the entire state of Manipur and beyond," he added.

Meanwhile, forest officials and animal lovers of Zeliangrong Naga dominated Tamenglong district of Manipur geared up to greet and take multi-tasking

measures to protect their winged guests, 'Amur falcons', while the district administration has put a ban on hunting, catching, killing and selling of the migratory birds besides prohibiting the use of air guns during the raptors' roosting period.

Wildlife experts said that the migratory birds usually arrive in Manipur, mostly in the state's Tamenglong district and neighbouring Nagaland and Assam, in winter from their breeding grounds in South Eastern Siberia and Northern China.

After a stopover for a little more than a month, the falcons, locally known in Manipur as 'Akhuaipuina', depart and fly towards Southern and Eastern parts of Africa and roost a short time before moving towards their breeding grounds.

These majestic birds, locally known in Nagaland as Molulem, embark on an incredible long-distance journey, traversing up to 22,000 kilometers in a single year, all the way from eastern Asia to South Africa and back during early autumn.

Transnational conspiracy case accused withdraws bail plea

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 9: Accused in a transnational conspiracy related to the violence in Manipur, Moirangthem Anand Singh withdrew his bail application from a Delhi court Wednesday.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had opposed the bail plea of Singh, arguing that the accused had connections with proscribed organisations, was arrested with sophisticated arms and ammunition, and had links to leaders of terror outfits based in Myanmar. Singh was brought to Delhi after his arrest, and he is currently in judicial custody.

The NIA had informed Additional Sessions Judge Sachin Gupta of Patiala House Courts that Singh was part of a transnational conspiracy planned by the leadership of terror groups operating in the north-eastern states. This conspiracy was aimed at exploiting the ongoing ethnic unrest in Manipur to wage war against the Indian government and carry out terror attacks.

"We have written to the forest department for its permission to construct the road. Once we get

the approval, a concrete road will be built under the remote village road scheme," he told PTI.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, ATHMALLIK
NO. 4240 DT.09.11.2023

e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Alkn-05/2023-24

No. C-1797:- Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of contractors and the set of term and conditions of contract and details of other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Name of the works	: Civil works
No. of works	: 01 No.
Estimated cost	: Rs.69.08 Lakh
Date & Time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal	: From 10.00 A.M. of dt.08.11.2023 to 29.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
Last Date of receive of Bid through Online	: On or before 29.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
Submission of original Document	: On or before 30.11.2023 upto 11.00 A.M.
Date of opening of bid on	: At 11.30 A.M. on 30.11.2023

Sd./ Executive Officer, N.A.C., Athmallik
OIPR-13161/11/0014/2324

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
JHARSUGUDA FOREST DIVISION

Email - dfo.jharsuguda@odisha.gov.in/Ph.- 06645-295040
Office Ord No. 339/1F-Dated 08.11.23

No.MM-260:- The following tenders under Tender Notification No.315 dated. 18.10.2023 are hereby cancelled due to following reasons.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Remarks
1	2	3
1	Construction of Forest Guard Quarter at Tilia Beat in Brajrajnagar Forest Range under Jharsuguda Forest Division during the FY 2023-24	Cancelled due to 2nd Time floated E-Tender (Non Response of any one)
2	Construction of Seizure Yard at Belpahar Forest Range under Jharsuguda Forest Division during the FY 2023-24	Cancelled due to 1st Time floated E-Tender (Applying Single Bidder)
3	Construction of Watch Tower at Mahulmunda PRF in Bhattaia Beat under Kolabira Forest Range during the FY 2023-24	Cancelled due to 1st Time floated E-Tender (Qualified Single Bidder)

Sd./ (Sri Manu Ashok Bhat, IFS)
Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda Forest Division
OIPR-08054/11/0011/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-805
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, Ambaguda
Email address: eemda2013@gmail.com

E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SE/MDA-07/2023-24

1. Name of the Work	: Mechanical Gate Works
2. No. of Works	: 05 (Five)
3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/MSME for Irrigation Shutters/ Hydro Mechanical Gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: SE/MDA-07/2023-24
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 6,51,623.87, Rs.7,45,803.92, Rs.9,31,685.30, Rs.8,01,492.62, Rs.8,01,763.88
6. Period of Completion	: 02 (Two) Calendar Months
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt. 15.11.2023 (10.00 AM) to Dt.24.11.2023 (5.00 PM)
8. Last date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: Dt.24.11.2023 (up to 5.00 PM)
9. Date and Place of opening of Online Bids	: Dt.28.11.2023 (12.00 PM) onwards in the O/o the undersigned
10. Name of the Officer inviting Bids	: Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, Ambaguda

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Mechanical Division, Ambaguda
OIPR-3224/11/0005/2324



A glimpse of the India-Angola Maritime Partnership Exercise during deployment of INS Sumedha Mission in Gulf of Guinea



Attendees show their support for former President Donald Trump during a campaign rally in Hialeah, Fla.



Congress workers stage a protest over pollution in the national capital. Delhi's air quality ranks among the worst in the world's capital cities



Shiv Sena Dogra Front members burn Pakistani flags during a protest after ceasefire violation across LoC, in Jammu



An artisan gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Kali ahead of 'Kali Puja', at Kumartully in Kolkata, West Bengal



Forest Department workers during a combing operation with trained elephants to capture the wild tuskers at Mattavara near Chikmagalur, Karnataka



Members of All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan participate in a rally to express their solidarity with Palestinians, in Kolkata



The Congress is not a party of any one person, but of all communities. Our party is taking everyone together

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

NARROW ESCAPE FOR KTR

Ruling BRS Working President and Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao escaped unhurt when he almost fell off an open-top vehicle during a roadshow in Armoor town of Nizamabad district Thursday after its driver applied brakes



of the day quote

Our state turns 23 today. In its 23rd year, Uttarakhand saw the country's most stringent anti-copying and anti-conversion laws being implemented

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI | UTTARAKHAND CM

This country is yet to see a bigger liar than Arvind Kejriwal. 93 percent of farm fire events this year have happened in Punjab, turning Delhi-NCR into a gas chamber, because AAP has failed to provide alternatives to farmers

BHPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Shameful statement... A senior politician who is the Chief Minister of a state has used cheap words (Nitish Kumar's remarks) in the state Assembly and that too in context of women education and women's health

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | SENIOR BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Winter session Dec 4

New Delhi: The Winter session of Parliament will commence December 4 and continue till December 22, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said Thursday. In a post on X, he said the session will have 15 sittings spread over 19 days.

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: A terrorist belonging to The Resistance Front (TRF) was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district Thursday, police said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Kathohalan area of the south Kashmir district following inputs regarding the presence of a terrorist there, a police spokesman said.

Maldives invites PM

New Delhi: The Maldives has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the oath-taking of Maldivian President-elect Mohamed Muizzu, but New Delhi is yet to take a decision on the level of its representation at the ceremony, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Thursday. Widely seen as a pro-China leader, Muizzu is set to take charge as the Maldivian president November 17.

Fake bomb threat

Thiruvananthapuram: A bomb threat to the Kerala State Secretariat, which put police personnel in a tizzy, turned out to be a hoax here Thursday. Police confirmed that the threat, received at their headquarters in the morning, was a prank call made by a man suspected to be mentally unsound.

Municipal Bill passed

Kohima: In a significant development, the Nagaland Assembly on Thursday passed the Nagaland Municipal Bill 2023 by voice vote with 33 per cent reservation for women. The Bill was passed after the select committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang presented the report on the Nagaland Municipal Bill in the House, recommending 33 per cent reservation for women.

BSF soldier shot dead

Jammu: A BSF head constable was killed in unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers along the international border in the Ramgarh sector of Jammu & Kashmir's Samba district. The firing targeting border outposts in the district are the third ceasefire violation in 24 days by Pakistan Rangers.

India calls for immediate release of Israeli hostages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: As the Israel-Hamas conflict continues, India Thursday urged both the sides to eschew violence, de-escalate the situation and create conditions for an early resumption of direct peace negotiations towards a two-state solution to the Palestine issue.

Without naming Hamas, India also called for "immediate and unconditional" release of hostages. Israel has been carrying out a massive military offensive in Gaza following the unprecedented and multi-pronged attacks on Israeli cities by Hamas militants October 7.

Hamas killed around 1,400 people in Israel and kidnapped more than 220.

At his weekly media briefing, Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Arindam Bagchi said India has made its position clear on the Hamas-Israel conflict on multiple occasions including during the UN General Assembly debate October 27.

"We have strongly condemned the horrific attack on Israel, urged the need for zero tolerance for terrorism and called for immediate and unconditional release of hostages," he said.

Bagchi said India has also sent 38 tonnes of humanitarian relief material and emphasised the need for strict "observance of international humanitarian law." The relief materials were sent to the people of Gaza.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held phone conversations with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas following escalation of the conflict. Asked about reports that the Israeli construction industry is looking at recruiting 100,000 Indian workers to replace the 90,000 Palestinians, he was not aware of any such requests from Tel Aviv.

In a larger context, he said India has been working towards giving its citizens access to the "global work place".

"In this regard, we have been in discussion on trying to get into mobility agreements with a number of countries. Such frameworks and agreements ensure that our people are treated fairly, their rights are protected and they are not discriminated against," Bagchi said.

Delhi continues to be 'gas chamber'

The Delhi government has decided to bear the entire cost of artificial rain to combat hazardous air pollution in the city and directed the chief secretary to present the government's views before the Supreme Court Friday

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 9: The overall Air Quality Index Thursday evening was at 407, in the 'se-

vere' category, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR).

In the national Capital, the Ashok Vihar station was in the severe category with PM 2.5 at 425 and PM 10 at 433 while the CO was at 90, under 'satisfactory' category at 6 p.m., as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good'; 51 and 100 'satisfactory'; 101 and 200 'moderate'; 201 and 300 'poor'; 301 and 400 'very poor'; and 401 and 500 'severe'. At the Bawana station PM 2.5 was recorded at 440, in the 'severe' category and



PM 10 at 389, in the 'very poor' category, while the CO reached 107 'moderate'.

At the Delhi Technical

University (DTU) station, the PM 10 reached 420 under 'severe' category while PM 2.5 was at 313 under 'very poor' cate-

gory Thursday at 6 p.m. The CO was recorded at 85 and NO2 was at 78, under the 'satisfactory' category. The station at Dwarka Sector 8 recorded PM 10 at 455 in the 'severe' range and PM 2.5 at 380 'very poor', while CO was at 135, under 'moderate' category. The air quality at the Indira Gandhi International Airport T3 area was in the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 at 386 and PM 10 at 355 while the CO reached 104 in the 'satisfactory' category. Over the last eight to ten days, there has been slow air movement, decreasing temperatures, and the accumulation of pollution.

Ethics panel suggests expulsion of Moitra

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 9: The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee Thursday recommended the expulsion of TMC MP Mahua Moitra from the House in the 'cash-for-query' matter, capping a fortnight of actions that included deposition of three persons over three sittings.

The committee, chaired by BJP Lok Sabha member Vinod Kumar Sonkar, met here and adopted its 479-page report which, according to sources, recommended Moitra's expulsion, possibly first such action against an MP by the panel.

Committee chairman Sonkar told reporters that six members of the panel supported adoption of the report and four opposed it. In her first reaction to PTI after the Lok Sabha panel recommendation, Moitra said this was a "pre-fixed match by a kangaroo court" and added, "Even if they expel me, I will be back in the next Lok Sabha with a bigger mandate."

The ethics panel report will now be tabled in the Lok Sabha which will then vote on a motion to put the recommendation into action. According to sources, Preneet Kaur, a Congress MP, is believed to have voted in support of the report. Four Opposition members said the panel's recommendation was "prejudiced" and "incorrect", and said busi-



The Ethics Committee held its first meeting on the matter October 26 when Dehadrai and Dubey submitted their evidence against Moitra

The Trinamool leader was the next to depose before the committee November 2, which ended in high-drama with opposition members storming out of the meeting claiming indecent posers by the chairman to Moitra

nessman Darshan Hiranandani, who is alleged to have given bribes to Moitra, should have been asked to depose before the panel. He has only filed an affidavit.

Former secretary general of the Lok Sabha P D T Achary said this is perhaps the first time the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee has recommended the expulsion of an MP. In 2005, eleven MPs were expelled from Parliament in another 'cash-for-query' case but those expulsions were recommended by

the Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee and a Lok Sabha Inquiry Committee.

The proceedings of the 'cash-for-query' issue in 2005 too was a fast-track one with the matter coming to light December 12 and leading to the expulsion of members December 23, 2005. Achary said the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee report will now be sent to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The speaker may order that it be published, he said.

During the next session of Parliament, the committee chairman will table the report in the House and thereafter there will be a debate on it, followed by a vote on a government motion for the member's expulsion, Achary said. The committee had earlier heard Moitra, BJP MP Dubey, who filed the complaint against her, and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai.

Based on information shared by Dehadrai, the BJP MP accused Moitra of asking questions in the Lok Sabha to target the Adani Group and Prime Minister Modi at the behest of businessman Hiranandani in exchange for gifts. Moitra has denied the charge of receiving any pecuniary benefit.

BJP member Aparajita Sarangi said, "These are baseless claims. Darshan Hiranandani has given a sworn affidavit which is sufficient."

Three judges appointed to apex court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud Thursday administered the oath of office to three high court chief justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta as the judges of the Supreme Court.

The three judges were sworn-in at a function in the Supreme Court complex in the presence of other judges, lawyers and their family members.

With the swearing-in of the three new judges, the top court will now function with its full strength of 34 judges. Earlier in the day, Sharma, the Delhi High

Court chief justice, Masih and Mehta, his counterparts in the Rajasthan and Gauhati high courts, respectively, were appointed as top court judges.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced their appointment on X.

Their names were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium November 6.

Justice Sharma was appointed as a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on January 18, 2008 and was elevated as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Telangana October 11, 2021. He was thereafter transferred to the Delhi High Court June 28, 2022.



Justice A G Masih was appointed as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court July 10, 2008 and was elevated as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court May 30, 2023.

Bihar Assembly approves hike in caste quota

ADDRESSING THE HOUSE ON THE OCCASION, NITISH KUMAR SAID, "NOW RESERVATIONS WILL BE 75 PER CENT, INCLUDING 10 PER CENT FOR ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS WHICH THE CENTRE INTRODUCED A FEW YEARS AGO AND WE, TOO, IMPLEMENTED IN THE STATE"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 09: The Bihar assembly Thursday hiked the quota for deprived castes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and educational institutions, taking the overall reservation to 75 per cent.

Earlier during the day, the assembly unanimously hiked quotas for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from the existing 50 per cent to 65 per cent. Bills providing for the same in educational insti-



tutions and government jobs, drafted in the backdrop of a

comprehensive caste survey conducted by the Nitish Kumar

government, were passed unanimously, through voice vote.

As per the Bills, the quota for STs will be doubled, from one to two per cent, while for SCs it will be raised from 16 per cent to 20 per cent.

For EBCs, the quota will be 25 per cent, up from 18 per cent, while for the OBCs it will rise from 12 per cent to 15 per cent.

Kumar said, "the rise in quotas in Bihar follows the caste survey which was conducted after a consensus was reached among all the nine parties which have representation in this House". "The survey has

provided us with a comprehensive data. We will use it to introduce more measures for the uplift of socially, educationally and economically backward sections of society. I will be glad if the Centre, too, agrees to a caste census and hike reservations across the country," said Kumar.

The JD(U) leader also took the opportunity to raise a fresh demand for grant of special status to Bihar, saying, "our land was so advanced in ancient times. It stagnated because of historical factors. We need some help to recover our lost glory".

Manipur: Two bodies recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 9: Two bodies, including that of a woman, with bullet wounds were recovered in Imphal East and West districts in Manipur, police said Thursday.

The body of a middle-aged woman with a bullet wound on her head was found in the vicinity of Tairenpokpi area in Imphal West district on Wednesday, said a police officer.

He said the body was sent to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal for post-mortem examination.

The body of a man, presumed to be in his forties, was found in Takhok Mapal Makha area in Imphal East district late Tuesday night, another officer said. Locals recovered the body of the unidentified man, he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh welcomes United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin upon his arrival at the AFS Palam. Austin is paying a two-day visit to New Delhi to attend the India-US '2+2' foreign and defence ministerial dialogue Friday. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will also be part of the American delegation at the talks

PTI PHOTO

SNIPPETS

Abhishek appears before ED

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and submitted a reply to the probe agency's questions related to an ongoing probe into an alleged school jobs scam in West Bengal, along with supporting documents which ran into nearly 6,000 pages. Banerjee, after coming out of the ED office here, said that he has nothing to hide and is always ready to cooperate with the central agency in its probe into the alleged school jobs scam in West Bengal.

Pak releases 80 Indian fishermen

Karachi: The Pakistan government Thursday released 80 Indian fishermen from the Malir jail here. The Indian fishermen were released under the ongoing drive of the Pakistani government to expel illegal foreign immigrants and nationals from the country. A senior jail official said the Indian fishermen were put on the Allama Iqbal Express train under heavy security and will reach Lahore tomorrow from where they will be handed over to Indian authorities at the Wagah border.

Top court protection for Surjewala

New Delhi: Granting relief to Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, the Supreme Court Thursday stayed the execution of a Non-Bailable Warrant issued by the MP/MLA court of Varanasi against him in connection with a 23-year-old criminal case of damage to public property. Special Judge (MP-MLA) Avnish Gautam had Wednesday issued NBW against Surjewala, a Rajya Sabha MP, directing him to appear November 21. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Surjewala, mentioned the matter before a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud in the morning and sought an urgent hearing. The CJ fixed it for hearing later in the day.



Since October 7, the world has seen a sharp and worrying increase in hate, hate speech and hate crimes. I am reaching out to you, near or far, with a single, clear message: Hate has no place in our world
DENNIS FRANCIS | PRESIDENT, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

'WOMAN WITH A WATCH' SOLD

One of Pablo Picasso's masterpieces, "Woman with a Watch," was sold at auction Wednesday night for \$139.3 million by Sotheby's in New York, the second-highest price ever achieved for the artist



of the day quote

We are concerned about growing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, which is a two-way street involving arms flows and technical support
ANTHONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

They (India) remain a key strategic partner. And we're dedicated to advancing that partnership every single day
JOHN KIRBY | COORDINATOR AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHITE HOUSE

There's a recognition that my government is committed to climate action and that we're playing a positive role, not just with our commitment to reduce our emissions by 43% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050, but that, importantly, we are playing a role in the region, and indeed, around the globe
ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

SHORT TAKES

House Republicans subpoena Bidens

Washington: House Republicans issued subpoenas Wednesday to members of President Joe Biden's family, taking their most aggressive step yet in an impeachment inquiry bitterly opposed by Democrats that is testing the reach of congressional oversight powers. The long-awaited move by Rep. James Comer, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, to subpoena the president's son Hunter and brother James comes as Republicans look to gain ground in their nearly yearlong investigation.

Indian student dies

Washington: Varun Raj Pucha, the 24-year-old Indian student who was stabbed at a fitness centre in the US state of Indiana, has succumbed to his injuries, the university where he was studying has said. Varun, a Computer Science student at Valparaiso University, was stabbed in the head with a knife by the assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym October 29 for reasons that the authorities are still investigating. "It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Varun Raj Pucha. Our campus community has lost one of its own, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Varun's family and friends as we mourn this devastating loss," Valparaiso University, a private university in Valparaiso, Indian, near Chicago said in a statement Wednesday.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

GAZA RESIDENTS SAY ISRAELI TROOPS INCH WAY CLOSER TO HOSPITALS, WHERE PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN SHELTER FROM BOMBARDMENTS

REUTERS

Gaza, Nov 9: Israeli forces fought Hamas militants through shell-blasted buildings in the north of the Gaza Strip Thursday as the plight of civilians in the besieged Palestinian territory worsened.

Residents in Gaza City - a militant stronghold in the north of the Hamas-ruled territory - said Israeli tanks were stationed around the city. Israeli forces were moving closer to two hospitals where thousands of displaced Palestinians were seeking shelter, they said.

The White House said Israel has agreed to put in place four-hour daily humanitarian pauses in its assault on Hamas in northern Gaza starting Thursday, as the Biden administration said it has secured a second pathway for civilians to flee fighting.

Israel unleashed its assault on Gaza in response to a cross-border Hamas raid on south-

Hospitals in firing line



OVER TWO-THIRDS OF GAZA'S POPULATION OF 2.3MM HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES SINCE THE WAR BEGAN

A MONTH OF RELENTLESS BOMBARDMENT IN GAZA HAS KILLED MORE THAN 10,500 PALESTINIANS

ern Israel October 7 in which gunmen killed 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and took about 240 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. It was the single worst day of bloodshed in Israel's 75-year history.

Palestinian officials said 10,569 Gaza residents had been killed as of Wednesday, about 40% of them children, while a humanitarian crisis has gripped the enclave, with basic supplies running out and buildings demolished by unrelenting Israeli bombardments.

The United Nations human rights chief called for a ceasefire

and said both sides had committed war crimes in the month of fighting over the enclave.

NOWHERE TO RUN TO

Thousands of Palestinians have sought refuge at Al Shifa hospital inside Gaza City despite Israel's orders to evacuate the area it has encircled. They are sheltering in tents in the hospital grounds and say they have nowhere else to go.

The UN humanitarian office OCHA said the Israeli military had again told residents of the

Israel opens corridor for residents to leave Gaza City for fifth day

India to be added to UK safe states list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 9: The UK government has tabled plans to add India to an expanded list of safe states, which would speed up the process of returning Indians who travel from the country illegally and rule out their chance of seeking asylum in Britain.

Draft legislation laid in the House of Commons Wednesday includes India and Georgia as the countries to be added to the list. The UK Home Office said the move is aimed at strengthening the country's immigration system and help prevent abuse by people making unfounded protection claims.

"We must stop people making dangerous and illegal journeys to the UK from fundamentally safe countries," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

The move is in line with measures to meet British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's pledge to "stop the boats" of migrants landing on the country's shores illegally after making precarious journeys across the English Channel. The Home Office said that Indian and Georgian small boat arrivals have increased over the last year, despite individuals from these countries not being at obvious risk of persecution.

Other countries deemed safe by the UK include Albania and Switzerland, as well as the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) states.



UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak with wife Akshata Murty during a reception at Downing Street to celebrate Diwali in London

Indian-Americans take over state, local US polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 9: At least 10 Indian-Americans, almost all of them Democrats, have won local and state level elections held in several parts of the country, reflecting the growing political empowerment of the ethnic community that constitutes a little over one percent of the US population.

In Virginia, Hyderabad-born Ghazala Hashmi was re-elected to the State Senate for a third consecutive term. She was the first-

ever Indian-American woman and a Muslim to be elected to the Virginia State legislature.

Suhaz Subramanyam was re-elected to the Virginia State Senate. He was elected to the House of Delegates for two terms in 2019 and 2021. A former technology policy advisor in the White House during the Obama Administration, Houston-born Subramanian is the first Hindu to be elected to the Virginia House.

Business leader Kannan Srinivasan, who immigrated



from India in the 90s, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates from the Indian-American dominated Loudoun County area. All the three winners in Virginia are from the Democratic party as are the

three winners from New Jersey.

In New Jersey, Indian Americans Vin Gopal and Raj Mukherji, both from the Democratic Party, were elected to the State Senate. Indian-American Balvir Singh, a teacher, was re-elected to New Jersey's Burlington County Board of County Commissioner.

In Pennsylvania, Neil Makhija, a Democrat, won the coveted position of Montgomery County Commissioner, while Indian-American physician Dr. Anita Joshi won the West District seat

for Carmel City Council seat in Indiana.

Makhija is the first-ever Indian American or AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) to serve on a county's board of commissioners in the Commonwealth's 342-year history. Dr Joshi is the only Democrat to have won in the Republican bastion.

Born and raised in the United States, India-American Priya Tamilarasan won the election for Gahanna City Attorney in Ohio.

Transgender Catholics can be baptized: Vatican

In a major step towards transgender inclusion, Vatican allows trans Catholics to be baptized and serve as godparents

REUTERS

This is an important step forward in the Church seeing transgender people not only as people (in a Church where some say they don't really exist) but as Catholics
FATHER JAMES MARTIN | JESUIT PRIEST

department's head, Argentine Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, and approved by Pope Francis October 31. They were posted on the department's website Wednesday using the Italian word for "transsexuals".

Francis, 86, has tried to make the Church more welcoming to the LGBT community without changing Church teachings, including one saying that same-sex attraction is not sinful but same-sex acts are.

In response to a question of whether transgender people can be baptized, the doctrinal office said they could with some con-



ditions and as long as there is "no risk of causing a public scandal or disorientation among the faithful".

It said transgender people could be godparents at a baptism at the discretion of the local priest as well as a witness at a Church wedding, but the local priest should exercise "pastoral prudence" in his decision.

Francis has met with transgender people and in July, he told a transgender person: "Even if we are sinners, he (God) draws near to help us. The Lord loves us as we are, this is God's crazy love."

The document said a person in a same-sex relationship could also be a witness at a Catholic wedding, the office said, citing

current Church canonical legislation which contained no prohibition against it.

The response was less clear regarding persons in same-sex relationships and their role in baptism, which is the initiation into the Church for infants, children or adults.

The Brazilian bishop sought guidance on whether a same-sex couple who had adopted a child or obtained it from a surrogate mother could have that child baptized in a Catholic ceremony.

The response said that for the child of a same-sex couple to be baptized, there had to be "a well-founded hope that it would be educated in the Catholic religion".

There was a similarly nuanced response to a question whether a person in a same-sex relationship could be a godparent at a Church baptism. It said the person had to "lead a life that conforms to the faith".

HEAVY SMOG

Thousands fall ill in Pakistan; parks, markets, schools shut

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lahore, Nov 9: Toxic gray smog has sickened tens of thousands of people in Pakistan's cultural capital of Lahore, forcing authorities to shut schools, markets and parks for four days, officials said Thursday.

The decision came after the country's second-largest city was repeatedly ranked the world's most polluted city. Doctors advised people to wear face masks and stay at home. Residents said many people were coughing and having breathing problems.

"Wearing of masks and staying at home are the two easiest solutions to avoid getting rushed to hospitals with respiratory-related diseases, infections in eyes and skin diseases," said Salman Kazmi, a doctor at Lahore's main Mayo Hospital, where thousands of people were treated for such



ailments this week.

On Thursday, the concentration of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air approached 450, considered hazardous.

Experts say the burning of crop residue at the start of the winter wheat-planting season is a key cause of the pollution.

Lahore was once known as the city of gardens, which were ubiquitous during the Mughal era of the 16th to 19th centuries. But rapid urbanization and surging population growth have left little room for greenery in the city.

business

of the day quote

India has achieved a milestone of 60 gigawatt of installed solar module manufacturing capacity

HITESH DOSHI | PRESIDENT, AISMA

After an almost terminal downturn during the first and second Covid-19 waves, residential rents are one of the most remarkable comeback stories of the post-pandemic housing sector

ANU PURI | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK

We did ₹11 crores in FY21 in terms of net revenue, in year two we did ₹44 crores in revenue (FY22). In our third year, we closed at ₹110 crore in FY23 and this year we should close at ₹250 crore

SIDDHARTH DUNGARWAL | FOUNDER, SNITCH

Q2 RESULTS

SoftBank hit with \$6.2 billion loss

Tokyo: Japanese technology company SoftBank Group Corp. Racked up a huge loss in the July-September quarter as its technology investments, most notably office-sharing company WeWork, went sour. Tokyo-based SoftBank loss totalled 931 billion yen (\$6.2 billion) in the last quarter, a reversal from the 3 trillion yen profit it posted in the same period a year earlier. SoftBank has a sprawling investment portfolio and tends to have erratic financial results that fluctuate with market trends.

APSEZ's tepid rise

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) Thursday reported 1.37 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,761.63 crore for the quarter ended September 2023. The company had logged a profit of Rs 1,737.81 crore in the year-ago period, APSEZ said in a filing to BSE. Total income in July-September 2023-24 increased to Rs 6,951.86 crore from Rs 5,648.91 crore in the year-ago quarter.

OIL profit plunges

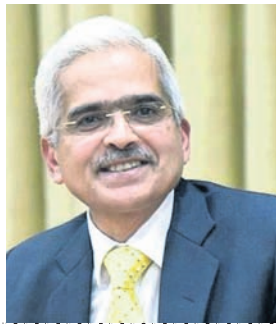
New Delhi: State-owned Oil India Ltd's second quarter net profit dropped 81 per cent on a one-time provisioning for tax liability. The company posted a standalone net profit of Rs 325.31 crore in the July-September period as against Rs 1,720.53 crore in the year-ago period, the company said in a stock exchange filing. Oil India Ltd (OIL), the nation's second biggest state-owned explorer and producer of oil and natural gas, made a provision of Rs 2,655.57 crore towards a disputed GST liability.

Nalco profit jumps

New Delhi: State-owned National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) Thursday reported a 49.3 per cent increase in consolidated profit to Rs 187.35 crore for the September quarter. The company had posted a consolidated profit of Rs 125.43 crore in the year-ago period, Nalco said. However, the consolidated income of the company during the July-September period dropped to Rs 3,112.02 crore over Rs 3,558.85 crore in the year-ago period.

Patanjali Foods up 2X

New Delhi: Patanjali Foods Ltd has reported over two-fold jump in its net profit to Rs 254.53 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal year and also roped in former Indian cricket team captain M S Dhoni as brand ambassador for Mahakosh and Sunrich brands. Its net profit stood at Rs 112.28 crore in the year-ago period.



Driven by India's inherent dynamism and supported by a prudent policy mix, growth is getting stronger foothold while inflation is also coming under control

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

UK's LOTUS CARS FORAYS INTO INDIA

British luxury car maker, Lotus Cars, has made its official and grand entry in the Indian automobile market Thursday. Having partnered with Exclusive Motors in the Asian nation for retail and services of the Lotus brand, the automaker has launched the Eletre electric SUV car



Omegle shuts down after 'misuse' by users

Omegle wanted to let strangers on the web talk to each other. Instead, the website became infamous as a platform where adults gathered and abused its minor users

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 9: The online chat platform Omegle has officially shut down after a 14-year run. Introduced in 2009, this free service was known for randomly matching users for anonymous one-on-one conversations.

With the primary goal of connecting strangers and facilitating interactions with other people online, Omegle played a unique role in providing a plat-



form for users to meet new users in a virtual setting.

Founder Leif K-Brooks cited the substantial costs of man-

aging Omegle and addressing potential misuse as the primary reasons behind the site's shutdown. He said in a statement, "As much as I wish circumstances were different, the stress and expense of this fight - coupled with the existing stress and expense of operating Omegle, and fighting its misuse - are simply too much. Operating Omegle is no longer sustainable, financially nor psychologically."

If you visit the Omegle website now, you will see a tombstone reading, "Omegle 2009-2023."

Omegle also faced scrutiny for its role in online abuse, leading to it being shut down. K-Brooks mentioned the platform's vulnerability to attacks and the financial strain of addressing misuse.

The app saw a surge in popularity during the pandemic but has faced allegations it matched children with paedophiles

Despite the challenges, K-Brooks highlighted Omegle's positive impact, fostering connections across cultures and offering support. He expressed gratitude to users who responsibly used the platform. "Over the years, people have used Omegle to explore foreign cultures; to get advice about their lives from impartial third parties; and to help alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation. I've even heard stories of soulmates meeting on Omegle, and getting married. Those are only some of

the highlights," he added.

The hashtag #RIPOmegle is trending on X (formerly Twitter) with users reminiscing about their time on the platform.

A user wrote, "I started using Omegle back in 2013 to get chatzy links for glee roleplay. Nowadays, I use it to roleplay Wolfstar, Jegulus, Hotwings, BkDk, Destiel, Gentlebeard, Ineffable Husband and OC Omegaverse. My heart is broken #RIPOmegle."

There can be no honest accounting of Omegle without acknowledging that some people misused it, including to commit unspeakably heinous crimes

LEIF K-BROOKS | FOUNDER, OMEGLE

BENCHMARKS SHED GAINS ON FOREIGN FUND OUTFLOWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 9: Benchmark Sensex declined by 143 points while Nifty slipped below the 19,400 level Thursday due to selling in IT, FMCG and oil shares and foreign fund outflows.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 143.41 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 64,832.20. During the day, it fell 206.85 points or 0.31 per cent to 64,768.76. The broader Nifty dipped 48.20 points or 0.25 per cent to 19,395.30.



Among the Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever fell the most by 1.58 per cent. Tech Mahindra declined 1.33 per cent, Infosys by 1.22 per cent, and Reliance Industries by 1.11 per cent. Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan and UltraTech Cement also closed lower.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro and Maruti were among the gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.27 per cent while the midcap index gained 0.62 per cent.

"Markets remained range-bound for the third day in a row and ended marginally lower," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Among the indices, FMCG fell by 0.88 per cent, oil & gas declined 0.75 per cent, IT (0.74 per cent), teck (0.72 per cent), services (0.66 per cent) and consumer durables (0.62 per cent).

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.99 per cent to \$80.33 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) of flooded equities worth Rs 84.55 crore Wednesday.

The BSE benchmark advanced 33.21 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 64,975.61 Wednesday. The broader Nifty went up by 36.80 points or 0.19 per cent to 19,443.50.

RESILIENT MARKET

SIP inflows at peak

INFLOW IN EQUITY MUTUAL FUNDS JUMPS 42% TO NEARLY ₹20,000 CR IN OCT; SIPs HIT ALL-TIME HIGH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: Driven by investors' interest in small-cap funds, inflow in equity mutual funds surged 42 per cent month-on-month to nearly Rs 20,000 crore in October despite the risk-off sentiment in the stock markets.

This was way higher than Rs 14,091 crore inflow seen in the category in September. Before this, the inflow was at Rs 20,245 crore in August, according to the data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) released Thursday.

Inflow through SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) hit a fresh all-time high of Rs 16,928 crore in October, surpassing the previous high of Rs 16,042 crore in September.

Going by the data, equity mutual funds witnessed a net inflow of Rs 19,957 crore in October, making it the 32nd consecutive month of net infusion.

All the categories experienced inflow in equity segments. The equity category was also aided by four new fund launches in

SIP numbers show consistent month-on-month growth, underlining the strength of systematic investment plans. High SIP account openings indicate a growing, committed investor base

NS VENKATESH | CEO, AMFI



October which garnered Rs 2,996 crore.

"The month of October, the equity markets continued to experience a risk-off sentiment, with the Index falling below 19,000 levels. Despite this fall, equity mutual funds continued to exhibit resilience, recording a significant net inflow of Rs 19,957 crores v/s Rs 14,091 crore observed in September," Akhil Chaturvedi, Chief Business Officer, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company, said.

Among the equity asset class, the small cap category attracted the highest inflows to the tune

of Rs 4,495 crores during the month. This was followed by Rs 3,896 crore in thematic funds.

Interestingly, the large-cap category which has witnessed five consecutive months of net outflows finally turned the corner as it garnered Rs 724 crore in October, reflecting broader market recovery.

Apart from equities, debt-oriented schemes witnessed a net inflow of Rs 42,634 crore in October after withdrawing funds in the past two months, primarily due to increased flows in the liquid fund category.

The debt segment had wit-

Moody's retains India's '23 growth hope

Domestic demand to support near-term growth, notes Moody's Investors Service

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 9: Moody's Investors Service Thursday retained India's economic growth forecast for 2023 at 6.7 per cent and said strong domestic demand will likely sustain the growth in the near term.

With exports remaining weak against an unfavourable global economic backdrop, Moody's in its Global Macroeconomic Outlook 2024-25 said sustained domestic demand growth is propelling India's economy.

India's real GDP rose 7.8 per cent year-over-year in June quarter; up from 6.1 per cent in March quarter and bolstered by a 6 per cent increase in household consumption and capital expenditure and service sector activity.



Moody's expects India's real GDP to grow about 6.7% in 2023, 6.1% in 2024 and 6.3% in 2025

India's growth momentum remains strong and we expect the economy to grow 6.7 per cent in 2023, as it did in 2022, it said.

Moody's said high-frequency indicators show that the economy's strong June quarter momentum carried into July-September as well.

"Robust goods and services tax collections, surging auto sales, rising consumer optimism and double-digit credit growth

suggest urban consumption demand will likely remain resilient amid the ongoing festive season," Moody's said.

GLOBAL GROWTH TO SLOW

With regard to global growth, Moody's said it will slow in 2024 as high interest rates percolate through credit channels to the real economy.

Inflation will continue to cool amid slowing demand in 2024 as central banks maintain a tight policy stance. Absent unanticipated shocks, we expect global growth to firm in 2025, it added.

"We forecast real economic activity in advanced G-20 economies to decelerate from an estimated 1.7 per cent in 2023 to just 1 per cent in 2024 and recover to 1.8 per cent in 2025," said Madhavi Bokil, Senior Vice President, CSR, at Moody's Investors Service.

Growth in G-20 emerging markets will slow from 4.4 per cent in 2023 to 3.7 per cent in 2024 and 3.8 per cent in 2025.

Miss Universe owner files for bankruptcy

JKN Global Group acquired the Miss Universe Organisation last year

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Bangkok, Nov 9: The Thai media company that owns the Miss Universe beauty pageant brand said Thursday it has filed for bankruptcy while it tries to resolve a "liquidity problem". JKN Global Group made the announcement in a statement to the Thai Stock Exchange two months after it missed a deadline to repay bonds worth around \$12 million.



The company, owned by media mogul and transgender rights campaigner Anne Jakapong Jakrajutatip, bought the pageant - previously owned by former US president Donald Trump - in 2022 for \$20 million. JKN's statement said its board

of directors agreed Tuesday to submit a business rehabilitation plan to the kingdom's bankruptcy court.

"Submitting the rehabilitation petition will effectively solve the Company's liquidity problem under legal mechanism and

provide fair protection to all stakeholders," the statement said.

Operations will continue under the plan, it added.

JKN's share price has dropped by nearly 80 percent over the past 12 months, standing at 0.77 baht Thursday.

JKN filed for bankruptcy despite reporting higher assets than debts during the first six months of this year. Its June report to the SET recorded assets worth 12.161 billion against debt of 7.398 billion baht.

JKN announced in October that it had acquired the Miss Universe brand for 800 million baht. It pledged to increase the brand's worth by at least 40%.

12-YEAR HIGH

Subdued exports bitter sugar rates

INDIA IS THE WORLD'S SECOND-BIGGEST SUGAR PRODUCER AND REDUCTION IN EXPORTS IMPACTS THE GLOBAL MARKET

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICES

New Delhi, Nov 9: The prices of sugar have surged past 28 cents per pound in the international market to touch a 12-year high as the sweetener is seen in short supply due to a sharp decline in Indian exports and logistics problems in Brazil.

Sugar prices have been steadily increasing in the international market to multi-year highs and the 15-day average price estimated by the International Sugar Organisation has been above 26 cents in recent weeks.

India has extended export curbs on sugar as domestic prices had started firming up and the government is keen to keep prices in check, especially during the festive season when the demand shoots up.

The country had allowed mills to export only 6.2 million tons of sugar during the 2022-2023 season which ended on September 30, after letting them sell a record 11.1 million tons in the preceding 2021-2022 season.

The country has seen the weakest monsoon since 2018 this year and sugarcane production is expected to decline in the current season which gives rise to inflationary expectations that tend to push up prices. Sugar prices in India increased 5-8 per cent



year-on-year in the second quarter, according to trade estimates.

India's sugar production is likely to fall 8 per cent to 33.7 million metric tons in the 2023-24 marketing year, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA).

The fact that some sugar is diverted to make ethanol has also got to be factored in.

Sugar mills diverted 4.1 million tons of sugar for ethanol production in the last marketing year and a similar amount could be allocated this year as well.

This has raised fears in trade circles that the government may even stop exports of sugar in the current season to keep domestic prices in check.

The supply of sugar in the international market has also been hit as the world's largest producer Brazil is facing logistics problems.

The country's ports have emerged as a bottleneck.

The turnaround time for ships to load has shot up and stocks are piling up at the ports.

SHORT TAKES

Tickets go on sale

New Delhi: A final set of tickets for the World Cup knock out games including the semifinal and final went on sale Thursday night. The first semifinal will be played in Mumbai November 15 and second in Kolkata November 16. The final will take place in Ahmedabad November 19. "The tickets for the three marquee games - 1st semifinal (15th November), 2nd semifinal (16th November) and the all-important final 19th November will go live at 8:00 PM on 9th November on the official ticketing website 'tickets.crickworldcup.com'. This will be the last chance for cricket fans wanting to experience the magic and thrill of the World Cup and to witness in person the crowning of a new champion," the BCCI had said in a release, earlier Thursday.

Bajrang gets bail

New Delhi: Wrestler Bajrang Punia was Thursday granted bail by a Delhi court in a criminal defamation case filed by coach Naresh Dahiya, who had accused the top wrestler of tarnishing his image with his statement during the protest against federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. During the wrestlers' protest, Bajrang had said that Dahiya did not have any credibility to oppose the agitation since he himself was facing a rape case. Dahiya had then moved the court, which had summoned Bajrang, who recently suffered defeat at the Asian Games to return without a medal.

Termination ratified

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation's (AIFF) Executive Committee Thursday ratified the sacking of Shaji Prabhakaran from the high-profile post of secretary general for 'breach of trust', completing a mere formality. The AIFF executive committee, which met here with president Kalyan Chaubey in the chair, also approved the appointment of Karnataka official Satyanarayan M as the acting secretary general. "The (Executive) Committee ratified the decision to terminate the contract of Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran as the Secretary General, and appoint Mr. M Satyanarayan as the Acting Secretary General of the All India Football Federation," a release said. The 51-year-old Prabhakaran was sacked Tuesday from the post of secretary general.

KIWIS' SEMIS HOPES ALIVE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 9: Trent Boult's rediscovery of his magic with new ball fuelled New Zealand's frantic five-wicket victory over a wretched Sri Lanka and kept their World Cup semifinals dreams intact here Thursday.

Daryl Mitchell (43) milked the sound platform given by openers Devon Conway (45) and Rachin Ravindra (42) with their 86-run stand as the Kiwis hunted down the target of 172 in 23.2 overs.

The result helped them to snap a four-match losing streak in the event, and it was also the perfect culmination of the demolition job started by Boult with his outstanding three-wicket burst (3/37).

New Zealand (NRR: +0.743) have 10 points after their league engagements and they will in all likelihood join India, Australia and South Africa in the last four stage, unless Pakistan or Afghanistan, who are on eight points apiece, create some miracle.

In their final league match, Pakistan (NRR: +0.036) will face England Saturday while Afghanistan (-0.338) will lock horns with South Africa, Friday.

In the backdrop of all those calculations, it was important for the Kiwis to win handsomely to

stay ahead of the other contenders, and both Conway and Ravindra were aware of it. They exploited the struggles of Lankan bowlers to find the right line quite mercilessly.

However, Conway and Ravindra would repent missing a fifty that was there for the taking. At 88/2 in the 14th over, New Zealand were not in any trouble but they needed some quick runs to stay ahead in run rate mathematics. Mitchell did precisely that.

But the needless run out of Mark Chapman while the Kiwis were cruising stood as a sore point as he had to sacrifice his wicket for Mitchell, and the former was not entirely chuffed about it either. New Zealand, though, managed to move past the tape from that point without too many hiccups.

But for that smooth win, the Black Caps should thank Boult's riveting show in the nook, who was ably assisted by the skilful left-arm spin of Mitchell Santner (2/22). Their effort reduced a belligerent 51 off 28 balls by Lankan opener Kusal Perera, who was dropped on 1 by stumper Tom Latham off Tim Southee, to a mere footnote in an otherwise shambolic batting effort.

Boult was struggling for his rhythm in the last couple of

matches, but the 35-year-old revealed his true colours with a bit of nip in the air, jaggling the ball around.

After Southee jettisoned Pathum Nissanka, the left-arm pacer dismissed Lankan captain Kusal Mendis, whose mistimed pull ended with Ravindra near square leg, in the first ball of the fifth over.

Three balls later, Boult angled one across in-form Sadeera Samarawickrama, and the indecisive right-hander nibbled it to Latham. A couple of overs later, Boult trapped Charith Asalanka in front of the wicket with one that came wee bit in to reduce Lanka to 70/4 well inside the first 10 overs.

Angelo Matthews and Dhananjaya de Silva could not negate Santner's accuracy and the deliveries that spun away from them, perishing cheaply, which effectively ended the Lankan fight.

However, while the Lankan castle was crumbling around him Perera played a gem of an innings. Perera had not made the kind of impact expected of him while making just one fifty against Australia in the tournament and failing to reach double digits in five other innings.

However, the left-hander was in his elements here and creamed

the Kiwi bowlers around the park. Perera made Southee suffer for the most. He extracted 18 runs off the pacer's third over, in-nings' sixth, through a sequence of 6, 4, 4, 4. The pick-up six off his legs over long-on and the drive past the point fielder were the standout shots in that series.

Perera soon reached his 17th ODI fifty with another cracking cover drive off returning pacer Lockie Ferguson. But the fun ended soon as Ferguson had the last laugh - an attempted loft over the covers ended in the hands of Santner.

Ferguson, who pinged Theekshana on his arm, returned to rattle the late-order batsmen with his high pace, ensuring no letting off of pressure. Theekshana and Dilshan Madushanka added 43 runs for the final wicket, the highest in the Lankan essay, but they could not find a total that can even stretch New Zealand.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 171 (Kusal Perera 51, Maheesh Theekshana 38 n o; Trent Boult 3/37, Rachin Ravindra 2/21, Mitchell Santner 2/22, Lockie Ferguson 2/35) lost to New Zealand 172/5 (Devon Conway 45, Daryl Mitchell 43, Rachin Ravindra 42; Angelo Matthews 2/29) by 5 wickets/

Survival at stake for Afghanistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 9: South Africa will look to fix their chasing troubles before the semifinals while Afghanistan will back themselves to beat another top team when the two sides meet in a World Cup game here Friday.

A lot more is at stake for Afghanistan than South Africa, who have already made the semifinals alongside India and Australia. With eight points each, Afghanistan are battling for the fourth spot with Pakistan and New Zealand. Only a win over the Proteas will keep them in the hunt.

The Afghans also have an inferior net run rate compared to Pakistan and New Zealand, therefore, they need to win big and hope the other results go their way.

Irrespective of the result Friday, Afghanistan have earned tremendous respect with their mature play in the tournament, having racked up four wins from eight games.

They now have the belief to beat the best in the business on any given day. After humbling England and Pakistan, the Hasmatullah Shahidi-led side was on the cusp of a famous win over five-time champions Australia before Glenn Maxwell came up with a superhuman knock.

The improbable defeat left Afghans heartbroken and they now need to pick themselves up to give their best shot at a semi-final berth.

Batting first, South Africa have been the best batting unit in the tournament. Therefore, Shahidi will be hoping to win the toss, put runs on the board and choke South Africa in their chase.

South Africa's flamboyance has made way for tentativeness while chasing in the competition. Afghanistan's match-winning spinners will back themselves to exploit that apparent weakness.

Spin has been the team's strength over the years but now it can also expect breakthroughs from the pacers. With a little help on offer, Naveen Ul Haq and all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai delivered with the new ball against Australia to rattle the opposition.

Afghanistan batting, which has been its weak link, has come of age in the tournament. Batters like Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah and captain Shahidi himself know how to play the situations, while batting first or chasing.

The team, however, expects more from opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who has not been consistent enough, and veteran Mohammad Nabi, who has not yet made an impact with the bat.

Pressure on Bavuma While Quinton de Kock has piled on the runs in his swansong, South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma has not led from the front at the top of the order. Dropping the skipper in the middle of the tournament is highly unlikely but Bavuma must be feeling the pressure.



Spanish sides advance, Man Utd go down in CL



TWO SIDES OF EMOTION: Manchester United players look dejected as Copenhagen players celebrate a goal against the visitors, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Nov 9: On a royally good evening for standout Spanish teams, Manchester United fell in another wild loss in the Champions League. Real Madrid and Real Sociedad advanced to the round of 16 with two games to spare after impressive home wins over Portuguese opponents, respectively 3-0 against Braga and 3-1 over Benfica.

Bayern Munich and Inter Milan also won and will be in the knockout phase after getting key late goals from their talismanic strikers, Harry Kane and Lautaro Martinez. Kane scored in the 80th and 86th minutes in a 2-1 win over Galatasaray and Inter's 1-0 win at Salzburg was sealed by Martinez's penalty in the 85th.

Man United almost never has straightforward games in the English giant's drama-filled season on and off the field. A 3-4 loss at Copenhagen - the same result as United's opening game at Bayern - after twice letting leads slip left coach Erik ten Hag's team last in Group A.

The three-time European champions seemed in total control with a two-goal lead after 28 minutes earned by Rasmus Hojlund, returning to face his former club.

A red card for United forward Marcus Rashford in the 42th sparked the chaos to follow, which saw Copenhagen level the score

in 13 minutes of first-half stoppage time because of two pauses in play, including a protester on the field.

United led again when Bruno Fernandes scored from the penalty spot in the 69th but they could not hang on. Lukas Lerager levelled in the 83rd before 17-year-old substitute Rooney Bardghji won it in the 87th.

Arsenal took a four-point lead in Group B by comfortably beating Sevilla 2-0 while PSV Eindhoven rose from last place to second with its first win, 1-0 at home to Lens.

REAL IMPRESSIVE

Ukraine goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, who got a late call when first choice Kepa Arrizabalaga was unable to warm up because of a leg muscle injury, saved a penalty from Braga's Alvaro Djalo just six minutes into his third game of the season.

Brahim Diaz gave Real a first-half lead and Brazil teammates Vinicius Junior and Rodrigo added goals in a three-minute spell around the hour mark.

Real Sociedad threatened to sweep aside Benfica in the first half of a 3-1 win that saw its three goals all scored by the 21st and a penalty missed minutes later.

In their first Champions League campaign for 10 years, Real Sociedad and long-serving coach Imanol Aguiar are impressing with a largely home-grown group of players from the Basque region.

Parneet stuns Jyothi for individual gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, Nov 9: Teenager Parneet Kaur secured the biggest win of her career when she pipped ace Indian compound archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam to clinch the individual crown at the Asian Championships here Thursday.

Compound archers once again overshadowed their recurve teammates as India bagged three gold, one silver, and three bronze medals. Of the seven medals, only a solitary bronze came from the recurve section (women's team).

In an all-Indian women's compound individual final, Parneet trailed by two points till the halfway mark but the bespectacled 18-year-old produced two perfect last rounds to level the score 145-145 and force a tie-breaker.

Fresh from winning a hat-trick of gold at the Asian Games last month, Jyothi was not at



her best and lost the shoot-off 8-9 as Parneet won her maiden individual gold medal at the International level.

Indian compound mixed team of Aditi Swami and Priyansh earned India a second gold, defeating Thailand 156-151 in a lopsided final. Indian compound

women's team of Jyothi, Parneet and Aditi, which also bagged the Asian Games gold last month, did an encore, winning the title with a 234-233 win over Chinese Taipei.

India also won their third bronze which came in the compound men's individual section

courtesy Abhishek Verma. The veteran Indian archer pipped Joo Jaehoon of South Korea 147-146.

RECURVE FLOP SHOW

None of the recurve archers managed to progress beyond the quarterfinals. Dhiraj Bommadevara was eliminated by Tang Chih-Chun 3-7, while his senior Army colleague Tarundeep Rai was blanked 0-6 (27-29, 28-29 29-30) by Kim Je Deok of South Korea.

Both archers shot consistently but the Tokyo Olympics team gold medalist Deok was far superior and dropped just two points in nine arrows.

In the women's section, the archers failed to advance beyond the pre-quarterfinals. Bhajan Kaur lost to World No.1 Lim Siyeon of South Korea 0-6 (28-29, 26-30, 26-29), while Tisha Punia managed one point before going down 1-7 (24-29, 27-27, 28-29, 27-28) to China's Hai Ligan in two lopsided last-16 matches.

Shillong, NEROCA play out 1-1 draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Nov 9: Shillong Lajong FC earned a point on I-League's return to the Meghalaya capital after a gap of four seasons, holding fellow North-eastern side NEROCA FC to a 1-1 draw here Thursday.

Lajong, who had also drawn 1-1 with Mohammedan Sporting in Naihati last week, took the lead through their Brazilian midfielder Renan Paulino in the 34th minute.

A capacity crowd showed up for the weekday afternoon kick-off in the heart of Shillong, and they were treated to a solid first half from the home side. However, NEROCA bounced back in the second half, equalising through Jamaican striker Fabian Reid in the 79th minute.

The Orange Brigade, who had leaked as many as eight goals in their first two trips to Sreenidi Deccan and Gokulam Kerala, finally got off the mark this season with a valuable point.

Lanning bids adieu to int'ls



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 9: Meg Lanning, captain of Australia's all-conquering women's team, Thursday announced her retirement from international cricket after a decorated 13-year-old career in which she won seven world titles, including five as skipper.

The 31-year-old also led Australia to a Commonwealth Games gold medal last year and is the country's leading run getter across formats with 8352 runs

in 241 games (six Tests, 103 ODIs, 132 T20s). Lanning, however, will continue to play in T20 leagues around the world.

"The decision to step away from international cricket was a difficult one to make, but I feel now is the right time for me," Lanning said in a statement. "I've been incredibly fortunate to enjoy a 13-year international career, but I know now is the right time for me to move on to something new."

"Team success is why you play the game, I'm proud of what I have been able to achieve and will cherish the moments shared with teammates along the way."

The success of Australia under a decade of Lanning's leadership mirrors the invincible run of the men's team in early 2000s. Alyssa Healy, who captained the side in Lanning's absence, could lead the side on the multi-format tour of India next month.

Netherlands can pull off shock win against India, believes Teja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 9: The Netherlands believe they can pull off an upset win against an in-form India with all-rounder Teja Nidamanuru saying "it's a game of cricket and funnier things have happened".

Hosts India are the only unbeaten side in the tournament having collected eight wins from as many games. In contrast, Netherlands, the only Associate team in the tournament, are languishing at the bottom of the points table.

"It's a game of cricket right. So, it could be possible (defeating India). We play our brand of cricket. We do what we do well. We've got some great manoeuvres of the ball. We've got guys who can play spin well."

"We've also got guys who can take wickets. It really just obviously you need a bit of luck. There's no doubt that they're a very strong team and they've been playing very good cricket. But funnier



things have happened in the game," Nidamanuru said at the post-match press conference Wednesday.

Netherlands, who qualified for the World Cup after a gap of 12 years, will conclude their campaign against India in Bangalore November 12. "To arguably play the best team in the competition at the top of the table is something that we're very excited by and it's another opportunity for us," said Nidamanuru.