HERE. NOW Orissa Posi



Nargis' observation

Actor Nargis Fakhri, sharing her fitness journey, says muscle building and strength training are crucial for women

LEISURE | P2



Hamas militants held

Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) captures around 100 suspected Hamas militants hiding at Adwan hospital in northern Gaza



Swiss cos eye India

Investments in India by Swiss companies are on the rise, with a \$100 billion regional trade deal expected soon

BUSINESS | P11



Tremendous feat

Chirag Chikkara becomes only the 3rd Indian to emerge under-

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SHORT TAKES

Third phase of Subhadra soon

Bhubaneswar: The third phase of money under Subhadra Yojana of the first installment will be disbursed among the women beneficiaries very soon, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said here Monday. All the beneficiaries, who were left out in the first two phases, will receive their money in the third phase, she said. More than one crore beneficiaries have applied under the Subhadra Yojana. Around 60 lakh women beneficiaries have received ₹5,000 under Subhadra Yojana in the two phases of the

Tadoba tigress released in STR

first installment.

Baripada: TA tigress brought from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra was safely released into an enclosure in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district Monday morning, field director Prakash Chand Gogineni said in the statement. "The tigress is active and healthy," Gogineni said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Watch out for chain snatchers and stray animals. Also, political parties are out for a membership drive



WEATHER

PNN & AGENCIES

BBSR CTC 31.2°C 32.2°€ **Max Temp** Min Temp **Humidity** Rainfall

FORECAST PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:

Lambasting the previous BJD

government over alleged cor-

ruption, Odisha Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi warned

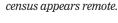
officials Monday against in-

volving in dishonest practices.

Majhi was addressing officials

after inaugurating the 'Vigilance

Awareness Week', which will



INTERNATIONAL | P10





23 wrestling world champion as ndia finish with 9 medals

SPORTS | P12

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY OCTOBER 29, 2024



FINISHING TOUCH: An artisan applies paint to decorative items in a stall at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Wife murders man for ₹8cr

Bangalore, Oct 28: Karnataka police have discovered a grisly murderous conspiracy after discovering an unidentified, burned body in a coffee plantation in the Kodagu region three weeks ago. A 54-year-old businessman named Ramesh disappeared a few weeks ago. According to the police, his wife Niharika P, her lover Nikhil, and another suspect, Ankur, carried out a gruesome murder plot for the businessman's money and crossed state lines to get rid of the body. All three have been taken into custody.

At a coffee farm, authorities discovered a burned body October 8. After efforts to identify the corpse were unsuccessful, police found that a missing person's complaint had been filed by Ramesh's wife after they identified the victim's vehicle.

Police suspected Niharika's (29) hand in the murder. She confessed to being involved in the crime with Ankur and veterinary physician Nikhil after Ramesh refused to pay her ₹8 crore during interrogation.

Census likely in 2025 No deal struck with PM: CJI

The national census exercise could not be conducted in 2021, the scheduled year, due to Covid-19. Government sources have informed it is likely to begin early 2025. However, the sources could not throw light on whether caste census will be conducted. The Opposition including Congress and RJD are among the political parties which have been demanding a caste-based census so that the total OBC population in the country is known. As news of the census became public, the Congress Monday sought an allparty meeting to get clarity on whether the next census would include a detailed enumeration of all castes and whether the census will be used for determining the strength of each state in the Lok Sabha. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, an ally of the NDA, has also demanded a caste-based census. However, that is unlikely to happen as the BJP has continuously opposed caste-based census as the saffron party lays more emphasis on Hindu unity. In 2021, the Union Government dismissed the idea of socio-economic caste cen-

AGENCIES

Majhi warns corrupt officials

New Delhi, Oct 28: The muchdelayed decadal census exercise and work to update the National Population Register (NPR) are

sus calling it 'administratively

challenging and cumbersome'.

Hence the chance of a caste-based



data will be declared by 2026, thus changing future census cycles completely, official sources said here Monday. However, no decision has been taken yet on whether caste census will also be carried out along with the general census. Even though the census information was confirmed by officials, so far, no formal announcement has been made on its next schedule by the Centre.

"In all probability, the work for the census and the NPR will begin early next year and the population data will be announced by 2026. With this, the census cycle is likely to be changed. So, it will be 2025-2035 and then 2035-2045 and so on in future," sources privy to the thinking of the government said.

The Office of the Registrar and Census Commissioner had prepared 31

izens during the census exercise. These questions include whether the head of the household belongs to Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) and other family members as asked in the previous census.

Opposition Congress and the RJD are among the political parties which have been demanding a caste census so that the total OBC population in the country is known. "The government has not yet taken any decision on

caste census," a source said. On the other hand several political leaders from the southern states have expressed their apprehensions over the possibility of their states losing out on Lok Sabha seats and thereby their political clout as they have been successful in population control, unlike the north-

New Delhi, Oct 28: Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud finally responded Monday to the massive political row after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to his house for Ganesh puja. The CJI asserted that no judicial matters are discussed in such meetings. He made this observation while responding to a question at the 'Loksatta' annual lecture. Chandrachud also stated it is a practice for chief ministers and chief justices of high courts to hold regular meetings.

"People think why these meetings. The maturity of our political system lies in the fact that there is a great deal of deference to the judiciary even in the political class. It is known. The judiciary's budget is from the



state. This budget is not for judges. We need new court buildings, new residences for judges in districts. For this, the chief justice and chief minister's meetings are necessary," the CJI said. The CJI said he had earlier

served as Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court. "When the Chief Justice is appointed. they go the Chief Minister's house. Then, the Chief Minister comes to the Chief Justice's house. These meetings have set

agenda. Say, 10 projects are going on in the state, what is the infra, the budget? The chief minister informs the priorities for these projects. Wouldn't you have to meet for this? If this happens over letters, the work will never get completed,' Chandrachud added. The CJI praised the maturity

which exists in the political system of the country. "There is a great deal of maturity in the political system. In the course of these meetings, never would the chief minister ask about a pending case. When chief ministers and chief justices meet at various places and functions, there is no bearing on judicial work. People ask what deals are happening. This is just part of a robust dialogue," the CJI pointed out.

8-yr-old girl raped

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purusottampur, Oct 28: Police arrested Monday a 36-year-old man, identified as Aditya Mohapatra, on charges of raping an eight-year old girl. According to the cops, the accused committed the heinous crime Sunday while the victim was playing on the road at a village under this police limits in Ganjam district. The accused also resides in the same village as that of the victim. Police registered a case and

arrested Mohapatra over a complaint filed by the survivor's family members. A medical examination was conducted on the accused and later, he was produced in the POCSO court in Berhampur, sub-inspector Priyanka Behera said.

The girl suffered critical injuries following the assault. Family members admitted her to the hospital here but doctors shifted her to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur after her condition deteriorated.

high density indicates that about

87 per cent of its mass consists

of rocky and iron-rich materials,

with the remaining mass form-

ing a lighter envelope of hydro-

Healthcare boost for people above 70

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Centre's health coverage scheme Avushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) will be implemented in Odisha by the end of the current financial year, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling stated here Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to launch AB-PMJAY for all citizens aged 70 years and above across the country Tuesday. Once the scheme is implemented, beneficiaries would be able to avail facilities at 27,000 hospitals in Odisha.

The previous BJD government did not implement the central scheme in Odisha. The BJD had launched its health assurance scheme, the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) which was renamed Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (G-JAY) by the $BJP\ government.$

Speaking to mediapersons here, Mahaling said around 3.5 crore out of 4.5 crore people in Odisha will be covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

"We have already started preparation for its implementation in our state. A budgetary provision of ₹3,500 crore has been made for this purpose. We are holding meetings with the Union Health Ministry and will issue the health cards to the beneficiaries by the end of the current financial year," Mahaling said. "We will integrate the state's Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana with the central AB-PMJAY andissue a single card for the beneficiaries," Mahaling added.

PRL scientists discover new exoplanet

Named 'TOI-6651b', this body has been found at the edge of the 'Neptunian desert

New Delhi, Oct 28: Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad announced Monday a remarkable discovery in the field of exoplanet science. Using the advanced PARAS-2 spectrograph, these scientists have identified



discovered planet is five times the size of Earth

■ The newly-

87% of the planet's mass is rocky and has iron-rich materials

This dense structure suggests that 'TOI-6651b' may have undergone unique evolutionary processes, possibly merging with other objects or losing much of its original atmosphere due to tidal heating effects.

gen and helium.

The discovery of 'TOI-6651b' challenges existing theories about planet formation, raising new questions about how such massive and dense planets evolve. By closely studying 'TOI-6651b', scientists hope to gain fresh insights into the complex dynamics that shape planetary systems, marking a significant achievement for India in the field of space research, the report added.

continue till November 3. 'TOI-6651b', a dense, Saturn-sized 'Corruption was rampant 'Neptunian desert' a region where under the previous BJD gova close, 5.06-day cycle, meaning its exoplanet orbiting a Sun-like star. ernment in the name of 5T and Majhi pointed out that in the This is the fourth exoplanet planets of this size are seldom 'year' lasts only a fraction of an all the officials involved in such first 140 days of his government, discovery by PRL scientists, found. The discovery of 'TOI-Earth month. Its orbit is slightly practices will not be spared by at least six chief engineers, a showcasing India's growing con-6651b' sheds new light on planoval in shape, or eccentric, further the government," Majhi asserted. joint commissioner of Excise tributions to global space exetary formation and evolution. distinguishing it from typical The 'Neptunian desert' is a gas giants like Saturn in our Drawing a comparison bedepartment and other senior ofploration. According to a report in *India Today* the researchers tween cancer and corruption, ficials were booked under cormysterious area where few plansolar system. The star, 'TOI-6651', Majhi said his government has ruption charges. The chief minsaid 'TOI-6651b' is a 'unique exets of this mass exist, so this is a G-type sub-giant that's slightly larger and hotter than our Sun, decided to remove corrupt offiister said that the Vigilance oplanet, weighing around 60 discovery offers a rare opporcials from the system to provide department, for the first time, has times the mass of Earth and havtunity to investigate why such with a surface temperature of planets are usually absent there, clean governance to the people taken action against six chief ing a radius approximately five about 5940K, a report said. A key breakthrough in the of the state. The government engineer rank officers and they times larger than Earth's'. the researchers said. PRL team's study is the compo-'TOI-6651b' is located at the This distant planet orbits its has started taking action in this have been sent to jail for in-Sun-like host star, 'TOI-6651', in direction, he added. dulging in corruption. edge of what astronomers call the sition of 'TOI-6651b'. The planet's



leisure



Meanwhile, on the work front,

Priyanka Chopra will next be

seen in the upcoming film Citadel

Season 2, reprising her role as spe-

Directed by the Russo Brothers,

the series features Richard

Madden returning as Mason

Kane/Kyle Conroy. This season

boasts an impressive ensemble

cast, including Stanley Tucci,

Leslie Manville, Ashleigh

Cummings, Roland Møller, Nikki

Amuka-Bird, and Moira Kelly.

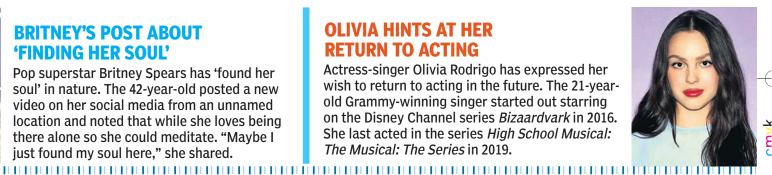
cial agent Nadia Sinh

BRITNEY'S POST ABOUT 'FINDING HER SOUL'

Pop superstar Britney Spears has 'found her soul' in nature. The 42-year-old posted a new video on her social media from an unnamed location and noted that while she loves being there alone so she could meditate. "Maybe I just found my soul here," she shared.

OLIVIA HINTS AT HER RETURN TO ACTING

Actress-singer Olivia Rodrigo has expressed her wish to return to acting in the future. The 21-yearold Grammy-winning singer started out starring on the Disney Channel series Bizaardvark in 2016. She last acted in the series *High School Musical*: The Musical: The Series in 2019.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

A plain Jane day. Work goes on as usual, and there is progress. But as Ganesha says, it's an ordinary day. Hum whistle, doodle, and sip your green tea. While day dreaming, start planning your dream home. After all, that's where the first plan takes shape.

TAURUS

Luck is a four-leaf clover in your pocket. You might get education related matters today - a favourable result of a competitive exami nation, maybe. You will proudly smile at your power of resilience and sense of proportion, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

The day will be dedicated to spending quality time with children, predicts Ganesha. You will be overloaded with household responsibilities and will find it tough to deal with them. However, you will manage to do well and will be satisfied with the outcome. Avoid getting too sentimental if you are a parent; also, you may have to act tough with your kids, suggests Ganesha.

CANCER Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesha needs to do to predict your day is take a peep into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan. You are likely to keep your views to yourself, and will hardly betray what's on your mind.

LEO

Most battles are fought and won inside our head. Hence, Ganesha urges you to maintain a positive outlook today. The stars grant you the ability to double your efforts, and allow your imagination to take flight and chart new routes to success. This should curb your frustration of the last few days. If you begin to feel physical ly drained, just fall back on your reserve of mental strength to push you through.

■ VIRGO A day to look inside and

contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesha. Clam up like those oysters and discover the peal within you. A fine help ing hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesha

Ganesha has a feeling that day to undertake any government dealings. Call it red-tapism, or ly unlikely that such tasks shall be fruitful today. This may test your patience, and in doing so, bring out your competency and efficiency to the fore, especially if you happen to be a public servant. Touché!

SCORPIO

It is about time you learn to deal with frustration in a more healthy manner. The right choice is always the hardest to make. Do not let sentiments sway you into hasty choices because they may feel right, but might also be extremely impractical.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, arranging meetings with customers and suppliers will eat into most of your time. Your patience will enable you to listen to suggestions and opinions offered by people. The result of all this, however, is slated to be most favourable and productive.

CAPRICORN

You have always been generous by nature, but your benevolent attitude will do you no good, warns Ganesha. People will try, almost blatantly, to take advantage of you, and for once, you will feel that being crafty and unrelenting would have helped kent those blood-sucking leeches at bay. But as the day progresses, you will thank the Almighty for all the precious things he made you the guardian of.

AQUARIUS

Today, you work hard and party harder! The morning sees you sweating it out at work, as you do your best to implement your plans. In the evening, you will don your best attire and get ready to have a gala time with your beloved. Ganesha says, you receive as much as you give.

PISCES

You set irreproachable standards for yourself, but what keeps your subordinates from grumbling about it is the efforts you make to help them achieve perfection in their endeavours, says Ganesha. You inspire, they aspire.

'LIFE WOULD BE **EASIER AS A GUY'**

ing actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, also known as PC among fans, from her appearance on the talk show Rendezvous with Simi Garewal has resurfaced. In the video, the actress shared her thoughts on the challenges women face compared to men.

In the throwback clip, Priyanka could be heard saying, "It's so difficult being a girl, really wish I was a guy at times. For real, nothing no stress, just throw on a pair of jeans and a t-shirt and

you are done.' In response, Simi remarks, "But these days, guys are taking on more responsibil-However, ities". Priyanka remains

skeptical, asserting, "They can never do as much as we have to do. We have to stav so stiff that one curl doesn't go out of place.'

panding into a uni *Mirzapur* film with the horizon, and there's a reason for the fans to rejoice it marks the return of Munna Bhaiyya (played

MUMBAI: The

Divyenndu). The makers Monday announced the *Mirzapur* movie. Created by Puneet Krishna and directed by directed by Gurmmeet Singh, the film is scheduled for a release in 2026, and features the iconic characters of *Mirzapur*, Kaleen Bhaiya (played by

Mirzapur expands into film

mark milestone for us to bring the quintessentia Mirzapur experience to our audiences, yet again but this time on the big screen. Over the course of three successful seasons, this acclaimed fran-chise has struck all the right chords with fans through its powerful storytelling and memorable characters – from the likes of Kaleen Bhaiya, Guddu Bhaiya, and Munna Bhaiya, to name a

The film is produced by Amazon MGM Studios and Excel Entertainment.

Nargis shares her fitness journey choices in diet, exercise and hydra-

Mumbai: Nargis Fakhri has been a passionate advocate for health and fitness and continues to inspire countless fans worldwide in this journey of maintaining a healthy

lifestyle. In a recent conversation, Nargis Fakhri opened up about es sential health and fitness topics that partic-

ularly resonate with women. She shared, "I've tried all sorts of exercise, diet, and lifestyle changes, but one thing I found that works is the importance of calories in and calories out for maintaining or losing weight. For women, muscle building and strength training are crucial, along with getting your vitamins and minerals from healthy food choices. Hydration is also key, which means drinking good quality water and not dead water.'

Drawing from her own fitness journey, Nargis provided valuable insights into the importance of calorie balance, the significance of strength training, and the need for proper nutrition and hydration. Her guide serves as a comprehensive resource for women seeking to achieve their health and fitness goals through informed



Samantha on USP of *Citadel*

MUMBAI: Citadel: Honey Bunny is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated spy thrillers, as it promises a gritty, raw, and action-packed glimpse into the world of espi-

Speaking about taking up the character of Honey and the USP of the series, Samantha Ruth Prabhu shared, "It's not gimmicky and full of high-tech gadgets and technology. The world that is created is so real. The characters are genuinely relatable-ordinary people placed in extraordinary circumstances. That drew me in immediately, I also believe it was a brilliant move to set the show in the nineties. Everything about this world feels authentic. By choosing the 90s as the backdrop, there's a greater dependence on human capabilities rather than on gadgets. It's more

FUN

Across 1 Damage

5 Wedding day

promises

candy

bird

8 Soft creamy

9 Outermost tip

of a spar

10 Largest living

12 Earthy colour

14 Healthy diet

necessity

wear

19 Beauty pageant

13 Angler's basket

about human wit and hand-to-hand combat, resulting in a very raw experience.

She went on to add, "When you think of a spy film, hightech gadgets and fancy technology often come to mind, but those elements can overshadow emotions and character arcs. This approach makes it more exciting for an actor. I think this is a very original way of doing things, completely different from the norm. It was an original idea, and I truly believe it was the best decision for the show."

Produced by D2R Films and Amazon MGM Studios, Citadel: Honey Bunny is directed by Raj & DK.

CROSSWORD

5 Sixth sign of the

6 Like most seaside

Winsor's novel,

cottages (7-6)

zodiac

7 Kathleen

"Forever

11 Swelling reducer

8 Hoodwink

16 Barrel part

17 Noted sci-fi

18 Man, for one

author

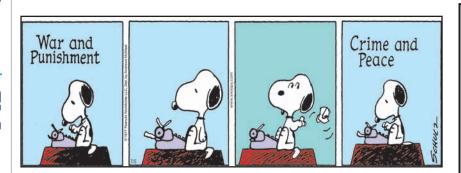
20 Extension

23 Mal de

15 Marker



PEANUTS



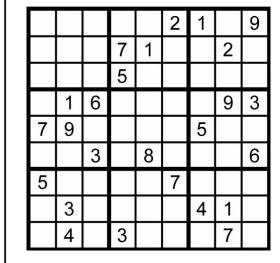
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



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

CROSSWORD

7 9 3 1 3 8 8 2 4

SUDOKU

MUFFINJUMPY UNITED

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Copyright @2024 PuzzleJunction.c

21 They can be

maybe

22 South China

23 Photo finish

25 "Romeo and

<u>Down</u>

24 Quartz variety

2 Egadi Islands

locale

3 Word of

4 Beat

support

Juliet" setting

Sea nation

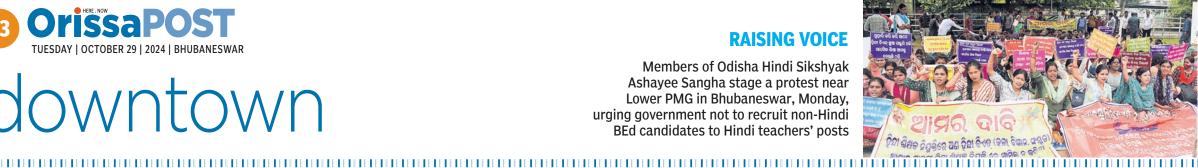
flying ones,



downtown

RAISING VOICE

Members of Odisha Hindi Sikshyak Ashayee Sangha stage a protest near Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Monday, urging government not to recruit non-Hindi BEd candidates to Hindi teachers' posts



Registration must for migration: Singh Deo

THE DEPUTY CM HOLDS FIRST MEET OF TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION

HIGHLIGHTS

andatory incensing of

mobile app to maintain data

labour contractors

of migrant workers

Dlans afoot to develop a

pecial health card to be

issued to migrant workers

dress the problem, the task force

has been formed on behalf of

the government and a strategy is

being prepared," Singh Deo said.

said, labour contractors would

henceforth be licensed. "They

should be checked from time to

time. Action will be taken against

to develop a mobile app to main-

tain data of the migrant work-

ers. Also, a special health card

will be issued for them, Singh Deo

The government has planned

illegal contractors," he said.

As part of the strategy, he



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Persons traveling to foreign states or countries must first register themselves so that the government can provide timely help in case of any problem in future, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo said Monday.

Speaking at the first and inaugural meeting of the highlevel task force, which was set up by the state government October 14 to recommend measures to address the issue of distress migration in the state, Singh Deo said the problem of labour displacement will be reduced to some extent by providing people with permanent means of livelihood, or employment, and removing middlemen and agents.

"They (middlemen) lure the labourers by promising high income. But then they (labourers) are left to work day and night without proper payment. To ad-

He was joined by Deputy CM Pravati Parida, who is also a member of the task force.

It is worth noting that around 8.38 lakh people had returned to Odisha post Covid-19 pandemic. In 2024, about 1036 people have been given labour license while 96 times inspection process has been held.

Panchayat survey has been carried out in 29 villages of 20 blocks in four districts - Balangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada-during the period. "In order to prevent this problem, there is a need to increase the wages of the workers and provide them with these wages at the right time," Singh Deo said.

To prevent illegal traffic under the ISMW Act, 1979, tracking and where necessary, the joint efforts of the Red Police and the administration should be done, the DY CM said.

A toll-free number '180034567003' has been provided by the state government. "This can be solved by creating awareness and creating sustainable employment opportunities in rural areas and using government approved services such as banks, UPI," Singh Deo added.

Other members of the task force Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Chief Secretary Development Commissioner, and secretaries from relevant de-



AGROUND: A boat ferried on a trolley rickshaw to a workshop for repairs, at Jobra Road in Cuttack Monday

TRAFFICKING OF **WOMEN & CHILDREN**

Time to tighten laws: Parida

to eradicate child trafficking.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida has stressed the need for strengthening laws related to child protection and controlling digital behaviour of children.

Speaking as the chief guest at the state-level 'Stakeholder Consultation on Eliminating Child Trafficking' at the State Institute of Women and Child here Monday. Parida said child trafficking is a sensitive issue, and the state government is giving priority to all aspects of child and women trafficking.

"It is high time to tighten the laws related to child protection and to strengthen laws to control the digital behavior of chil-

dren," she said. The Deputy CM said in view of the current situation, a proactive approach is needed to deal with the child protection issues. She also suggested an awareness program and a helpline number for quick action to deal with the problem of trafficking. She also called for support from

all stakeholders to join the move-

ment to work in a mission mode

Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development department Subha Sarma said, "We all must work together in partnership to prevent heinous crimes like child

and women trafficking." She

also said that the department

will make all possible efforts to

prevent child trafficking. William Hanlon Jr, UNICEF state chief, also joined the program and appreciated the Odisha government's commitment to

combat child trafficking. The program, hosted by the de partment of Women and Child Development, Odisha, in collaboration with UNICEF, was attended by officials of various concerned departments, chairmen

of various district child welfare committees, district child protection officers, project coordinator of child helpline number and the members of prominent nongovernment organizations of the state working on child protection.

Officers from the Kharagpur railway protection force (RPF) and state police also took part in the discussion.

On this occasion, a detailed discussion was held on the causes and prevention of child trafficking while giving stress on the 4P - prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership - approach.

Monisha Banerjee, Director, WCD delivered the welcome address while Sambit Kumar Navak. Additional Secretary, WCD, proposed the vote of thanks.

Body of RSP worker found

ROURKELA: The body of an employee of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) with its head severed was found near the railway tracks on the plant premises, under mysterious circumstances Monday The deceased was identified as Basudev Pradhan, 51, who worked at heavy maintenance engineering department of RSP. On being informed, RSP, CISE and other officials reached the spot and shifted the body to Ispat General Hospital (IGH). It is learnt that Pradhan was under stress owing his inability to pay back some loans. Zone I SDPO Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra said, "The body will be handed over to family members

after post-mortem." A probe is on.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar. Oct 28: The

Shree Jagannath Temple

Administration (SJTA) in Puri

will take up the matter with the

Indian authorities of

International Society for Krishna

Consciousness (ISKCON) over

its plan to hold an "untimely

Rath Yatra" in the US, Law

Minister Prithiviraj

Harichandan said

He said several

socio-cultural or-

ganisations met

him and ex-

pressed concern

over the plan of

ISKCON's Houston

unit to conduct Lord Jagannath's 'Snana

Yatra' (bathing festival)

and Rath Yatra (chariot festival)

in November, deviating from the

normal practice at the temple in

Puri where it is held a few months

back at a stipulated time period.

of the Srimandir are of the opin-

ion that all rituals of the Lord

across the world should be observed following religious prac-

tices held at Srikhetra in Puri,

The Puri Jagannath temple falls

under the jurisdiction of the state

government's Law department. "The Shree Jagannath Temple

Administration will hold talks

the law minister said.

Many people including priests

Monday.

Scheme soon to protect, manage temples & mutts

AGENCIES

UNTIMELY RATH YATRA IN USA

SJTA to hold talks with

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The state government will soon launch a scheme for the conservation, reconstruction and management of temples and mutts of cultural significance.

According to Law Minister Pritihiviraj Harichandan, the detailed blueprint of the scheme, 'Debalay Yojana', is being formulated.

'The temples, mutts and institutions of cultural importance having issues of conservation and management will be addressed under the yojana. Our government is committed to preserve, conserve and protect shrines and mutts which have rich cultural heritage," he said Monday.

Harichandan said the proposed scheme will also address issues pertaining to the functioning of religious institutions in-

cluding their security across the state. Referring to the previous BJD government's Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme, the minister said the new scheme will address several issues and will not be limited only to temple repairs.

Govt effects major **OAS** reshuffle

ISKCON authorities with the ISKCON and I hope a positive result will emerge,

> According to the website of ISKCON's Houston unit, the 'Snana Yatra' and 'Rath Yatra' will be held November 3 and 9, Sunday and Saturday, respectively.

Harichandan said.

According to the practice in Puri, 'Snana Yatra' is conducted on the full moon in the month

> Similarly, Rath Yatra or chariot festival is observed on the

of 'Jyeshtha', usually

second day of the bright fortnight of the 'Ashadha' month, which falls in June or July The ISKCON Houston

unit website said, "This re-enactment of the famous Rath Yatra parade, also celebrated as the Festival of Chariots, is rooted in ancient India's bhakti (devotional) tradition. It has been observed annually for more than 3,000 years in the holy city of Puri in Odisha, India, making it the world's longest-running street festival."

When contacted, the ISKCON Temple in Bhubaneswar said it has nothing to comment on the matter. "We have absolutely no idea," a senior priest of the ISKCON temple here said.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The state government Monday effected a major reshuffle in OAS cadre by transferring 11 officers.

As per a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances department, Sailendra Kumar Jena, presently posted as Joint Secretary in Sports & Youth Services department, has been transferred and posted as Joint Secretary in Mission Shakti department. Similarly, the Joint Secretary in Health & FW department Mamata Barik has been moved as Joint Secretary to Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), Bhubaneswar.

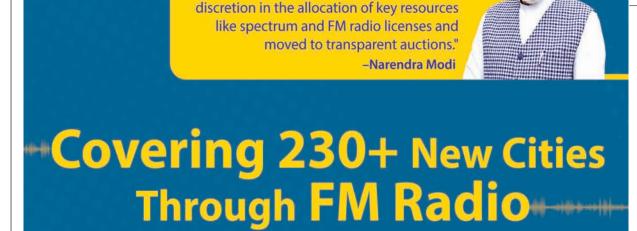
Joint Secretary to Mission Shakti department Binod Kumar Jena has been transferred as Joint Secretary to Tourism dept and given additional charge as Joint Secretary in Odia Language Literature & Culture dept.

Similarly, Puri Sub Collector Gopinath Kuanr has been transferred and posted as Joint Secretary to Women & Child Development department. Suraj Kumar Pattnaik, former Sub Collector, Subarnapur UoT has been posted as Additional EO, Zilla Parishad, Bargarh, Owing to this, the posting of Suraj Kumar Pattnaik as Deputy Secretary to Sports & Youth Services department has been cancelled, said the notification.

Hemasagar Bhoi, former Sub-Collector, Kuchinda, Sambalpur will now join in the GA & PG department as PA, ITDA, Kuchinda, Sambalpur. Likewise, Surendra Meher, BDO, Sohela, has been transferred and posted as Additional Sub-Collector, Subarnapur.

Manoranjan Sahu, GM (Social Projects), Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Collector, Bhubaneswar. Manorama Jali, Additional Sub-Collector, Jajpur has been transferred and posted as

Deputy Director, SIRD, Bhubaneswar. Raj Kishore Jena, Dy Commissioner, BMC has been transferred and posted as Sub-Collector, Puri, Sunil Kumar Meher, tehsildar of Bolangir, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Collector, Patnagarh, Bolangir.



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6 engineers, officials booked within 4 months of Govt: CM

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi terms the Vigilance department's action as a trailer and says the movie is yet to come

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: In the first 140 days of my government, at least six chief engineers, a ioint commissioner of the excise department and other senior officials were booked under corruption charges, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said while addressing officials after inaugurating the Vigilance Awareness Week.

The chief minister said that the vigilance department, for the first time, has taken action against six chief engineer rank officers, and they have been sent to jail for indulging in corruption and creating a hefty amount of assets disproportionate to the known sources of their income.

The vigilance has seized 233 plots located in Bhubaneswar. and several districts, 32 buildings and flats located in Bhubaneswar and other places, 6 kg of gold ornaments, bank deposits of ₹10 crore, and ₹21 lakh in cash from the six chief engineers, he pointed out.

"All their assets belong to the

CLASSIFIED

I, Shri Bisikesan Behera, C/o- Kanhu Behera, Village- Jogindrapur, PS-

Manamunda, Dist-Boudh

on dt.04.09.2024 from Palsagora to Manamunda

missed my land Patta,

Damamunda. If who can

I, Pritiranjan Ojha, S/o

Premananda Ojha, At/PO

- Mahisara, Dist. - Jajpur,

lost my bag containing

original Registered Sale

19.4.1982 along with other

necessary documents on

2.10.2024. Kindly contact

my mobile No. 9437850432

Deed No. 1503/Dated

my way to Jaraka on

if anybody found.

AFFIDAVIT

Sector - 2, Nalco

I, Dinabandhu Bhakto,

S/o - Danardan Bhakto,

Township, Damanjodi,

Koraput, PIN: 763008,

22.10.2024 that now

as DINABANDHU BHAKTA, S/o

all future purpose.

Odisha, declare by this

Affidavit No. 5673 dated:

onwards I shall be known

DANARDAN BHAKTA for

Basantilata Rout's date of

birth wrongly mentioned

01.11.1967. But her actual

date of birth is 04.01.1967

as per Aadhaar Card. By

corrected her date of birth

this Affidavit to be

04.01.1967 instead of

01.11.1967.

Resident of Qtr. No. B 611,

PS/PO - Damanjodi, Dist.:

getting above patta, Please

Khata No.-74, Mouza-

return me.



public because many low-quality infrastructures were constructed during the previous government's tenure," Majhi said, hitting out at his opponent BJD.

"This is a trailer and the movie is yet to come. None will be spared. Our government is committed to zero tolerance towards corruption," Majhi said.

The chief minister also said that his government is taking many steps to strengthen Odisha's vigilance by increasing technology, infrastructure and human resources.

He informed us that eight new

additional SP posts and 24 new DSP posts will be created in the vigilance department.

Further, 16 sub-inspectors will also be engaged in vigilance to assist in investigations.

To enhance the mobility support of the vigilance team, 135 new motorcycles, and 150 new desktops/laptops will be provided. A state forensic science laboratory will be established within the directorate, Majhi announced.

Speaking at the event, Vigilance Director Yeshwant Kumar Jethwa said they have registered 88 corruption cases in the last four months against 123 people, including 24 class-1 officers and 12 class-2 officers.

While reacting to Majhi's statement, BJD spokesperson Tumbanath Panda said former chief minister Naveen Patnaik had strengthened the vigilance department and it was appreciated by the union home ministry. Patnaik had created a robust infrastructure, which the present BJP government can use to curb corruption, he said.

'Flood situation post cyclone improved in north Odisha' "The situation is now better While discussing a perma-

AGAINST CORRUPTION: Information and Public Relations department officials take oath during Vigilance Awareness Week in Bhubaneswar, Monday OP PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday said the flood situation in north Odisha in the aftermath of cyclone Dana has improved, and assistance will be provided to the affected people following an assessment of the damage.

Majhi undertook an aerial survey of the affected areas for the second consecutive day Monday.

"I assessed the situation of cyclone and flood damages in the districts of Kendrapara, Balasore, Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj.

recognising the achievements

of students emerging from

Industrial Training Institutes

The event, inspired by the

Prime Minister's vision to hon-

our skilled talent, highlighted

the critical role of skill devel-

opment in India's growth and

celebrates the success of Odisha's

voung workforce on both na-

tional and international plat-

forms. The event was graced by

Skill Development & Technical

Education Minister Sampad

The top achievers--Tulasi Das

of Special ITI for PwD-Computer

Operator and Programming

Assistant, Anasuya Parida, Govt

ITI Puri-Welder, Jikiria Khan,

Govt ITI Puri-Electrician, Rakesh

Behera, Govt ITI Puri-Welder

and Chandan Pradhan,

Government ITI, Phulbani

Chandra Swain.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

than before. The damage will be assessed as soon as possible and assistance will be provided to the affected people," he said. During the survey onboard a

special helicopter, Majhi observed the cyclone's landfall point at Habelikhati shore in Kendrapara district. The chief minister also viewed the dense mangrove forest at

Habelikhati area, which stood as a major deterrent against the high-velocity winds that hit the region during the landfall Friday, officials said

The severe cyclone hit the coast at Habelikhati with a speed of 120 kmph.

Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh held

nent solution against cyclones, fected areas. Maihi, during a review meeting held at Chandipur in Balasore, said, "In the coming days, the government will stress on the mas-

effectively counter high-speed winds during cyclones. $Expressing \ gratitude \ to \ MLAs$ and MPs for their coordination in cyclone and flood management, he said the state government was committed to provide assistance to people, and efforts were underway to restore elec-

sive plantation of mangrove for-

est along the coast in order to

tricity in inundated areas. Majhi and his team also rehabilitation measures in the af-

He had directed officials to prepare a damage report by November 2 for submission to the

Earlier, Odisha's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) and Wildlife Susant Nanda, in a social media post, said: "The place where cyclone Dana made landfall - ecotour camps of Habelikhati. Situated inside Bhitarkanika National Park with mangroves all around is safe. The forests reduced the wind speed and stopped the tidal ingress. All the more reason to protect mangroves for our fu-

viewed the restoration and re-

Jumbo herd destroys standing paddy crops \neq

POST NEWS NETWORK

ture safety."

Barang, Oct 28: Elephants late Sunday night went on a rampage and destroyed several acres of standing paddy crops near Sai Temple of Raghunathpur village here.

According to reports, several farmers of the village, including Chandan Rout, Bibhutibhusan Jena, Bhaskar Jena, Bata Nayak and Jalandhar Navak, had cultivated Kharif paddy in more than 15 acres of land. Varieties like Kala Champa, Swarna and 1018 were about to_ bloom when the herd of 10 elephants straved into the farmlands

and destroyed the paddy. The farmers stated that they have incurred loans for paddy cultivation and now the wrath of the jumbos has come as a major blow to them. They said some of the farmers were having a close watch on the jumbo herd till 10pm Sunday. However, the elephant herd came out of Chandaka forest and went on a rampage to destroy paddy crops in more than three acres of land after

crop damage from the elephants.

TPSODL launches month-long Vigilance Awareness campaign



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 28: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) is observing Vigilance Awareness Month from October 28 to November 27, with a strong commitment to uphold integrity, transparency, and accountability throughout the organisation.

The month-long campaign began Monday with the Vigilance Pledge ceremony held across all TPSODL offices where employees collectively committed to uphold ethical practices and contribute to a transparent environment.

The inauguration of the month's activities took place at TPSODL's corporate office, where CEO Amit Kumar Garg addressed the assembled employees. He stated, "Our shared commitment to ethical practices builds a foundation for a prosperous nation. Every action taken with integrity brings us closer to the vision of a corruption-free workplace and society. We should all be committed to adopting a culture of honesty, vigilance, and social responsibility."

As part of the initiative, coordinated by vigilance and security head Dalvir Singh Bairwal, TPSODL has organised a series of programmes to engage employees and the broader community in meaningful dialogue about ethics and anti-corruption practices. A walkathon in Berhampur will see TPSODL employees take to the streets to promote the message of zero tolerance for corruption.

In rural areas, TPSODL is set to host special sensitisation programmes at the Gram Panchayat level, targeting local communities and governance bodies. These sessions aim to educate citizens on identifying and combating corrupt practices, promoting the value of integrity and transparency in day-to-day interactions. To reach youth audiences, TPSODL will conduct lectures in schools and colleges, highlighting the role of young people in shaping a future free

from corruption.



Mechanic Motor Vehicle-- were felicitated by Minister Swain.

Speaking on the occasion, Swain said, "We are proud of our Skilled-In-Odisha youth who through their hard work, determination and skills are bringing laurels to not only the state but also at the National and International level. Our government, under the leadership of chief minister, is committed to strengthen the skilling ecosys tem in the state. We shall work to improve the quality of skilling by making it locally relevant, industry driven, and focus on employability. This aligns with Odisha's Vision of Viksit Coisha@2036, echoing the larger national aspiration of Viksit

Bharat@ 2047. This year, over 19 lakh ITI students across India participated in All-India Trade Test (AJTT)

conducted by the National Council for Vocational Education & Training (NCVET). In the event Odisha saw re-

markable participation with 80,072 students taking the exam, out of which 71,702 successfully passed, showcasing an impressive success rate of approximately 90 per cent. Among the achievers, five outstanding students, including two from the Sudakshya programme, topped their respective trades. The event highlighted the in-

valuable contributions of various institutions, principals, and faculty members who have propelled students toward national excellence. Institutions like Govt ITI Balasore, Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, and Takatpur were acknowledged for producing toppers across nine, eight, and five trades, respectively.

they returned home, they added. The farmers are in distress as their year's efforts have gone in vain and there is further threat of

Prolonged standing can raise risk of stroke **WORLD STROKE DAY**

By Virtue an Affidavit No. The number of people 4963 dated 10.07.2024. I JC -755385P, Subedar, worldwide having a new Madhabananda Rout stroke rose to 11.9 million having PPO No. in 2021 -- up by 70% since S/54344/2014 (ARMY), At/PO: Andhia, Via: 1990. Stroke-related deaths Bonth, PS: Bhadrak(R), rose to 7.3 million -- up by Dist: Bhadrak, Odisha, 44% since 1990 Pin: 756114. In my service record my wife eople whose occupations

require them to stand for long hours, like retail workers, hairdressers, or factory employees, are more susceptible to suffering strokes, according to experts Monday, ahead of World Stroke Day

World Stroke Day is celebrated annually October 29 to raise awareness about the condition

to prevent and treat it fast. The number of people worldwide having a new stroke rose to 11.9 million in 2021 - up by 70 per cent since 1990. Stroke-related deaths rose to 7.3 million -- up by 44 per cent since 1990.

While stroke is now the third leading cause of death worldwide (after ischaemic heart disease and Covid-19), the condition is highly preventable and treatable. "Standing for extended periods can increase the risk of blood pooling in the legs, which slows circulation. This lack of efficient blood flow may lead to the formation of clots, raising the risk of stroke, particularly if these clots travel to the brain,' Raghvendra Ramdasi, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Jaslok Hospital,



Mumbai, told IANS. Ramdasi noted that over time, poor circulation can also contribute to hypertension -- another stroke risk factor.

Prolonged standing at work has been shown to be associated with a number of potentially serious health outcomes, such as lower back and leg pain, cardiovascular problems, fatigue, discomfort, and pregnancy related health outcomes. Recent studies have been conducted exam-

Standing for extended periods can increase the risk of blood pooling in the legs, which slows circulation. This lack of efficient blood flow may lead to the formation of clots. raising the risk of stroke

RAGHVENDRA RAMDASI I CONSULTANT NEUROSURGEON, JASLOK HOSPITAL, MUMBAI

ining the relationship between these health outcomes and the amount of time spent standing

while on the job. A recent study from Australia involving over 83,000 participants found that prolonged sitting or standing was linked to a higher risk of problems such as varicose veins and feeling

dizzy or lightheaded. The study called for regular movements. It noted that standing for extended periods can cause blood to pool in the legs, which slows circulation and raises the possibility of blood clots.

"An ischemic stroke could result from these clots dislodging and moving to the brain if there is a hole in the heart, where they would stop blood flow," Vikram Huded, HOD and Director and Clinical Lead - Interventional Neurology at Narayana Group

The experts recommended people with existing heart disease, hypertension, or a family history of stroke be particularly careful and take frequent breaks

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OrissaPOST

Newborn girl rescued from bag near pond



Keonjhar: A newborn girl packed in a bag was found dumped near a pond at Khireitangiri village under this block in Keonjhar district, Monday. On being informed Turumunga police reached the spot and rescued the seven to 10-day old baby girl from the embankment of the pond behind a school at Dhanabeni Sahi in the village. Police handed over the newborn to the District Child Welfare Committee. Later, the infant was admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Keonjhar. The matter came to the fore when a woman identified as Gurubari Munda had gone near the pond to attend nature's call and heard the baby crying. She rescued her from the bag and brought her back home. Another woman named Dalimba Munda nursed her and informed the police. It is suspected that someone might have placed the baby inside the bag, zipped it up and left it there, Turumunga IIC Dharmendra Shanti said

Police detain 2 BJD leaders for 'derogatory' posts against MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Oct 28: Two Biju Janata Dal (BJD) youth leaders in Jajpur district have been detained after they allegedly uploaded derogatory posts on social media about Dharmasala's independent legislator Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo, police said Monday.

Dharmasala police have detained BJD youth leaders Subrat Kumar Dhal and Manas Mohanty, they said.

According to the complaint filed by Biswajit Swain, a BJP activist of Deulipal village with Dharmasala police station. Subrat Kumar Dhal and Manas Mohanty have been posting defamatory videos, articles, audio-visual items against Sahoo on social media platforms.

"The posted articles, videos and audio-visual items have absolutely no resemblance with truth and reality. Moreover, these items are defamatory and abusive in nature and intended to tarnish the image of the Dharmasala MLA," the complaint stated.

Based on the complaint, police picked up Dhal and Mohanty and detained them in the police station Sunday night

When the news of detention of Dhal and Mohanty spread, former Dharmasala legislator Pranab Balabantaray along with his supporters reached the police station Sunday and demanded the reason for their detention.

Balabantaray alleged that the police are taking a partisan attitude and harassing BJD Jajpur Additional SP

Anirudha Routray reached the

spot and held talks with the former legislator and BJD leaders. Dharmasala police station Inspector-in-Charge Tapan Kumar Nayak said police have

detained the two youths in con-

nection with a written com-

Maha tigress released into STR enclosure

The tigress was captured in Maharashtra Saturday morning and brought to Similipal Sunday afternoon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Oct 28: A tigress brought from Maharashtra was safely released into an enclosure in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district Monday morning, an official statement said.

The tigress, named Jamuna. was brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra.

'The tigress was safely released into a soft enclosure of around two hectares in the core area of Similipal at 9.25am. The tigress is active and healthy," STR Field Director Prakash Chand Gogineni said in the statement.

The two-and-a-half-year-old tigress was captured in TATR Saturday morning and brought to Similipal Sunday afternoon after a nearly 36-hour journey covering over 1.000km.

Forest officials said the en-



closure has been created in the core area within the Similipal South Division where the wild animal will be kept in observation for at least one to two weeks before its release into the wild

The translocation of the tigress was done with the permission of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Two felines, including this tigress, from TATR will be re-

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers /

Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors / Total Dues

1) (For Cash Credit & Term Loan) Borrower: Mrs. Aryakanya

Maharana, W/o.: Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana

Guarantors: 1) Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana, S/o.:

Mr. Prafulla Kumar Maharana, 2) Mr. Prafulla Kumar

Maharana, S/o.: Late Krushna Chandra Maharana, All are At

Thoriasahi, Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001, 2) (For Housing Loan)

Borrower: Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana, S/o.: Mr.

Borrower: Late Lalit Kumar Mohanty, Legal Heirs of Late

Lalit Kumar Mohanty are: 1) Kalpana Mohanty (Mother)

Sumitra Mohanty (Wife) / Co-Borrowers: 1) Mr. Satyaji

Mohanty, 2) Mr. Sujit Mohanty, All are At: Panasuapada.

P.S.: Patkura, Tahasil: Garadpur, Kendrapara, PIN-754153

Total Dues: ₹22,23,497.20 + interest, costs and expenses,

Mohanty, North: Road, South: Plot No.: 324 & another Share Holder

KENDRAPARA BRANCH, PH.: 9668584167

ess any part amount repaid.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा

Amount are mentioned below:

GOPALPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9007488999 /

weeks before its release into the wild. Forest officials said

The tigress

will be kept in

observation

for at least

one to two

leased into STR, officials said. This was Odisha's second attempt to translocate tigers. In 2018, the state government had made a tiger translocation attempt at Satkosia Tiger Reserve.

which no longer has tigers. A tiger named Mahavir and a tigress named Sundari were brought from Kanha National Park and Bandhavgarh National Park, respectively in Madhya Pradesh, and released in Satkosia.

Description of the Properties

G+1 RCC Residential Building situated over Plot No

Khata No.: 37 D1. Plot Area: Ac.0.016 Dec. i.e. 697

Soft., Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Uni

No.: 22 Mirkamalpatna, P.S.: Mangalabagh, Tahasil

SRO: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the

name of Mr. Prafulla Kumar Maharana, Bounded by

North: Ghasisahi Lane, South: Road, East: Mahade

G+1 Residential Building situated over Khata No.: 108/

42, Plot No.: 325/423, Area: Ac.0.027 Dec. & Plo

No.: 324/422, Area: Ac.0.087 Dec., Mouza

Panasuapada, P.S.: Patkura, Thana No.: 130, Tahasil

Garadpur, Tahasil No.: 99, Dist.: Kendrapara, Odisha

Standing in the name of Late Lalit Kumar Mohanty

Mr. Satyajit Mohanty, Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Bounded

by East: Gopabandhu Beura, West: Jyotshna

Maharana (Plot No.: 1352), West: Road

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev

Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

Prafulla Kumar Maharana / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Aryakanya Maharana, W/o.: Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana

Guarantor: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Maharana, S/o.: Late Krushna Chandra Maharana, All are At: Thoriasahi, Buxibazar

Cuttack-753001 / Total Dues: ₹26,32,806.58 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstructio of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

falling into a trap laid by poachers, the tigress was sent back to its original habitat after it allegedly killed two persons dur-

ing its 30-month stay in Odisha. With the arrival of the tigress in Similipal, the tiger population in the state has increased to 31, of which 28 are in STR. The STR, spread across 2,750 sq km, is the country's only wild habitat for melanis-

tic royal Bengal tigers. In-breeding among the closed population has emerged as a looming threat to the striped predators in the protected area. Therefore, the STR authority has decided to bring tigresses from Maharashtra to improve the gene pool of tigers inside the reserve, the officials added.

One more tigress from a tiger reserve in Maharashtra will be brought to STR soon as part of the translocation project, offi-

Reserve Price / EMD / Bid

ncrement Amoun

₹46,17,000/-

excluding GST

tatutory dues

₹4,61,700/-

₹ 50,000/-

₹30,29,000/-

(excluding GST

statutory dues

₹3,02,900/-

₹ 50,000/-

& other

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE

14-ft-long crocodile rescued



Kendrapara, Oct 28: Forest personnel from the Kanika Forest Range have rescued a 14.2-footlong male estuarine crocodile from a prawn ghery in Khunta village, located in the Rajkanika block of this coastal district.

According to Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Rainagar Mangrove (Forest) and Wildlife Division, the team, experienced in rescuing estuarine crocodiles. captured the reptile with the help of fishing nets and later released it into the Bhitarkanika river within the national park

Sukanta Kumar Biswal, a resident of Khunta, spotted the giant crocodile Saturday in his prawn ghery. He informed the Bhitarkanika National Park authorities, who promptly deployed a forest rescue team to the site. After an eight-hour-long operation, the team successfully secured the crocodile.

Crocodiles typically stray from their natural habitat into nearby rivers and water bodies during high tide, when salinity levels rise due to the influx of tidal water into the creeks and

During the severe cyclonic storm 'Dana', high tides caused tidal water to enter water bodies in Bhitarkanika National Park, which is home to 1,811 estuarine crocodiles. It is believed that the rescued crocodile might have strayed from its natural habitat, said DFO Yaday.

A few days earlier, during the cyclone, Forest personnel also rescued a cobra that had entered Alekha Ashram in Gupti.

The Bhitarkanika National Park authorities have alerted locals to avoid rivers and rivulets. as estuarine crocodiles may have entered these waters

Tender No. 40-KUR-TRD-OT-2024-25

ENGINES (24 NOS.) OF 17NOS, TOWER

WAGONS IN KHURDA ROAD (KUR)

DIVISION FOR THREE YEARS.

PR-671/P/24-25

35-yr-old gets 20 yrs in jail for raping teen

Baripada, Oct 28: A 35-year-old man was sentenced to 20 years in jail by a court in

Mayurbhanj district for raping a teenage girl. The fast-track court of Special Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak sentenced the convict to jail and also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on him, Special Public Prosecutor Manoranjan Pattnaik said.

The court directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay a compensation of ₹50,000 to the victim, he said.

On the night of July 8, 2017, the convict and another man forcibly took the 15-yearold girl to a nearby forest while she was sleep ing with her grandmother and gangraped her, according to the prosecution



The girl was rescued by villagers, and the police were informed, following which a case was registered at the Bisoi police station. One of the accused was arrested, while the other remained absconding.

The arrested accused was convicted on the basis of the statements of the victim, 18 witnesses and the medical report.

आईआरर्डएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 22.11.2024 with prior The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the

No.MM-213

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://ebkray.in/eauction-psb/home Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 29.10.2024

REGIONAL STRESSED ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, CUTTACK Plot No.: CM-2B, 1st Floor, Sector-7, Near Markat Nagar Police Station, CDA, Cuttack-753014, Odisha, India, Tel.: 0671-2361377, Mob.: 7077727133

Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.11.2024 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.

with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.

Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 25.11.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.

appointment of the authorised officer

Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement

of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date.

E-AUCTION **SALE NOTICE**

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

E-mail: sarcut@bankofbaroda.com SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX - IV - A [See Proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]" E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, POSSESSION of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts.

The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/ e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase

S		Give short description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Outstanding Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	Borrower: M/s. Nibedita Store, Prop.: Nalini Kanta Swain, At: Janujang, Golai, Balasore-756019 / Guarantors: 1) Mrs Shashiprava Swain, At/PO./P.S.: Sahadevkhunta, Balasore-756001,	1) Land bearing Khata No.: 588/332, Plot No.: 1330/1861, Area: Ac.0.25 Dec, Mouza: Ganipur, Remuna, in the name of Nalini Kanta Swain, S/o.: Niranjan Swain.	charges as applicable)	14.11.2024 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	(1) ₹17,28,000/- / ₹1,72,800/- / ₹10,000/-	(1) Physical	08.11.2024 (within working hours 10.00 AM
25	2) Mr. Pitambhar Ranjit, 3) Mr. Gangadhar Ranjit, 4) Mr. Jaladhar Ranjit, All residing At: Pundal, PO.: Kanshnilagiri, Balasore-756020	2) Land & Building bearing Khata No.: 476/167, Plot No.: 492/1590, Area: Ac.0.060 Dec, at Mouza: Sahadevkhunta, in the name of Mrs. Shashi Prava Swain, W/o.: Niranjan Swain			(2) ₹39,46,000/- / ₹3,94,600/- / ₹10,000/-	(2) **Symbolic	to 04.00PM)
2	Borrower: M/s. Sahara Roadways, Prop.: Mr. Amit Kumar Mishra, At: Near I.T.I., At: Station Road, Barbil, Keonjhar-758035 / Guarantor: Mr. Dilip Mishra, At: Plot No.: 52, Sundara Unit-12, Barbil Station Road, Dist.: Keonjhar-758035	No.: 130/33, Plot No.: 52, Village: Sundara, Station Road, P.S.: Barbil, Area:	+ (unapplied	14.11.2024 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	₹91,80,000/- / ₹9,18,000/- / ₹50,000/-	**Symbolic	(within working hours 10.00 AM to 04.00PM)
3	Borrower: M/s. Sakuntala & Sons, Prop.: Malay Ketan Das, S/o.: Biranchi Narayan Das, At/PO.: Kuligaon, P.S.: Khantapada, Balasore / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Pitambar Ranjit, S/o.: Mr. Lambodar Ranjit, At: Pundal, PO.: Kansanilgiri, Balasore, 2) Mr. Ratikanta Bandha, S/o.: Mr. Budhiram Bandha, At: Baghaia, PO.: Aruha, Via: Basudeypur, Dist.: Bhadrak, 3) Mr. Basudeypur, Dist.: Bhadrak, 3) Mr.	2738, Area: Ac.0.46 Dec.	+ (unapplied	14.11.2024 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	1) ₹3,91,000/- / ₹39,100/- / ₹10,000/-	(1) Physical	08.11.2024 (within working
		2) Equitable mortgage of Land situated over Khata No.: 227, Plot No.: 1303, Area: Ac.0.39 Dec, Mouza: Ganipur, Dist.: Balasore, in the name of Mr. Muktikanta Mohapatra			₹1,44,400/- /	(2) ho Physical 10.0	hours 10.00 AM
	Muktikanta Mohapatra, At: Kansanilgiri, Balasore	3) Equitable mortgage of Land situated over Khata No.: 40/49/50/109, Plot No.: 156/153/161/154, Area: Ac.1.69 yurbhanja, in the name of Mr. Pitambar Ranjit				(3) Physical	

Property is in symbolic possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his/own risk & response

Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession Bank will handover the possession of property symbolically only and successful auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm and https://ebkray.in . Also, prospective bidders may

contact the Authorized Officer on Tel No.: 0671-2361377, Mob.: 7077727133 Also Please Note: The Authorized Officer/Bank has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/

cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and without assigning any reason including calling upon the next highest bidder to perform in case the earlier bidder fails to All statutory dues/arrears of property tax, electricity dues, other dues if any including registration charges,

stamp duty, taxes etc shall have to be borne by the purchaser. Authorised Officer shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, etc. or any other dues to the Government, Local Authority or anybody, in respect of the properties under sale. Bank does not undertake any responsibility to procure any permission/NOC/license in respect of property under sale.

Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD: 14.11.2024 latest by 5.00 P.M.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/ MORTGAGORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(5), 8(6) AND 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002

Place: Cuttack Date: 28.10.2024 Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

Scan here for

more details

Monkeys attack, injure 15 people POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliapal, Oct 28: The residents of Raghunathpur panchayat under Singla police limits in Balasore district are living in fear of monkey attacks with a sudden uptick in such incidents. In the latest instance, more than 15 people were seriously injured after being attacked by monkeys. They are currently undergoing treatment in various hospitals.

For the past few days, more than 50 monkeys have been entering the village, attacking residents frequently. As a result people are too scared to even step out of their houses.

Monkeys have spread panic in Sanaasti, Kunkudi, Mathakunkudi and Palasahi villages under the Raghunathpur panchayat area. Things have come to such a pass that people are unable to go out for work and children are afraid to leave for school.

While venturing out for essential tasks, villagers arm themselves with sticks and move in groups. According to villagers, there are some aggressive monkeys within the troop, who are biting people relentlessly. Some villagers, seriously injured, are receiving treatment in major hospitals in Balasore, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar

After being notified by the villagers, a Forest department team has arrived and is making efforts to capture the monkeys. However, the villagers have demanded that the monkeys be promptly controlled and relocated.



Government of Odisha,

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Chilika Wildlife Division, Balugaon, Email: dfo.chilikawl@odisha.gov.in Bid Identification No. 03/2024-25

1. Divisional Forest Officer, Chilika Wildlife Division, Balugaon, on behalf of Governor of Odisha invite percentage rate bids in Single Cover in offline mode for the Construction works as detailed in the table, from the class of eligible contractor as mentioned in column - 6 below registered with State Government / Central Government / MES / Railways having valid license from competent authority for execution of works as detailed below

SI. No.	Name of the work	Approximate value of work (in Rs.)	Concerned Tender Inviting Authority	Cost of bid document through D.D (in Rs.)(Non- refundable)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	Construction of Forest Guard quarter (1st Floor) at Mukteswar Section office in Tangi WL Range under Chilika Wildlife Division	14,52,000/-	DFO, Chilika Wildlife Division Balugaon	6,000/-	"D" & "C"	03 (Three calendar months)	

and other necessary documents can be available in the office of the DFO. Chilika Wildlife Division, Balugaon

4. Bid documents will be available in O/o the DFO, Chilika WL Division, Balugaon from 29.10.2024 to 21.11.2024 upto 3.00 P.M. for offline bidding and it will be opened on the same day i.e 21.11.2024 at 4 P.M.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer OIPR-08015/11/0004/2425 **Chilika Wildlife Division**



The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our

SRI AUROBINDO



Lessons From Japan

oters in Japan have spoken and delivered the loud and clear message to the ruling coalition that they cannot be taken for a ride with gimmicks or the political trick of changing a discredited Prime Minister. Just as voters in India recently did not allow the ruling party to win a simple majority, their Japanese counterparts have punished the ruling coalition in an unprecedented manner as it has lost its majority, throwing the country into political instability not

The final tally shows that Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito have managed to win only 215 seats, down from 279 and well short of the 233 needed to form a government. It is the worst result for the LDP - which has ruled Japan for 65 of the past 69 years.

The defeat of the LDP alliance is being attributed primarily to a corruption scandal involving money siphoned off from party fund-raising events. That apart the people were seething with rage for the failure of the government to address bread and butter issues. The blow has been so severe that the chastened-looking Ishiba admitted in a television address that it was a "very tough" election for the party.

Of the 46 candidates against whom the allegations of corruption were directed only 18 have been able to retain their seats. Some of them were denied party tickets and they won as independents.

The result shows the depth of public distrust in the LDP as a result of the slush fund scandal. Some of the biggest names in the ruling coalition failed to win seats, including Komeito's leader Keiichi Ishii. Interestingly, such strong reaction against graft is rarely, if ever, seen

The Opposition party that has gained the most from the collapse in LDP support is the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP), which has won far more seats than it expected - 148 seats, up from 98 in the last election. The stranglehold of the ruling coalition in Japanese politics has been such that Opposition leader Yoshihiko Noda said, after the poll results, that it was a major achievement that they could reach their goal of preventing "the ruling coalition from getting a majority."

However, despite the Opposition parties' collective success in winning enough seats to form a majority, a grand coalition among them appears to be unlikely as they have diametrically opposing views on key matters from fiscal and defence policy to the use of nuclear energy.

With its 191 seats, the LDP remains the single largest party and could still cobble together a government by adding a third coalition partner. At the moment Ishiba is keeping his cards close to his chest. But, he is likely to first approach the centrist Democratic Party for the People for support and then the conservative Japan Innovation Party. The two parties have won 28 and 38 seats, respectively. Though both parties previously ruled out a formal coalition with the LDP, the post-poll scenario may make them revisit their position. Of course, such a fragile government will make Ishiba vulnerable to a leadership challenge from within his own party. It is likely to come from Sanae Takaichi, the preferred choice from the ultra-conservative faction of the LDP whom Ishiba, a moderate, defeated in last month's leadership election. Ishiba appeared to have decent approval ratings after that victory and called the snap election hoping to capitalise on party support. But, his popularity came under a question mark after he made a U-turn on a number of policies that resonated with the voters - support for same-sex marriage and the right for married individuals to choose to keep different surnames – after entering office.

The great message emanating from Japan to democracies around the globe is that it is the people and not politicians and their propaganda machinery that have the last word in the formation of a government.

WISDOM CORNER



SODEN KIEDKEGAADD

People are basically the same the world over. Everybody wants the same things - to be happy, to be healthy, to be at least reasonably prosperous, and to be secure. They want friends, peace of mind, good family relationships, and hope that tomorrow is going to be even better than today.



JOSEPH CAMPBELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1863:** Red Cross founded. Also known as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Red Cross is a humanitarian institution that has been a three-time recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1923: The Republic of Turkey was established, largely through the efforts of Kemal Atatürk, who is considered the country's founder and served as its first president.
- **1929:** Collapse of U.S. stock market prices. Just five days after nearly 13 million shares of U.S. stock were sold in one day in 1929, an additional 16 million shares were sold this day, called "Black Tuesday," further fueling the crisis known as the Great Depression.
- 1956: Israel's army attacked Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula in a fight for control of the Suez Canal area.

Say no to counter fitting

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

Sunday night was over. The warden was thinking of

remodeling his kitchen and in fact had



done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the

But, alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I'd really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place".

FOCUS JUDICIARY

THE HAND OF GOD



THIS NOW BECOMES A CURIOUS CASE OF GOD HAVING DECIDED ON A CASE INVOLVING THE HOUSE OF GOD

he 1,045-page judgement that paved the way for the construction of a grand Ram temple at a place where the Babri masjid was demolished by VHP and BJP-led protesters stands as a political-legal milestone in the history of India. It came on 9 Nov., 2019, with an unprecedented, unsigned, unexplained "addenda." and was delivered by a five-judge bench comprising the then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi (who retired later that month), Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and Abdul Nazeer. Never before was a more complicated case before the courts with material going back several centuries, spanning land disputes, issues of faith, archaeological artefacts, and a violent and illegal demolition of the Babri masjid that tore apart the secular fabric of independent India. The judgement itself highlighted the significance of the matter in these words: "This Court is tasked with the resolution of a dispute whose origins are as old as the idea of India itself. The events associated with the dispute have spanned the Mughal empire, colonial rule and the

present constitutional regime.' It is this vexed case that the current CJI DY Chandrachud has reminisced about at a meeting in Khed, Maharashtra, bringing up once again the complexities of the matter but speaking this time about how he turned to God for a solution in the case. Justice Chandrachud was quoted by PTI as having said, "Very often we have cases (to adjudicate) but we don't arrive at a solution. Something similar happened during the Ayodhya (Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid) dispute which was in front of me for three months. I sat before the deity and told

him he needs to find a solution.' This is an extremely loaded statement. The CJI, known to be



It is not insignificant that CJI Chandrachud turned to God for a solution rather than ask for resolve, strength or wisdom to enable him navigate the complexities of the case

scholarly in matters of law and as highly-regarded as he has been, would surely have known that such a remark would lead to many questions and open up new controversies on the judgement itself, and how the fivejudge bench arrived at a consensus if at least one of them was admittedly listening to authority beyond the Constitution of India. It is not insignificant that Justice Chandrachud turned to God for a solution rather than ask for resolve, strength or wisdom to enable him navigate the complexities of the case. Thus, the final tome that came from the bench can be now seen as the authorship of God, the position made clear and attested by none other than the CJI. This now becomes a curious case of God having decided on a case involving the House of God, and many questions immediately arise.

A paper in the Fordham Law Review puts the position of a judge in such a case rather succinctly. Titled 'Jurisprudence and Theology', the paper by Prof. Edward B. Foley notes: "The duties of judges must be limited to identifying the law, as promulgated by the authoritative legislative bodies. Judges are specialists, trained in this skill. They should not confuse themselves with priests, who are also specialists, trained in the very different skill of identifying

and interpreting God's will. It would be presumed that Justice Chandrachud, a practising Hindu, would look up to a Hindu God for a solution in a case that was won hands down by the Hindu side. How would the matter look if this was a Muslim judge praying at a mosque and asking his God to write the judgement in the matter? And how would history look at this judgement which can now be seen as taking the form of a judicial robbing of a religious edict emanating from a source that is not the constitution? Further, how does this stand against the oath of office, which states that the CJI would "uphold the Constitution and the laws" of the land rather than the voice of an authority that he may see as higher. And how does it hold against the document titled "Restatement of values of judicial life" which was adopted by a full court meeting of the Supreme Court on 7 May, 1997. The first item on that document states: "Justice must not merely be done but it must also be seen to be done. The behaviour and conduct of members of the higher judiciary must reaffirm the people's faith

in the impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, any act of a Judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, whether in official or personal capacity, which erodes the credibility of this perception has to be avoided.'

Apart from doing disservice to the sanctity of the judiciary and the rule of law, and poorly serving his fellow judges who were on the bench in the Ayodhya matter, the remarks also pull the CJI into avoidable controversies of the kind that he appears to have attracted in recent times. The Ganesh aarti at the CJI's home, with the Prime Minister leading the prayers, duly publicised on social media, with the CJI and his wife standing by, have already raised questions.

The conduct of the CJI has thus invited some questions from even his admirers, and given rise to a new conversation on the motives for this distinctly religious bent being brought out openly in public debate, given that the CJI recently visited the Ram temple at Ayodhya among other comments and many other temple visits that have been covered in the media. This is not good news for the legal system and the two sides in the Ayodhya judgement -the winning side must live with the prospects of a judgement being attacked as more flawed than it was thought to be earlier, while all those disappointed with the original judgement can convince themselves and forcefully now argue that justice was not done. That means that a matter considered settled, however imperfectly, is now unsettled. And that cannot be a happy ending of the case or the remarkable career of the 50th CJI, who retires on 10 Nov., 2024.

> The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. The BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Making biodiversity credits work



Almir Narayamoga

Suruí & Simon Zadek **BY PUTTING A 'PRICE ON NATURE,' SUCH CREDITS MAY ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO TAKE MORE CARE** NOT TO **UNDERMINE**

BIODIVERSITY

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

on nature: we are part of and local communities understand this and act as responsible stewards of their natural environment. If we are to succeed at mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as halting and reversing biodiversity loss, passing a vibrant and healthy planet on to future generations, we must learn from – and support – these guardians of nature.

Conservation relies on a complex set of factors, including education and awareness, enforcement of rights and laws, effective policymaking, and finance. But it is finance - specifically, how to close the \$700 billion annual biodiversity-financing gap by 2030 that is a central focus of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, taking place

this week in Cali, Colombia. Among the innovative financing mechanisms that have been attracting attention as a potential solution are biodiversity credits. While such credits come in many different forms, all are essentially a market mechanism for rewarding those who channel finance into nature conservation and restoration. At their core, they provide those that invest in nature with robust "credit" of their positive impact according to land conserved or restored

Tumans do not just depend that can be used to demonstrate compliance with relevant laws, imit. Indigenous peoples prove nature's productivity, or enhance good reputations.

If used effectively, biodiver credits can channel financing toward nature's stewards, improving their material conditions and reinforcing the legitimacy of their critical role in environmental stewardship. Moreover, by putting a "price on nature," such credits may encourage businesses to take more care not to undermine biodiversity.

But there is no guarantee that biodiversity credits will meet their potential. After all, while other public-interest markets can and should work, they often do not. Consider voluntary carbon markets, which look great on paper but have sometimes failed to live up to their promise - highlighting the dangers as well as the potential of market-based solutions. If markets for biodiversity credits are to be more successful, they must be better designed, implemented robustly, and governed effectively. Indigenous peoples, who know nature's true value, must be central to this process - not merely consulted on it.

This recognition drove the creation of the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits last year. Comprising roughly two dozen environmental, policy, and business and

servation practitioners, local community activists, and indigenous leaders (including the authors), the panel was tasked with designing a framework for biodiversity-credit markets that could credibly deliver benefits for nature, climate, and people. To this end, we have spent over a year consulting with hundreds of interested parties, studying third-party research, carrying out research of our own, and analysing ongoing biodiversitycredit pilot programmes.

finance experts, as well as con-

We make five recommendations, all supported by real-life use cases and practical guidance.

First, unlike carbon markets. there should be no globally traded biodiversity offsets. The scheme would limit claims to those entities that have actu-

ally invested in nature. Second, biodiversity markets should not be mainly voluntary, as carbon markets are. Instead, government policy - at the national, regional, local, and municipal levels - should support the rapid scale-up of demand and its effective use. Measures could be compliance-based, involve tax incentives, or be tied to financing and supply-chain conditions.

Third, biodiversity credits should be bought and sold only where there is clear evidence that local people's rights have

been respected. Fourth, price floors need to be established, to ensure that, even at their minimum level, biodiversity credits provide nature's stewards sufficient financing. Lastly, equitable access to markets must be assured; the adoption of more radical approaches to transparency concerning where and how money is invested and returned, together with investment in building up the capacity of nature's stewards to negotiate the value of nature's capital can help here.

Any and all new mechanisms for financing nature conservation and restoration, including biodiversity credits, must be introduced with caution. This means learning from past mistakes and embedding inclusivity and effective governance in their design. But it does not mean going slow: on the contrary, we must act now - before the land loses its ability to produce, the rivers dry up, and the available financial resources are no longer sufficient to repair the damage caused.

Almir Narayamoga Suruí is Leader of the Paiter Suruí people from the Brazilian Amazon. Simon Zadek is Co-CEO of NatureFinance.

Shared interests

Sir, Singapore is considered India's "gateway" to the east. Both nations have mutually beneficial cultural exchanges, while defence, sea and space, commerce and infrastructure, too, are areas of bilateral interest. It was no surprise, therefore, that the sixth India-Singapore defence ministerial dialogue at New Delhi decided to stepup defence cooperation in niche domains like automation and artificial intelligence. Regional peace and stability are shared interests of the two countries, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Singapore counterpart Ng Eng Hen underscored the aspect while driving home the importance of shared bilateral defence relations. Since armed forces of India and Singapore engage frequently for mutual benefit, a fiveyear extended agreement on Joint Military

Training--Army is a decisive step. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Conflict between laws

Sir, It is the general principle that constitutional law is supreme. In case of conflict between constitutional law and personal law, it is the writ of constitutional laws that must run large over personal laws. The Supreme Court has upheld that child marriage is impermissible in any and every religion. In this, the Court has given a stern message that religious laws should not come in the way of constitutional laws. Much in contrast to this ruling, a division bench of Justices BP Colabawalla and Somasekhar Sundaresan of the Bombay High Court has given a ruling that a Muslim man can register more than one marriage as their personal laws permit multiple marriages. Accordingly, the HC has reportedly directed the deputy marriage registration office of the Thane Municipal Corporation to decide the application filed by a Muslim in February 2023 seeking to register his third marriage with a woman from Algeria. In fact the authorities concerned had rejected the plea of the couple on the ground that it is the third marriage of the man which is in violation of the Maharashtra Regulation of Marriage Bureaus and Registration of Marriage Act. Considering the case Krishna Singh vs. Mathura Ahir of 1980(5) where the apex court had held that "personal laws could not be challenged for being in contravention of the provisions of Fundamental Rights enshrined under the Indian Constitution," the Bombay HC has not erred. KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE





'VERY POOR' AIR QUALITY

Smog chokes Delhi

cyclist group) cycle daily here, but

this situation of air pollution

since the last few days we are facing a lot of problems.'

He added, "We can't breathe

properly, we get tired faster due

to the pollution. We take pre-

cautions like wearing a bandana but nothing is working because

the pollution is increasing a lot."

Pradesh) was recorded to be in

the 'poor' category Monday

morning with several areas see-

ing AQI between 250 and 299.

Some areas in the Gurugram

(Haryana) witnessed 'poor' air

quality while some were in the

An AQI between 0-50 is con-

sidered good, 51-100 is satisfac-

tory, 101-200 is moderate, 201-300

is poor, 301-400 is very poor, and

401-500 is severe. The air pollu-

tion levels in Delhi-NCR are

likely to rise in the coming days

with stubble burning and fire-

crackers being major contribu-

tors. The absence of favourable

Vehicular emission, farm fires big contributors

Sunday, accounting for approximately 10.7 per cent, according to the

Vehicular emission was the biggest contributor to Delhi's pollution

Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management. It is

Delhi's pollution over the next two days, with an estimated share of

contributors to Delhi's pollution include farm fires. Data shows that

Sunday, a total of 138 farm fires were recorded in Punjab, 13 in Haryana,

Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. The Delhi government Monday

and 27 in Uttar Pradesh. Between September 15, 2024, and October 27, 2024, a total of 1,995, 713, 892, and four farm fires were recorded in

announced plans to deploy 10,000 civil defence volunteers, who were

government implement pollution mitigation measures. The volunteers

will be deployed alongside teams from the Municipal Corporation of

Department, Chief Minister Atishi said. Delhi registered a maximum

temperature of 34.4 degrees Celsius Monday, 3.4 degrees above normal,

according to the weather department. The temperature was between 30

RAJASTHAN UNDER HEAT SPELL

terminated from service last year as bus marshals, to help the

Delhi, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, and the Transport

and 31 degrees Celsius around the same period last year.

approximately 14 per cent. Apart from transport, other prominent

predicted that vehicular emissions will remain the top contributor to

'very poor' category.

The air quality in Noida (Uttar



National capital has been grappling with air pollution for the past few days and a thick blanket of smog is visible ahead of Diwali

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 28: The air quality in Delhi-NCR continued to be in the 'very poor' category as a layer of smog engulfed the region in the morning hours.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the average air quality index was recorded at 328 in the national capital. While other cities in the Delhi-NCR region also recorded high pollution levels -- Faridabad at 206, Gurugram at 195, Ghaziabad at 252, Greater Noida at 248 and Noida at 267.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) had improved to the 'poor' category Saturday due to some wind flowing across the belt. However, it again slipped to the 'very poor level Sunday and continued to remain so Monday morning.

Various areas in the national capital city recorded 'very poor air quality, as per the National Air Quality Index. The worst areas included Anand Vihar with an AQI of 357, Ashok Vihar with 361, Wazirpur with 362, Jahangirpuri with 366 and Najafgarh with 325

The IGI Airport (T3) recorded an AQI of 316.

The city has been covered by a layer of smog, which is most prominent early in the morning. In conversation with news agency ANI, Himanshu who is visiting Delhi, said the rising pollution feels "suffocating".

A cyclist told the news agency,

WESTERLY WIND TO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

above normal.

BLAME AS TEMP RISES

ALL ACROSS THE STATE

Jaipur, Oct 28: Cities across

Rajasthan continue to experience hotter days, logging maxi-

mum temperature from 35 to

40.5 degree Celsius – 2 to 7 degrees

Sunday was recorded in Barmer

at 40.5 degrees Celsius, while

Bikaner sweltered at 40 degrees.

The highest temperature

Citizens demand government to take action as cases of respiratory illnesses have risen during this period

wind conditions is also contributing to the rising levels.

According to the CPCB, the AQI reached hazardous levels Sunday morning touching 400 in areas such as Anand Vihar, Mundka, and Bawana. According to the CPCB data, Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 355 Sunday at 4 pm.

On October 22, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) ordered the implementation of Stage 2 emergency measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to curb the city's air pollution.

Under this phase of GRAP, additional efforts focus on tackling dust pollution and limiting emissions from diesel generators, a move aimed at curbing further deterioration. Authorities deploy mechanical and vacuum road sweepers, conduct water sprinkling operations on key roads, and intensify inspections at construction sites to enforce strict dust control measures.

The Delhi government has also banned the use and sale of firecrackers till January 1. The government has also adopted measures such as spraying water on roads, frequent cleanings of public spaces etc to reduce particulate matter in the air.

A Delhi Jal Board worker sprays defoaming chemical in the Yamuna river to reduce the toxic foam, ahead of Chhath Puja in New Delhi **Diwali rush: DMRC** to add 60 trips to

ease congestion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Delhi Metro will introduce additional 60 trips Tuesday and Wednesday in a bid to enhance commuter convenience and ease congestion in view of festive season.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has urged people to commute using public transport to avoid traffic and pollution. The DMRC said, "Delhi Metro is adding 60 extra trips on Tuesday and Wednesday to ensure smoother and more convenient travel for all commuters.'

According to officials, there are around 4,000 daily trips of metro. "Whether you're heading to festive markets, visiting friends and family, or simply exploring the city, avoid traffic and pollution by choosing the metro. Let's make this festive season hasslefree and sustainable with every ride," it added



A MeT department spokesper-

Usually after mid-October, the

son said that the reason behind

this heat is the westerly wind.

wind direction in Rajasthan be-

comes north-westerly, due to

which mild cold starts in

Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana,

At present, the wind in the

western parts of Rajasthan is

coming from Pakistan,

Maximum temperature was

recorded above normal in Aimer.

Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner

and above normal in Kota and

Balochistan, which is hot.

Udaipur Sunday.

and Delhi.

Mission on to end child marriage

After new SC guidelines, civil society organisations meet to eradicate child marriage before 2030

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 28: Armed with the latest Supreme Court guidelines on child marriage, civil society organisations Monday gathered in Jaipur and hoped to end the practice by 2030 while also extending full support to the state government in this endeavour.

NGO partners from the Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRCA) -Association for Voluntary Action and Gayatri Seva Sansthan - along with Child Marriage Free India addressed media in Jaipur Monday to strategise on effectively eradicating child marriage in the backdrop of the Supreme Court guidelines.

She said that they will further intensify their work on the ground such as working with village authorities, spreading awareness among the masses and roping in faith leaders of different religions to eliminate child marriages.

The alliance supports the 'Child Marriage Free India' campaign, whose partners plaved a significant role as petitioners in the case that resulted in the apex court's guidelines to eliminate child marriage. The campaign, supported by JRCA, has already been working on the ground on the PICKET strategy which is echoed in the SC guidelines.

The PICKET strategy, espoused by the CMFI Founder Bhuwan Ribhu, stands for Policy, Institution, Collaboration or Convergence, Knowledge, Ecosystem, and Technology and it is with the implementation of this holistic approach that in the past year in which over 120,000 child marriages were prevented across the country.

Expressing gratitude over the Supreme Court judgment, Rajeev Bharadwaj, Convenor, Child Marriage Free India, said "We



child pornography material as a crime Child marriage, entwined in the social fabric for centuries, needs a multipronged further bolsters our resolve

to end child marriage RAIFEV BHARADWAJ I CONVENOR, CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

have been committed to the rights of children in our country. As JRCA members, we will extend our complete support to the state government to ensure that no child in Rajasthan is forced into marriage and every child is ed-

ucated and protected.' Echoing similar thoughts, Manish Sharma, Senior Director, Association for Voluntary Action, said that child marriage is child rape, and its elimination requires a united effort from all stakeholders, from Panchavats to Police.

"The Supreme Court's order reinforces what we have been following on the ground already. We stand with the government in every effort to end this heinous crime against children and we will collectively reach the tipping point to end child marriage, maybe even before 2030," he said.

Hearing a petition filed by Child Marriage Free India (CMFI) coalition partners, the SC passed a landmark judgment October 18 and issued guidelines that focus on mobilising village com-

munities to end child marriage. Charting a slew of guidelines that focus on empowering children about their rights, sex education, making panchayats, school authorities and Child Marriage Protection Officers accountable for any child marriage being solemnised in their vicinity, the apex court has also directed that prevention, protection and prosecution model should be used to implement the Prohibition of Child Marriage

Muslim poets recite Urdu version of Ramayana

Phalodi was recorded between 39

The Urdu Ramayan Vaachan, composed 89 years ago, has been a unique event in the Bikaner calendar for 12 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 28: Setting the syncretic way for a Diwali of goodwill and harmony, Muslim poets in Bikaner recite an Urdu version of the Ramayana to begin the countdown to the festival of lights.

The Urdu Ramayan Vaachan, composed 89 years ago, has been a unique event in the Bikaner calendar for 12 years. And so it was Sunday as well when Hindus and Muslims gathered for an Urdu rendition of the Hindu epic. Dr Ziva Ul Hasan Quadri who

was among the poets who took

part in the recitation said that the

objective of the event is to give a positive message of harmony and brotherhood.

The maximum temperature

in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Jalore,

Quadri said the couplets vividly describe scenes from Ramayan like Lord Ram's exile, victory against Ravan and his return to Ayodhya, capturing the emotions depicted in the epic which is greatly appreciated by audiences in the city.

"Paryatan Lekhak Sangh" and "Mehfil-e-Adab" jointly organise the event 'Urdu Ramayan Vaachan' every year in Bikaner since 2012.

Maulvi Badshah Hussain Rana Lakhnavi of Bikaner composed the poetic version of Ramayana in Urdu language in 1935 for a competition organised by the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on the birth anniversary of Tulsidas. It won the gold medal following which the erstwhile ruler of Bikaner, Maharaja Ganga Singh, organised a ceremony to listen to Rana Lakhnavi's version.



Things have drastically changed from the time when it was composed. Today, communal harmony is under threat. Lord Rama is revered by all and belongs to all, but today he has been limited which is dis

ZIYA UL HASAN QUADRI | POET

Tej Bahadur Sapru presented the gold medal to Rana Lakhnavi on behalf of the BHU in this programme. Quadri said he first learned about the Urdu version of the epic in 1996. In the following years, the idea to hold

the event began to take shape. The poets, who take part in the recitation in Rajasthan's Bikaner before Diwali, now want to take the practice at the national level and plan to organise the recitation programme in the

national capital next year. 'Things have drastically changed from the time when it was composed. Today, communal harmony is under threat. Lord Rama is revered by all and belongs to all, but today he has been limited which is disappointing," Quadri said.

He said that Muslim poets recite the Urdu Ramayan and the audience comprises of both

Hindus and Muslims. Quadri said that initially, the event used to be organised in the open but later the venue changed and now it is held in a hotel so that things are well arranged. He said that Maulvi Badshah Hussain Rana Lakhnavi worked for Maharaja Ganga Singh from 1913 to 1919, during which he translated orders issued by the Mughal rulers from Persian to Urdu. In 1920, he was appointed as the teacher at Dungar College by Ganga Singh.

Vasant Vihar stretch to be renamed 'Jamaica Marg'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: A stretch in south Delhi's Vasant Vihar locality will be renamed Jamaica Marg, according to a proposal passed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) during a House meeting Monday.

The stretch -- from B-9 Road at Vasant Marg (House No 7, Vasant Marg) to B-8Street (House No B-8/26), Vasant Vihar -- currently named Marcus Garvey Marg, in honour of Jamaica's first national hero and activist Marcus Mosiah Garvey, will be renamed

Jamaica Marg, it said The proposed renaming of the street is seen as a symbol of strong goodwill between the two countries and their people. It aims to strengthen their bilateral ties and forge an unbreakable bond of trust and friendship of India with the Caribbean country, it stated.



"This will also be in consideration of reciprocity regarding the renaming of Tower Street in Kingston after Dr BR Ambedkar," it added.

In a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the MCD in September, the High Commission of Jamaica proposed renaming of the road as . Jamaica Marg.

"The High Commissioner in ২ his subsequent email on September 20 itself proposed to name the said road as 'Jamaica Marg' instead of 'Marcus Garvey Marg'. The same has been conveyed by the Jamaican High-Commission to MEA also," the

proposal said.

national



With your awareness, the Maharashtra Assembly elections will liberate 'Maharashtra' from the BJP's conspiracies of sabotage and its negative politics of communalism. The BJP's negative politics is unable to understand the positive strategy and mutual adjustment of the united opposition

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

CONG TO ORGANISE 'DELHI NYAY YATRA'

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav Monday said a 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' will be organised next month on the lines of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, to interact with the people of the city and learn about their issues and problems. The march will start November 8 from Raighat and conclude December 4. ahead of the Assembly elections in Delhi





the data of the central government's IRAI, there were about 8.000 stubble cases in Punjab till this week of October 2022, and as per the latest data of today, the cases have

DILIP PANDEY | AAP MLA

Despite the ban, reports indicate that firecrackers are still being sold in various Delhi markets, with supplies entering the city from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh GOPAL RAI DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Through a lot of hard work peace and development has returned to Jammu and Kashmir but conspiracies are

being hatched to destabilise the area RAVINDER RAINA BJP PRESIDENT, J&I

SHORT **TAKES**

36 cases of diarrhoea in East Singhbhum

Jamshedpur: Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district administration Monday sent a medical team to Patamda block after 36 cases of diarrhoea were reported from a village, an official said. **Deputy Commissioner Ananya** Mittal instructed the team to rush to Sunderpur village's Kashidih Tola to provide proper treatment to the patients. A member of the team, Dr Asad, an epidemiologist, said the villagers complained of stomachache, vomiting and loose motion.

Kerala honour killing: Two get life term

Palakkad (Kerala): A Kerala court Monday sentenced two persons to life imprisonment for their involvement in the sensational honour killing of a 27-year-old man in Thenkurussi in this district nearly four years ago Additional Sessions Court 1 judge Justice Vinayaka Rao R found Prabhu Kumar and Suresh, the first and second accused, guilty of murdering the man for marrying Kumar's daughter. The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on each of the convicts. The judge ruled that both the accused should undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years in default of payment of a fine. The court also handed three years of rigorous imprisonment to the accused for offences under IPC Section 506 (criminal intimidation).

Teenage boy killed, 20 hurt as bus overturns

Chhatarpur (MP): A 13-yearold student of a Sainik School was killed and nearly 20 other persons suffered injuries when a private bus overturned after being hit by a truck in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district, police said Monday. The incident took place at Bageshwar Dham trisection, located 24 km from the district headquarters, shortly after midnight Monday, an official

Vlogger couple found dead in Parassala

Thiruvananthapuram: A vlogger couple, who had hundreds of followers on YouTube, were found dead at their house in Parassala in this district, police said Monday. The deceased were identified as Selvaraj (45), a mason by profession, and his wife Priva (37), natives of Cheruvarakonam here. According to police, the couple were found dead Sunday by their son, who is working as a trainee in an institution in Ernakulam district.

Modi, Sanchez launch **Tata-Airbus factory**

INDIA'S 1ST PRIVATE FACILITY FOR MAKING MILITARY AIRCRAFT TAKES WINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodara, Oct 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez Monday inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex in Vadodara, a facility which marks India's first private venture dedicated to the production of military aircraft, specifically the Airbus C295.

During the inauguration, Modi highlighted the strengthening partnership between India and Spain, stating this project is a vital step in the 'Make in India, Make for the World' ini-

He extended his best wishes to the teams at Airbus and Tata, while also paying tribute to the late industrialist Ratan Tata for his contributions.

The Airbus C295, designed and initially manufactured by the Spanish aerospace firm CASA, which is part of Airbus Defence and Space, is a medium tactical transport aircraft capable of performing a variety of roles, including medical evacuations, disaster response, and maritime patrol missions.

Under the C295 programme, a total of 56 aircraft are to be delivered, with 16 being supplied directly by Airbus from Spain and the remaining 40 manufactured in India by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. according to an official release.

Modi and Sanchez toured an



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exhibition set up for the launch, where Modi showcased the factory as a representation of the new work culture in India.

He pointed out that the facility, whose foundation stone was laid in October 2022, exemplifies the country's rapid progress from idea conception to execu-

The Prime Minister emphasised the government's commitment to eliminating delays in project planning and execution. recalling his experience with the establishment of the

Bombardier train coach manufacturing facility in Vadodara during his tenure as Gujarat's Chief Minister.

He expressed confidence that. similar to the success of the Bombardier facility, the Tata Aircraft Complex will also facilitate exports.

The Prime Minister noted the significant transformation within India's defence sector over the past decade, stating that without decisive actions taken ten years ago, reaching this milestone would have been unimaginable.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of job creation and skill development associated with the Tata-Airbus factory, which is expected to generate thousands of employment opportunities.

The facility will support the indigenous manufacturing of 18,000 aircraft parts, creating vast opportunities for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the nation.

India, now one of the larges suppliers of aircraft components to global manufacturers, stands to benefit significantly from the new facility, which Modi believes will foster innovation and new industries within the country

WAQF BILL PANEL

BJP, Oppn members engage in war of words

A heated exchange among ruling and **Opposition** members ensues, leading to a walkout, for a brief period, by member(s) of AAP, Congress, AIMIM, SP, DMK and TMC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Members of ruling and Opposition parties engaged in verbal clash as former judges and Waqf administrators of different states appeared before the Parliament's panel on the Waqf bill which met for the first time Monday after TMC member Kalyan Banerjee's suspension for unruly conduct.

Banerjee, who broke a glass bottle and allegedly hurled it towards the chairman during the meeting last week leading to his suspension for a day, was not present at Monday's sitting.

It was trouble from the word go, as AAP member Sanjay Singh objected to the examination of the Delhi Waqf Board administrator Ashwini Kumar, contending that the report submitted by him was not approved by the Delhi Chief Minister.

A heated exchange among ruling and Opposition members ensued, leading to a walkout, for a brief period, by Singh, Congress members Naseer Hussain and Mohammad Jawed AIMIM member Asaduddin SPmember Mohibbullah, DMK member Mohamed Abdulla and Mohammad Nadim-ul Haque of

Opposition members also



struck off their signatures from the attendance roster of the parliamentary committee before walking out, parliamentary sources said.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi shot off a letter to Jagdambika Pal, the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Waqf Amendment Bill, to consider the report of the Delhi Waqf Board as "null and void" as it was sent without the approval of the Delhi government.

As the Opposition members persisted with their objection to a presentation by the Delhi Waqf Board, the panel Chairman decided to seek the opinion of the Lok Sabha Secretary-General on the matter.

Kumar, the Delhi Waqf Board official, appeared before the committee briefly after the secretary general opined that he can submit his views before the panel. He is expected to continue his deposition Tuesday.

objected to the appearance of Justice S N Dhingra (retd) and other former judges, claiming they were not stakeholders in the matter under deliberation. As BJP members contended

The Opposition members also

that the Committee would benefit from their vast experience in the judiciary, Opposition members cited cases heard by them that had kicked off political rows.

Uttarakhand Waqf Board Chairman Shadab Shams created a flutter by suggesting that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would make the need for a separate Waqf law irrelevant.

Nitish convenes NDA meeting to ensure better coordination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 28: Aiming for a fifth consecutive term in office, Bihar's longest-serving Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Monday hosted a meeting of the ruling NDA to ensure "better coordination" in the run-up to state Assembly polls due next year.

Leaders of all five NDA partners in the state, BJP, Lok

Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas),

Hindustani Awam Morcha and Rashtriya Lok Morcha, besides the JD(U) that Kumar heads, turned up at 1, Anne Marg, the Chief Minister's official residence, on the occasion.

Emerging from the meeting that lasted for over an hour, leaders told journalists that Kumar urged the attendees to ensure that similar interactions be henceforth held regularly in all districts and Assembly constituencies.



to lead the NDA towards another victory in 2025. He has also called for exposing the Opposition Mahagathbandhan, stating that he felt cheated by that coalition, State BJP president and minister Dilip Jaiswal said.

Notably, Kumar had walked over to the Mahagathbandhan in August 2022, alleging that the BJP had tried to weaken his party with the help of the then LJP chief Chirag Paswan, now a Union minister who had staged a revolt during the assembly polls of 2020, causing the JD(U)'s tally to crash.

Kumar also played a pivotal role in bringing together, from across the country, parties opposed to the BJP, which led to the formation of the INDIA bloc but grew disillusioned and returned to the NDA in January this year.

The JD(U)-BJP combine had first achieved power in Bihar in 2005 when it had ended the decade-and-a-half rule of Lalu Prasad's RJD. NDA leaders emerging after the meeting shared the enthusiasm of the chief minister, now 73 years of age, who called upon the coalition to aim for a tally of "200 plus" in the 243-strong Assembly.

Those who attended the meeting included Rashtriya Lok Morcha president Upendra Kushwaha, a Rajya Sabha MP who quit the JD(U) last year alleging that Kumar had capitulated before the RJD, his then ally, by virtually declaring the then Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav

13 suffer eye infection post cataract surgery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dantewada, Oct 28: Thirteen persons have been admitted to a hosan eye infection following cataract surgery at a government medical facility in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, officials said Monday.

This promoted the health department to order a probe into the matter following which three healthcare personnel, including the doctor who performed the cataract surgeries at the Dantewada district hospital, were suspended Sunday.

The 13 patients from Dantewada were admitted to the Dr BR Ambedkar Memorial Hospital in state capital Raipur in the last five-

six days and they are under treatment, the medical facility's public relations officer Shubhra Thakur said. Their condition is stated to be stable as of now, she said

All the 13 persons who got the eye infection underwent cataract surgery at the Dantewada district hospital between October 18 to 22. Dantewada Collector Mayank Chaturvedi told PTI. "When onetwo cases came to light, we launched an exercise to trace the patients who underwent surgeries at the hospital in the last 15-20 days to examine the condition of their operated eyes. We covered 80 patients, and 13 of them have so far been found to be suffering from infection in their operated eye," he said.



A girl decorates a 'rangoli' with diyas ahead of the Diwali festival, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Monday

India remains dependent on import of critical minerals: Report

THE COUNTRY NEEDS A CAREFULLY CRAFTED **IMPORT STRATEGY TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL** TRADE RISKS WHILE BALANCING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS TO **SECURE THESE ESSENTIAL MINERALS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: India remains highly dependent on imports for minerals critical to accelerating its energy transition, with a full reliance on shipping in lithium, cobalt and nickel, according to a report released

The report, published by the **Institute for Energy Economics** and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), said that India's demand for critical minerals is expected to more than double by 2030, while domestic mining operations may take over a decade to start producing.

It stresses that India needs a carefully crafted import strategy to mitigate potential trade risks while balancing international relationships to secure

these essential minerals. IEEFA's report examines five

critical minerals (and their compounds) - cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium and nickel from the perspectives of import dependency, trade dynamics, domestic availability, and global price fluctuations.

The findings show that India remains largely import-dependent for these minerals and their compounds, with 100 per cent import reliance for minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel. "India should strive to de-

risk its critical minerals sourcing by identifying new international resources and expediting domestic production. A concerted effort to partner with and foster bilateral relations with mineral-rich nations should be a priority for India," said the report's co-author Charith Konda, Energy Specialist, IEEFA.



ENERGY TRANSITION

"The country can also explore investment opportunities in resource-rich, friendly nations, such as Australia and Chile, as well as African countries like Ghana and South Africa," he

The report said India depends heavily on China for synthetic graphite and natural graphite and it should explore cooperation initiatives with countries like Mozambique, Madagascar, Brazil and Tanzania which are some of the highest graphite producing countries

"As part of the Global South cooperation initiatives, these countries could be favourable partners for India for graphite trading," said the report's coauthor Kaira Rakheja, Energy Analyst, IEEFA

India is also highly importdependent for copper cathodes and nickel sulphates from just two countries - Japan and Belgium. The report suggests

EEFA's report examines five critical minerals (and their compounds) - cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium and nickel from the perspectives of import dependency, trade dynamics, domestic availability, and global price fluctuations

he findings show that India remains largely importdependent for these minerals and their compounds, with 100 per cent import reliance for minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel

India could look at the US, the fifth largest producer of copper in the world, to diversify its suppliers and enhance supply se-

For minerals like lithium oxide and nickel oxide, the dependency is low on one country, but overall imports largely come from Russia and China, both countries with potential trade

"Developing domestic lithium refining capacity will help India integrate with the global lithium

supply chain," said Rakheia. The report also notes the significant efforts that the Indian government is making to im-

prove domestic production of critical minerals with the auctions by the Ministry of Mines and the planned Critical Minerals Mission.

"The critical minerals mining block auctions can serve as an opportunity for India to focus on building refining and processing capabilities to emerge as a global value-adding hub," said Rakheja.

"Government support in the form of viability gap funding and technology development will help promote such auctions and ultimately the domestic production of critical minerals. "A stable supply of critical minerals is imperative for India to achieve its renewable energy goals," Konda said.

India has committed to achieving 500 gigawatts (GW) of nonfossil fuel-based electricity installed capacity by 2030. Currently, the country's renewable energy installed capacity stands at 201 GW, with solar en-

ergy accounting for 91 GW. According to another study, the fast-developing South Asian nation needs to install around 7,000 GW of renewable energy capacity to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

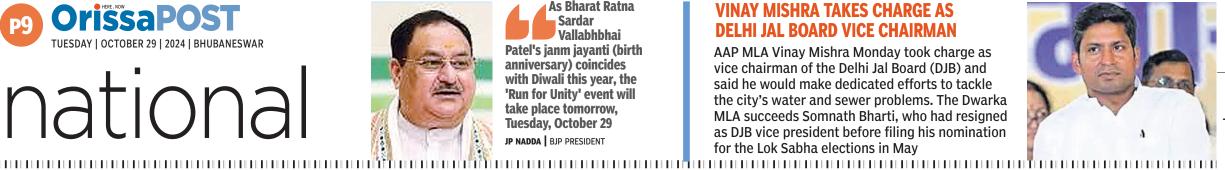
national



As Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's janm jayanti (birth anniversary) coincides with Diwali this year, the 'Run for Unity' event will take place tomorrow, **Tuesday, October 29** JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

VINAY MISHRA TAKES CHARGE AS DELHI JAL BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN

AAP MLA Vinav Mishra Mondav took charge as vice chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and said he would make dedicated efforts to tackle the city's water and sewer problems. The Dwarka MLA succeeds Somnath Bharti, who had resigned as DJB vice president before filing his nomination for the Lok Sabha elections in May





Kejriwal himself is the biggest polluter. He couldn't even clean the Yamuna which he said he would a



I explained that various construction and development works will be started in the vicinity of the capital Amaravati with USD 3 billion in the government sector and USD 4.5 billion dollars in

NARA LOKESH ANDHRA PRADESH MINISTER

While the Union Government has followed the **Direct Benefits** Transfer initiative of the Dr. Manmohan

the private sector

Singh administration (of course without acknowledging it), it has failed to coordinate with the RBI to ensure widespread banking access

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL



dead, each day, in the various police A society that wants

instant justice (e.g. Bulldozers) ends up empowering the police to do as they

(Supreme Court has mandated compulsory CCTV systems in all stations.)

SHORT **TAKES**

Hand grenade found in front of college

Imphal: A hand grenade was found at the gates of GP than 100 metres from the Raj Bhavan here, Monday morning, police said. The incident triggered panic among passersby. Police, after being informed about the presence of the grenade, cordoned off the area, an officer said. Later, a bomb disposal squad removed the grenade from the spot and disposed of it, he said. The college is located less than 100 metres from Raj Bhavan and 300 metres from the chief minister's official residence, and Manipur Police headquarters. A hand-written note, stating 'glory to the proletarian students', was left at the spot. The incident comes amid several educational institutions in Imphal Valley reporting extortion threats. Students of the college later staged an incident against the incident. They held placards and raised slogans against the incident, demanding that such acts are not repeated.

Prohibitory orders imposed in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Police has issued prohibitory orders on procession, dharnas and public meetings till November 28 in the city. **Hvderabad Police** Commissioner C V Anand, who issued the orders, said reliable information has been placed before him that several organisations/parties are trying to create disturbances affecting public peace and order in Hyderabad city, by resorting to dharnas and protests. According to a notification issued by Anand. to maintain public order. peace and tranquility in Hyderabad city, gathering of five or more persons. processions, dharnas, rallies or public meetings are not allowed.

Terrorist killed after attack on army convoy

The terrorists, believed to be three in number who infiltrated into India from across the border the night before, opened fire on the Army convoy around 6:30 am, targeting an ambulance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 28: Terrorists opened fire at an Army convoy Monday morning, targeting an ambulance, in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu region, following which special forces and NSG commandos launched an operation killing one of the attackers, officials said.

In a first, the Army also pressed its four BMP-II infantry combat vehicles for surveillance and strengthening the cordon around the attack site near the Assan temple in Jogwan village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Bhattal area of Khour, the officials said.

The Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty or BMP-II is a 1980-era Soviet Union Infantry Combat Vehicle which has 30mm fully stabilised automatic cannon, 7.62 mm Machine Gun and 4 kms range anti-tank wire-guided 'Konkurs' Missile. It can carry seven troopers and three crew members.

It is also equipped with the Night Vision Device and Smoke Grenade Launchers system and has a maximum speed of 45 Kms

■ The operation was suspended as the darkness fell and the Army illuminated the area

Officials said the operation will resume with the first light of the day Tuesday

per hour. Helicopters were also pressed into action to locate the hiding terrorists in the jungles

The officials said the terrorists, believed to be three in number who infiltrated into India from across the border the night before, opened fire on the Army convoy around 6:30 am, targeting an ambulance. Both of its occupants, including the driver, were unharmed.

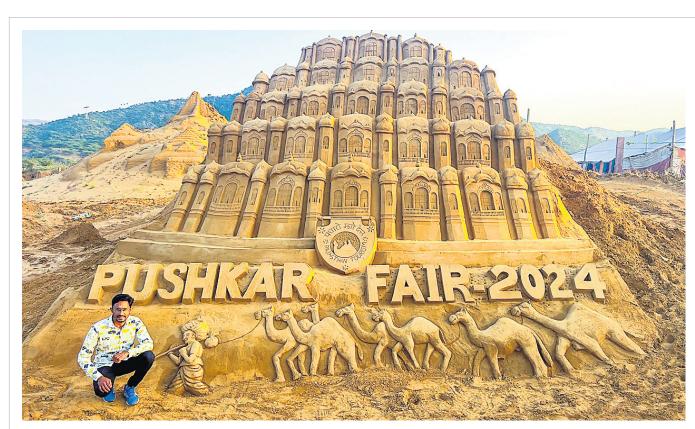
As the troops retaliated, the attackers fled towards the forest area nearby and were later located inside a basement, the officials said, adding there was an exchange of fire until 11 am when the guns fell silent.

The situation intensified around 2:45 pm again, leading to explosive sounds and heavy gunfire as the Army's special forces and National Security Guards (NSG) commandos engaged the

"The body of one terrorist along with weapon has been recovered. Operations are under progress," the Army's Jammubased White knight Corps said in an update Monday evening.

The operation was suspended as the darkness fell and the Army illuminated the area. Officials said the operation will resume with the first light of the day





Sand artist Ajay Rawat poses for photos near his sand sculpture themed on the Pushkar camel fair ahead of its start, Monday

BARAMULLA MP ENGINEER RASHID BACK IN TIHAR JAIL

Rashid has been in Tihar Jail since 2019 following his arrest by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the 2017 terror funding case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Baramulla Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, commonly known as Engineer Rashid', surrendered to Tihar authorities Monday after his interim bail expired and a court here reserved its order on his regular bail over iurisdictional concerns.

The Awami Ittehad Party leader, who was arrested in a terror funding case, was granted interim bail September 10. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh granted the in-

terim relief to Rashid to enable him to campaign for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections while deferring the order on his regular bail plea.

The judge was scheduled to pass the order on his regular bail plea Monday but he adjourned the matter. Reserving the order, the judge underscored that he would first consider the issue of jurisdiction and whether or not to transfer the case to a special court meant to try lawmakers, considering Rashid was now

"Since we are considering the

jurisdiction issue whether the matter will be heard by this court or the designated MP/MLA court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), keep it (bail order) post that," the court said.

It will now review the jurisdiction matter November 13.

Rashid, who faces charges of terror funding, arrived in New Delhi from Srinagar in the morning to fulfil his surrender.

Before entering the prison complex, the MP, who had attempted to hold a beef party in 2015, told media persons, "The solution to every problem is talks. If India wants to become 'Vishwaguru' by 2047, they need to talk. We request Pakistan too, to stop the killings and come for talks. The only way of resolving an issue is to talk.

"For the people of Kashmir, I want to say that wherever I stay, my heart will always be with them. I am ready to be sacrificed for the people of my Kashmir. We are peace-loving people," Rashid added.

BJP releases third list of 25 candidates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 28: The BJP Monday released its third list of 25 candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, giving tickets to two Congress turncoats and the personal assistant of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The BJP, so far, has announced candidates for 146 seats. Polls to the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly will take place November 20, while results will be declared November 23.

Jitesh Antapurkar, who won a bypoll in 2021 on a Congress ticket and is considered close to former chief minister Ashok Chavan, has been nominated

from Deglur. Chavan had left the Congress recently and joined the BJP, which made him a

Rajya Sabha MP. Archana Patil-Chakurkar, daughter-in-law of Congress veteran and former Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil, has been fielded from Latur City seat.

She had joined the BJP from the Congress in March this year. Sumit Wankhede, who has served as Fadnavis's personal assistant for several years, will

be the BJP's candidate from Arvi Assembly constituency. Incidentally, the BJP had given Fadnavis' former PA Abhimanyu Pawar a ticket from Ausa in 2019. Pawar had won at the time. Later,

Shreekant Bharatiya was made an MLC by the party. Borivali BJP MLA Sunil Rane has been replaced with Sanjay

Upadhyay, while MLC Praveen Datke has been fielded from Nagpur Central seat. Ashish Deshmukh, son of for-

mer Congress state president Ranjeet Deshmukh, has been given a ticket from Savner in Nagpur district.

Sitting MLA Bharti Lavekar has been repeated from Versova seat in the western part of the metropolis

Rahul's fresh attack on SEBI chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Stepping up his attack over conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chief Madhabi Buch, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Monday said the current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies but actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few.

Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, made the remarks in his post along with a video featuring him and Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera in which they talk about the alleged conflicts of interest of SEBI chief Buch.

"Institutional collapse has now given way to a more dangerous form of cronyism - Adani Bachao.



Institutional collapse has now given way to a more dangerous form of cronyism -Adani Bachao. The current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies, it's actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies, it's actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few," Gandhi said.

The Madhabi Buch scandal goes deeper than initially imagined, he said, adding that it may be that Buch, entrusted with safeguarding retail investors, has been manipulating the system to protect Adani's interests and his inflated valuations.

Those entrusted with protecting common Indians and their in-

vestments have abrogated their responsibilities and are indulging in wide scale corruption and mal-

practice, he alleged. The Congress has consistently raised these issues, is investigating these scams, and exposing the truth to the public, Gandhi said. In the video, Khera is seen explaining to Gandhi the various conflicts of interest allegations against Buch and how there were powers behind her that were at work, an apparent reference to the Adani Group.

pre-industrial levels. These are

more than just statistics. Every

Over 60 flights get fresh threats

New Delhi: More than 60 flights of Indian carriers received bomb threats Monday,

sources said. In 15 days, over 410 domestic and international flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media. The sources in the know said around 21 flights each of Air India and IndiGo, and about 20 flights of Vistara received the threats Monday. An Air India spokesperson said a number of its flights were subject to security threats received on social media Monday. "Following the laid down protocols, relevant authorities were immediately alerted, and all security procedures strictly adhered to, as per guidance from the regulatory authorities," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Bihar MP Pappu Yadav writes to Shah

Patna: Bihar MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav has shot off a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking enhanced security in view of a "threatening call from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang". The Purnea MP shared with the media his twopage letter to Shah, copies of which have been marked to the chief minister of Bihar and other top officials in the state. The letter, dated October 21, was made public Monday when a section of the media also played an audio clip of the call from a purported aide of Bishnoi "made from a Dubai number". Besides seeking upgradation of his 'Y' security cover to 'Z', Yadav also demanded "police escort" at all functions he attends across Bihar, warning "if I get murdered, the blame shall fall upon the Centre as well as the state government".

Greenhouse gas emissions surge to new record in 2023: WMO

THE GLOBALLY **AVERAGED SURFACE CONCENTRATION OF CARBON DIOXIDE REACHED 420 PARTS** PER MILLION (PPM), **METHANE 1934 PARTS PER BILLION AND NITROUS OXIDE 336.9 PARTS PER BILLION** (PPB) IN 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Greenhouse gas levels surged to a new record in 2023, rising by more than 10 per cent in just two decades, according to a new report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

In the course of 2023, large vegetation fire CO2 emissions and a possible reduction in carbon absorption by forests combined with stubbornly high fossil fuel CO2 emissions from human and industrial activities to drive the increase, according to the WMO's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin.

The globally averaged surface concentration of carbon dioxide reached 420 parts per million (ppm), methane 1934 parts per billion and nitrous oxide 336.9 parts per billion (ppb) in 2023.

monitoring stations.



"Another year. Another record. This should set alarm bells ringing among decision makers. We are clearly off track to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius and aiming for 1.5 degrees Celsius above

The 2023 increase of CO2 in the atmosphere was higher than that of 2022, although lower than that of the three years before that. The annual increase of 2.3

CO2 level has increased by 11.4 per cent (42.9 ppm) above the level of 377.1 ppm recorded in 2004 by WMO's Global **Atmosphere Watch** network of monitoring stations

In the last 20 years, the

ppm marked the 12th consecutive year with an increase greater the level of 377.1 ppm recorded in 2004 by WMO's Global monitoring stations. From 1990 cited in the WMO Bulletin.

These values are 151 per cent, 265 per cent and 125 per cent of pre-industrial (before 1750) levels, it said. These are calculated on the basis of the long-term observations within the Global Atmosphere Watch network of part per million and every fraction of a degree temperature increase has \bar{a} real impact on our lives and our planet," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

than 2 ppm. In the last 20 years, the CO2 level has increased by 11.4 per cent (42.9 ppm) above Atmosphere Watch network of to 2023, radiative forcing -- the

warming effect on our climate -- by long-lived greenhouse gases increased by 51.5 per cent, with CO2 accounting for about 81 per cent of this increase, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Annual Greenhouse Gas Index

As long as emissions continue, greenhouse gases will continue accumulating in the atmosphere leading to global temperature rise. Given the extremely long life of CO2 in the atmosphere, the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero.

The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO2 was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3 degrees Celsiuswarmer and sea level was 10-20 metres higher than now.

international



I aspire to continue the process I led a few years ago of the signing of the historic Abraham Accords, and achieve peace with more Arab countries BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

Archaeologists have discovered 12 door guardian statues during a recent excavation at the north gate of the ancient Royal Palace within Angkor Thom in Cambodia's Angkor Archaeological Park Monday

GUARDIAN STATUES

FOUND AT ANGKOR





China has given the Philippines some prominence if everybody followed the rules of the road, if they didn't do bad things, then this prominence of the Philippines would

GILBERTO TEODORO DEFENSE SECRETARY, THE PHILIPPINES

Russia is maintaining contacts with all parties to this conflict. We have contacts with Tehran and we have



DMITRY PESKOV KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA



institutional issues and state aid. In other areas, especially immigration, positions need to converge further

VIOLA AMHERD | PRESIDENT, SWITZERLAND

SHORT TAKES

PIO charged with attempted murder

London: An Indian-origin man appeared in court Monday charged with the attempted murder of a woman and two children in east London, who were stabbed and rushed to hospital last week. Kulvinder Ram, 48, appeared at Barkingside Magistrates' Court charged with three counts of attempted murder of the woman in her 30s, an eightyear-old girl and a two-year-old boy, "Three people, a woman aged in her 30s, an eight-yearold girl and a two-year-old boy. were all found suffering stab injuries. All three were taken to hospital for treatment, none of their conditions are lifethreatening," the Met Police

Pak starts new polio vaccination

Islamabad: Pakistan Monday started its third nationwide polio campaign to vaccinate 45 million children against the crippling disease as the virus was detected in the environmental samples from 16 districts. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the campaign during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's House on World Polio Day last week, the Dawn newspaper reported. He also administered polio drops to children there. The week-long vaccination campaign, which will run till November 3, aims to tackle the alarming spread of polio in the country, which has reported 41 cases this year.

4 Indians killed in car crash in Canada

Ottawa: Four Indian nationals were killed and one injured when the car they were travelling in crashed and burst into flames in Canada's Ontario province. authorities said. The accident occurred last week Thursday in the Lake Shore **Boulevard East and Cherry** Street area of Toronto city, police said in a press release The five people, between the ages of 25-32, were travelling in a Tesla when it "lost control and struck the guard rail and then a concrete pillar" before bursting into flames, the press release said. "We have gathered some evidence so far to suggest that speed was a factor," Toronto Police Duty Inspector Phillip Sinclair was quoted as saying by the Toronto Sun newspaper "Heartfelt condolences on tragic loss of Indian nationals in car accident that took place yesterday in Toronto," the official handle of the Indian Consulate in Toronto said in a post on X.

Political turmoil in Georgia

GEORGIA'S PRESIDENT URGES WEST TO BACK PROTESTS AGAINST RULING PARTY AFTER IT CLAIMS ELECTION WIN, ACCUSING IT OF **USING RUSSIAN** 'METHODOLOGY' IN **DISPUTED VOTE**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tbilisi, Oct 28: Georgia's President Monday urged the West to support Opposition protests against the official results of a weekend parliamentary election in which the governing party was declared victorious amid voting irregularities and allegations of Russian meddling.

Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili, who refused to recognise the official results. told The Associated Press in an interview that the South Caucasus nation has fallen victim to Russian pressure aimed at derailing its plans to join the European Union.

"We've seen that Russian propaganda was directly used," said Zourabichvili, a fierce critic of the governing party. She said Georgia's government has been "working hand-in-hand with Russia" and probably had help from the Russian security services.

On Sunday, Zourabichvili stood alongside Opposition leaders and urged Georgians to join a rally on the main street of the capital, Tbilisi, Monday night to protest what she called a "total falsification, a total stealing of vour votes.



We've seen that Russian propaganda was directly

SALOME ZOURABICHVILI

We aren't meddling in Georgia's internal affairs and we have no intention of meddling

DMITRY PESKOV

She told the AP that she expects the US and the EU to back the protests.

We need to have the firm support of our European partners, of our American partners,' Zourabichvili said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on the social media platform X that "the Georgian people embraced democracy yesterday" and urged Georgia's political leaders to "respect the rule of law, repeal legislation that undermines fundamental freedoms, address deficiencies in the electoral process, and move Georgia toward its Euro-Atlantic

The Kremlin has rejected the accusations of interference.

Georgian Dream wins 54% of vote, electoral commission says

Opposition parties reject results, alleging violations

EU, US call for probe into reports of violations

Kremlin denies accusations of vote interference

"We aren't meddling in Georgia's internal affairs, and we have no intention of meddling. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. He charged that it was the West that had tried to influence the outcome of the vote.

Asked about Zourabichvili's call for the Georgians to join protests, he described it as an attempt to destabilise the coun-

try.
The Central Election Commission said Sunday that the governing Georgian Dream party received 54.8 per cent of Saturday's votes with almost all ballots counted. The party, established by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia, has become increasingly authoritarian over the past year, adopting laws similar to those used by the Kremlin to crack down on freedom of speech.

The EU suspended Georgia's membership application process indefinitely because of a Russianstyle "foreign influence law" passed in June. Many Georgians viewed Saturday's vote as a pivotal referendum on the opportunity to join the EU.

The election campaign in the nation of 3.7 million people, which borders Russia, was marked by a bitter fight for votes and allegations of a smear campaign. European electoral observers said the election took place in a "divisive" environment marked by intimidation and instances of vote buying, double voting and physical vio-

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, a member of Georgian Dream, Sunday described his party's success as "impressive and obvious," and that "any attempts to talk about election manipulation are doomed to failure.'

Initial figures suggested voter turnout was the highest since Georgian Dream was first elected in 2012. The party has vowed to continue the push toward EU accession but also "reset" ties with Georgia's former imperial master, Russia, In 2008, Georgia fought and lost a brief war with Russia, which then recognized the independence of two breakaway Georgian regions and beefed up its military presence

Hungary's Victor Orbán was the first foreign leader to congratulate Georgian Dream and will be the first to visit Georgia and meet the Prime Minister during a trip to Tbilisi Monday and Tuesday.

IDF detains 100 Hamas

militants in Gaza hosp

REUTERS

Jerusalem, Oct 28: Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) captured around 100 suspected Hamas militants during a raid in Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the military said Monday.

Gaza health officials and Hamas have denied any militant presence at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed Friday and left Saturday.

"The soldiers apprehended approximately 100 terrorists from the compound, including terrorists who attempted to escape during the evacuation of civilians. Inside the hospital, they found weapons, terror funds, and intelligence documents," the military said. Gaza's health ministry said

the troops had detained dozens of male medical staffers and damaged the hospital, which had already been struggling to operate with heavy Israeli raids in the area. "A few of the fully identified terrorists disguised themselves as medical staff so we didn't have any alternative but to check the medical staff as well," a military official told journalists in an online briefing.

Footage circulated by Gaza's health ministry Saturday, which Reuters could not immediately verify - showed damage to several buildings after the Israeli forces withdrew. The military official said that troops had caused lim-

ited damage to the hospital when entering it and that soldiers also had to destroy what he described as "dual use" equipment, like oxygen tanks, which if detonated could have harmed anyone at the complex.

Egypt proposes short Gaza truce

Egypt has proposed an initial two-day ceasefire in Gaza to exchange four Israeli hostages of Hamas for some Palestinian prisoners, Egypt's President said Sunday as Israeli military strikes killed 45 Palestinians across the enclave. Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah al-Sisi made the announcement as efforts to defuse the devastating, more than yearlong war resumed in Qatar with the directors of the CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence agency taking part.

Speaking alongside Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune during a press conference in Cairo, Sisi also said that talks should resume within 10 days of implementing the temporary ceasefire in efforts to reach a permanent one.

There was no immediate comment from Israel or Hamas but a Palestinian official close to the mediation effort told Reuters: "I expect Hamas would listen to the new offers, but it remains determined that any agreement must end the war and get Israeli forces out of Gaza.'

Pannun: Indian 'spy network' operates in US and Canada

New York, Oct 28: Canada and the US must get tougher on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for trying to silence dissidents on foreign soil, a controversial Sikh separatist who was the target of an alleged India-led murder plot said in an in-

The US Justice Department has unsealed indictments against two Indian nationals in connection with an alleged plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a dual US-Canadian citizen, in New York. The two Indian accused included an ex-government official, who the indictment said worked as an intelligence officer at the time and had orchestrated the assassination plan.

Pannun told Reuters earlier this month that the Modi government should not be allowed to conduct hostile activity in foreign countries and said India's

consulates in the US and Canada were running a 'spy network", although he did not provide any proof.

The US and Canada 'need to put their foot down that regimes like Modi's...should not be allowed to come to America or Canada. challenge their sovereignty and get away with it. They need to put their foot down and close (the consulates) permanently," he said.

Pannun did not elaborate on the alleged spy network.

UK jails 2 men for importing drugs from India

London: Two men face significant prison sentences in the UK for their role in what police described as the large-scale importation and distribution of unregulated pharmaceutical drugs from India into the UK, where they were then repackaged and distributed internationally. City of London police foiled the estimated GBP 1 million racket and seized over 730 kgs of strong opioids and sedative drugs during the operation. Salman Ansari, 33, will serve a six-year sen tence after being found guilty of 12 counts of possession with intent to supply banned or

restricted Class A, B and C drugs, one count of conspiracy to supply drugs and one count of money laundering. Waqas Saleem, 33, was jailed for two and half years after being found guilty of similar charges at the end of a trial in London Friday. "Many of the drugs seized are unregulated products for the UK market, with the investigation team encountering counterfeited brands such as Xanax with flubromazolam where the pills dose and potency unknown," said Detective Constable Syed Shah, from the Serious Organised Crime Team (SOCT) at the City of London Police.



China looks to spur births, aid families

Beijing: China outlined steps Monday to improve family planning and parenting measures in an effort to boost the number of births, a statement from the state council, or cabinet, showed, after two consecutive years of a shrinking population. The birth rate hit a record low last year in China, which has a population of 1.4 billion, as fellow Asian giant India outpaced it to become the world's most populous nation. The state council called for efforts to build "a

the right age, and parents' shared responsibility for childcare. Measures on offer are better maternity insurance, materni ty leave, subsidies and medical resources for children, with the cabinet urging local governments to budget for childcare centres and levy preferential taxes and fees for such services. "Supporting childbirth at this stage is of great significance," said Yang Chang, chief policy analyst at Zhongtai Securities Research Institute, adding that Monday's announcement would serve as a template for future measures. Although China abandoned its 35-year-old one-child policy in 2015, it has struggled to get the birth rate up, particularly as the period saw rural people stream into the cities for jobs.

new marriage and childbearing culture" by spreading respect for childbearing, marriages at

NK troops in Russia's Kursk region: NATO

Brussels, Oct 28: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte confirmed Monday that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia and that military units have been deployed to its Kursk border region.

In response, Kyiv urged its allies to supply it with more weapons and allow deep strikes into Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022

"The deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea is a threat to both Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic security," Rutte told reporters after NATO officials and diplomats were briefed by a South Korean delegation.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol also sounded the alarm during telephone calls with Rutte and European Commission President Ursula von der Leven.

Yoon told von der Leyen the deployment of North Korean troops to the front lines of the Ukraine war may come sooner than expected, his office said.

He told Rutte that Seoul would continue to consult closely with NATO, and that he hoped the



Western military alliance would redouble its efforts to monitor and block "illegal exchanges" between Russia and North Korea.

IIkrainian military intelligence said Thursday that the first North Korean units had already been recorded in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been operating since staging a major incursion in August.

Rutte said the North Korean deployment represented "a significant escalation" of Pyongyang's involvement in "Russia's illegal war" in Ukraine. a breach of UN Security Council resolutions and a "dangerous expansion" of the conflict. **PARTNERSHIP TREATY**

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Svbiha said that Kviv had been warning about the deployment for weeks, yet there was no strong response from allies.

"Now NATO Secretary General confirmed this. The bottom line: listen to Ukraine. The solution: lift restrictions on our long-range strikes against Russia now," he said on X.

The Kremlin had initially dismissed reports about a North

Korean deployment as "fake

news". Last Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin did not deny that North Korean troops were in Russia and said it was Moscow's business how to implement a partnership treaty with Pyongyang.

A North Korean foreign ministry official did not confirm media reports about a troop deployment to Russia but said if Pyongyang had taken such action, he believed it would be in line with international norms.

The deployment of North Korean troops was a sign of "growing desperation" on the part of Putin, Rutte said. "Over 600,000 Russian sol-

diers have been killed or wounded in Putin's war and he is unable to sustain his assault. on Ukraine without foreign support," Rutte said. The Ukrainian president's

chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said sanctions alone would not be a sufficient response to North Korean involvement. He added that Kyiv needs

"weapons and a clear plan to involvement".

strength," Yermak said on X.

prevent North Korea's expanded "The enemy understands strength. Our allies have this

PENTAGON WARNS NK, RUSSIA

The United States will not impose new limits on Ukraine's use of American weapons if North Korea enters the fight. the Pentagon said Monday, as NATO said North Korean military units had been deployed to Russia's Kursk region.

The North Korea deployment is fanning Western concerns that the 2-1/2-year conflict in Ukraine could widen, even as attention shifts to the Middle East. It could be a sign of how Russia hopes to offset mounting battlefield losses and continue making slow, steady gains in eastern Ukraine.

"The deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea is a threat to both Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic security," NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told reporters after talks with a South Korean delegation about the North Korean deployments.

US President Joe Biden said the development was "very dan-

The Pentagon estimated 10,000 North Korean troops had been deployed to eastern Russia for training, up from an estimate of 3,000 troops last Wednesday.

Japan PM Ishiba vows to continue leading government

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tokyo, Oct 28: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba Monday said he will continue as Prime Minister to lead the government and tackle growing economic and security challenges after his ruling bloc suffered a crushing blow in the general election the day before

Ishiba, head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), described the election outcome, in which the ruling coalition. for the first time in 15 years, lost its majority in the 465-member House of Representatives, as "harsh," while stressing we cannot afford a political stalemate.

At a press conference held at LDP headquarters Monday, Ishiba dismissed the idea of changing the ruling coalition's composition for now but expressed a desire to incorporate policy ideas from the Opposition camp, Xinhua news agency re-

While the LDP's goal of retaining its majority along with its coalition partner Komeito was not achieved, Ishiba vowed to fundamentally reform the party to restore voter confidence affected by a slush fund scandal.

The main reason behind the election defeat is that "we failed to address people's suspicion, distrust and anger over the underreporting of political funds and the issue of money in politics." Ishiba said.

Following Sunday's election, the LDP and Komeito got 215 of the 465 seats in the powerful chamber of Parliament, a sharp drop from 288, marking the first time since 2009 that they have lost majority control

The LDP alone only secured 191 seats, much less than the 247 seats it held prior to the election, while the main Opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan,

surged to 148 seats from 98. The LDP's election strategy chief Shinjiro Koizumi resigned Monday to take responsibility in light of the party's dismalelection results, local media reported.

business



Biotechnology and synthetic production will not only transform agriculture but redefine India's role in global scientific advancements

JITENDRA SINGH UNION MINISTER

SWIGGY'S IPO MAY OPEN NOV 6

Food and grocery delivery major Swiggy is looking to raise ₹11,300 crore through its initial public offering (IPO) opening for public subscription November 6, sources said Monday. The shares would be available at a price band of ₹371 to ₹390 apiece. The issue would conclude November 8 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day November 5, they added.





continue to leverage our strong cash position to strengthen our pipeline with products that are



DILIP SHANGHVI CMD, SUN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES

Our order book and pipeline remain healthy and combined with the continued positive momentum within our anchor accounts, we are confident that the second half of the fiscal year will show a stronger performance compared to the first half. The longterm fundamentals of our business remain sound

WARREN HARRIS TTL CEO AND MD



our organisational capabilities and grow the business sustainably. This strategy will also help us in driving our competitiveness to enhance efficiency and profitability

HIMANSHU MODY | CFO. SUZLON GROUP

Q2 RESULTS **CORNER**

IOC net profit slumps 98%

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) Monday reported a massive 98.6 per cent drop in net profit in the September quarter, as refinery margins fell and marketing margins shrunk. The company posted a standalone net profit of ₹180.01 crore in the July September period -- the second quarter of the current 2024-25 fiscal year compared with a profit of ₹12,967.32 crore a year back, according to a stock exchange filing by the company.

PNB profit more than doubles

New Delhi: Puniab National Bank (PNB) Monday reported more than two-fold jump in its profit at ₹4,306 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024 on the back of improvement in interest income and robust recovery. The state-owned lender had earned a net profit of ₹1,756 crore in the same quarter in the previous financial year. Total income increased to ₹34.447 crore during the quarter under review against ₹29.383 crore in the same quarter last year. PNB said in a regulatory filing.

Bharti Airtel net zooms 168%

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel on Monday reported a 168 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹3,593 crore for the September quarter against ₹1,341 crore a year ago. India's second-largest telecom company clocked quarterly revenues of ₹41,473 crore, 12 per cent higher than the yearago period, aided by strong momentum in India and growth in Africa.

Indian Bank profit rises 36%

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Bank Monday reported 36 per cent increase in profit at ₹2,707 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024. The Chennai-based lender had earned a net profit of ₹1,988 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Total income increased to ₹17,770 review from ₹15,736 crore in the same period last year, Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank reported interest income of ₹15,348 crore during the crore a year ago.

FinMin report flags tepid demand India has entered cyclical growth slowdown: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The performance of the Indian economy has been satisfactory during the first half of the ongoing fiscal year but concerns remain with regard to demand conditions going forward, the finance ministry said in a report.

The outlook for the Indian economy is good, underpinned by a stable external sector, positive agricultural outlook, expected improvements in demand supported by the festival season, and the likelihood of an increase in government spending, which will boost investment activity, it said.

However, at the margin, demand conditions in the economy bear watching, the September edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs Monday said.

Urban demand appears to moderate due to softening consumer sentiments, limited footfall due to above-normal rainfall, and seasonal periods during which people tend to refrain from new purchases.

Further, risks to growth arise from escalating geopolitical conflicts, deepening geoeconomic fragmentation and elevated valuations in financial markets in some advanced economies, it said.

Their spillover effects on India could cause negative wealth effects, impacting household sen-

intentions on durable goods, it said. After two months of low inflation, consumer price inflation rose in September, primarily driven by the effects of erratic monsoon on a few vegetable supplies.

Barring a sharp rise in prices of a few vegetables, inflation appears well contained, it said.

In the medium term, it said, favourable factors, such as rejuvenated reservoir levels, healthy Kharif crop sowing brightening the agriculture output prospects, and ample food grain stocks, would help contain price pressures.

Sentiment towards India among international direct and portfolio investors is positive. it said, adding that sustaining the growth momentum is essential to turn these positive sentiments into actual direct and portfolio investments in the country.

However, foreign investors have continued selling in the Indian market, pulling out a massive ₹85,790 crore (around USD 10.2 billion) from equities this month due to Chinese stimulus measures, attractive stock valuations, and the elevated pricing of domestic equities.

October is turning into the worst-ever month in terms of foreign fund outflows. In March 2020, FPIs withdrew ₹61,973 crore from equities.

The latest outflow came after a nine-month high investment of ₹57,724 crore in September.

The report said the external sector continues to perform well, as reflected in rising capital inflows, a stable rupee and comfortable foreign exchange rethe USD 700 billion mark at the end of September 2024, making India one of the top four countries with more than USD 700

With regards to the job market, the report said the manufacturing sector continued to show rising employment, as reflected in the Annual Survey of Industries results for 2022-23.

'High-frequency indicators, such as the net payroll additions under the Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Purchasing Managers' employment sub-index and NaukriJob Speak index, highlight a rise in formal employment generation. All that said, anecdotal reports of the deployment of Artificial Intelligence displacing workers are beginning to emerge. That needs watching," it said.

Given the overall subdued inflation, barring a few food items, the real price of money may have gone up, it said, adding, "we maintain that the Indian economy will grow between 6.5 and 7.0 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Risks stem from global factors such as geopolitical conflicts, rising geo-economic fragmentation, uncertainties about the trade policies of major economies and consequent financial market reactions, it added.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 28: Japanese brokerage Nomura Monday said the Indian economy has entered a phase of 'cyclical growth slowdown' and the Reserve Bank's estimate of 7.2 per cent GDP expansion is 'overly optimistic'.

The brokerage said it sees 'rising downside risks' to its GDP growth estimates of 6.7 per cent in the ongoing FY25 and 6.8 per cent in FY26.

"We believe India's economy has entered a cyclical growth slowdown. Coincident and leading growth indicators point to a further moderation in GDP growth and the RBI's forecast of 7.2 per cent for FY25 is overly optimistic,' the brokerage said in a note.

The RBI maintained its FY25 growth estimate at 7.2 per cent earlier this month, even as some watchers have been coming out with lower numbers.

Nomura said urban consumption indicators have been softening lately, and pointed to the slump in passenger ve-

hicle sales, moderation in airline passenger traffic and FMCG companies flagging weak urban demand.

"We believe this weakness in urban demand is likely to continue," the brokerage said.

Stating that companies are scaling down their salary outlays, the brokerage said real salary and wage expenditure of listed companies has moderated 0.8 per cent in the September quarter when adjusted for inflation if one were to go by the numbers disclosed till now. The same was 1.2 per cent in the June quarter. 2.5 per cent in FY24 and 10.8 per cent in FY23, the brokerage said, adding that this likely reflects a mix of weaker nominal salary

growth and a leaner workforce. "The post-pandemic surge in pent-up demand has faded, monetary policy is tight and the RBI's macroprudential crackdown on unsecured, frothy credit is being reflected in the slowdown in personal loans and lending growth by non-banking finance companies," the brokerage said.

BIZ BUZZ

Kalyan Jewellers opens new showroom in City

Bhubaneswar: Hindi film star Shilpa Shetty inaugurated Kalyan Jewellers' new showroom at Soubhagya Nagar, here Monday, drawing a large crowd just in time for Diwali shopping. The luxurious showroom offers an extensive selection of jewellery designs in a world-class ambiance. Shetty said, "I am delighted to be here for the showroom inauguration of Kalyan Jewellers. Their commitment to the company's motto of 'Trust is everything' sets them apart in the industry." According to Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers, the showroom is part of the brand's strategic growth to elevate shopping experience. "We believe the Bhubaneswar showroom will strengthen our market presence and bring greater accessibility to our valued customers," he said Kalyan Jewellers has announced exclusive Diwali Bonanza offers, including up to 45% off on making charges for plain gold jewellery, 35% off for temple and antique jewellery, and flat 30% discounts on premium iewellery making charges. The showroom will also feature Kalvan's popular house brands like Muhurat (wedding jewellery). Ziah (diamond collections), the newly launched Lila (coloured stones) and many more.



Sensex snaps losing streak on DII push

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 28: Stock markets snapped the five-day losing streak Monday with the benchmark Sensex rebounding 602 points on buying in ICICI Bank, firm global trends and continuous buying by domestic institutional investors.

The BSE Sensex jumped 602.75 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 80,005.04. During the day, it surged 1,137.52 points or 1.43 per cent to 80,539.81. The NSE Nifty soared 158.35

points or 0.65 per cent to 24,339.15. A sharp correction in global

crude prices in international markets boosted sentiments. traders said. From the 30 Sensex pack, ICICI Bank climbed 3 per cent after

a 14.5 per cent growth in standalone profit to ₹11,746 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024. JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Hindustan

Bank of India were the other big gainers from the pack. Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the lag-

Unilever, Tata Motors and State

AROUND 350 SWISS

COMPANIES ALREADY

MORE WILL FOLLOW

OPERATE IN INDIA, AND

BSE SENSEX

OCTOBER 28, 2024



"The market exhibited a rebound after continuous selloff last week. Positive results from banks and a slump in oil prices in expectation of an ease in retaliations in the Middle East aided investor sentiment. Stability in the broad-based rally requires more evidence from earnings, which are currently in the doldrums of weak demand and margin pressure. We expect companies with a less leveraged

balance sheet and growth prospects to outperform when the market stabilizes," said Vinod Nair. Head of Research. Geoit Financial Services

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.11 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.69 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, commodities surged 1.79 per cent, realty (1.40 per cent), telecommunication (1.37 per cent), healthcare (1.36 per cent) and metal kets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher. European markets were trading in the positive territory. Global oil benchmark Brent

(1.21 per cent). In Asian mar-

crude eased 5.84 per cent to USD 71.54 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark plummeted 662.87 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 79,402.29 Friday. The Nifty tanked 218.60 points or

\$100bln trade pact: Swiss firms set sights on India

Zurich, Oct 28: Investments in India by Swiss companies such as engineering group ABB and transport firm Kuehne+Nagel are on the rise, with a \$100 billion regional trade deal expected to further open it up to businesses long geared towards

India's appeal has already reflected a broader shift among businesses in Europe eager to balance the costs of a US-China trade spat and recognition that the Chinese economy is, by comparison to India, losing steam.

But the trade and economic partnership (TEPA) signed in March with the European Free Trade Association, whose biggest member is Switzerland, is likely, when ratified, to provide an extra incentive to Swiss investment as it will slash tariffs on exports from chocolates to watches and machinery.

Under the deal, EFTA, whose other members are Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, will invest \$100 billion in India and will benefit from easier and cheaper access to the Indian market of 1.4 billion people. India expects the agreement to boost its exports of pharmaceuticals, clothing and machin-

ery.
"India is now really booming," said Morten Wierod, CEO of ABB, an electrical and industrial automation supplier expanding its Indian footprint after its orders there increased by an average of 27% per annum in the last three years.

To meet demand, ABB has been building factories, offices and showrooms in India, with eight projects completed since 2023, increasing its workforce from 6,000 to 10,000 since 2020.

Now ABB's number 5 market. India is on track to become its third biggest after the US and China in a few years, Wierod "Our investments in India are

supporting that growth, both with more local manufacturing, but with much more R&D so that you can make designs in India, for India," he said. Although India is gaining im-

portance, ABB is still committed

to China, Wierod said, a view

shared by other companies

Reuters spoke to.

No companies Reuters spoke to said they were investing in India specifically because of TEPA, which has vet to come into force, but the Swiss government and business advocates expect the deal will boost trade and investments.

The pact still requires parliamentary approval, and is expected to become effective in either late 2025 or early 2026.

Rapid growth in India has fu-

elled Swiss interest. The IMF expects the Indian economy to grow 7% this year and 6.5% in 2025, outpacing forecasts of 4.8%

and 4.5% for China. The IMF expects that trend to continue through the end of the decade.

China has long attracted more Swiss direct investment, but in 2021-2022 India took the lead, according to data from the Swiss National Bank.

"Doing business in China has become less easy as its economy there has been doing less well, and there is also the risk of large scale conflicts - economic or otherwise - with China," said Philippe Reich, chairman of the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce, who called the trade deal a "game changer".

According to Reich, around 350 Swiss companies already operate in India, and more will fol-

TEPA will reduce tariffs on 94.7% of exports to zero from an average of 22% now, giving Swiss companies an edge over counterparts in the European Union and Britain, which are still negotiating agreements with India, business minister Guy Parmelin said.

In return for EFTA-based firms investing \$100 billion over 15 years - which aims to create 1 million jobs - India has promised to provide a favourable investment climate.

What this means has not been specified in detail beyond the tariff changes, but both sides have agreed to identify investment opportunities and help

The TEPA will benefit every-

companies deal with problems.

one," Parmelin told Reuters, pointing to the reduction of tariffs and administrative burdens.

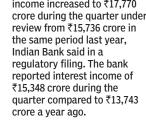
Florin Mueller, head of the Swiss Business Hub - part of the Swiss Trade Promotion Agency in Mumbai - said TEPA would put India "on the map" for Swiss companies and roll out a "red carpet for them to come and in-

Smaller firms such as Feintool are setting up there. The precision component specialist is building its first Indian factory near the western city of Pune which will employ up to 200 peo-

ple when it opens next year. The plant, which will make parts for the reclining mechanism in car seats, will meet demand from Indian and international customers for a local supplier which makes it easier and quicker to get the right com-

ponents. 'We see huge potential in India," said Feintool's India managing director Tobias Gries.

Swiss exports to India are still modest. India bought only 1.5% of total Swiss mechanical andelectrical exports in 2023, though its share grew by nearly 8%.







SHORT TAKES

IOA SGM postponed New Delhi: The revolting Executive Council (EC) members of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) have decided to postpone the Special General Meeting (SGM) they had called November 10 due to "unforeseen circumstances",

just days after a separate notice of postponement of the event on the instructions of embattled president PT Usha. The SGM was originally scheduled for October 25 but two days prior to that, both Usha and the 12 revolting EC members had issued separate

Kirsten steps down

Chirag

Chikkara be

came only the

third Indian to

become Under-

23 world cham-

pion as India

capped a rich

haul of nine

medals, includ-

ing a gold and

silver each, at the

age group tour-

nament here.

Chikkara,

competing in

freestyle 57kg

category, eked

in the closing sec-

onds of the final

U23 Championships

win over Abdymalik Karachov

of Kyrgyzstan. He becomes the

second Indian man, after Paris

Olympics bronze medallist Aman

Sehrawat, to win the gold at the

Sehrawat had achieved the

feat in the same category in the

2022 edition of the meet while

Reetika Hooda had become the

first Indian woman to bag a gold

at the tournament when she won

in the 76kg category last year.

Ravi Kumar Dahiya had also

Chikkara reached the final

after a series of dominant per-

formances, defeating Gaukoto

Ozawa 6-1 in the pre-quarterfi-

nals. Iunus Iavbatirov 12-2 in

the last eight stage and Allan

India's medal haul in the men's

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Oralbek 8-0 in the semifinals.

won a silver in the U23 World

Championships in 2018.

men's

the

circulars to postpone the meeting.

Karachi: Pakistan's white-ball coach Gary Kirsten has stepped down after reportedly developing a rift with the country's cricket board within six months of his appointment. The 56-year-old South African, who coached India to victory at the 2011 ODI World, was appointed by the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) in April end this year, "The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced Jason Gillespie will coach the Pakistan men's cricket team on next month's white-ball tour of Australia after Gary Kirsten submitted his resignation, which was accepted," the PCB posted on Twitter.

ManU fire ten Hag

missing out on qualification for the lucrative Champions League **U23 WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

India shine with 9 medals PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Tirana (Albania), Oct 28:

TEAM FINISHED FOURTH IN

FREESTYLE CATEGORIES

THE TEAM RANKINGS WITH

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

IN BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S

two bronze medals, placing the na-

tion fourth in the team standings

with 82 points, trailing Iran (158),

Japan (102), and Azerbaijan (100).

in men's freestyle taking the coun-

try's medal count in the category

to four that secured the nation a

fourth place in the team rankings.

ings with 158 points followed by

Japan (102), Azerbaijan (100) and

Vicky defeated former U20

World Championships silver

medalist and European junior

champion Ivan Prymachenko

of Ukraine with a convincing

7-2 margin to win bronze in the

men's 97kg freestyle event. It is

India (82).

Iran topped the team rank-

India also won two more bronze

ACHIEVE THIS FEAT three bronze), bettering their Anjli 59kg category, while Neha Shiksha (65kg), and Monika (68kg) each secured bronze. out a narrow 4-3

INDIA SECURED NINE MEDALS,

INCLUDING GOLD AND SILVER,

WITH STELLAR PERFORMANCES

the highest weight category at

which India have medalled at

Having narrowly missed a

final berth the other day, Sujeet

Kalkal bounced back from being

0-4 down to beat Mustafo

Akhmedov of Tajikistan 13-4

and win bronze in men's 70kg

freestyle. Sujeet had beaten

Georgi Antoanov Zhizgov 10-0

in round of 32, Tugsjargal

Erdenebat 7-4 in pre-quarters,

Narek Pohosian 6-1 before losing

to eventual gold medallist

Magomed Basihr Khaniev 4-8 in

the final seconds the semifinal.

won a bronze as India finished

with four medals (one gold and

Abhishek Dhaka had earlier

FROM REETIKA HOODA, VICKY,

AND SUJEET KALKAL

this tournament.

CHIRAG CHIKKARA CLINCHES THE UNDER-23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BECOMING THE THIRD INDIAN TO

previous year's performance where they had bagged two The Indian women's wrestling

bronze in the freestyle category. team also excelled earlier, bringing home one silver and three

claimed silver in the

Sharma (57kg),

ODISHA COLLAPSE AGAINST BARODA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Odisha suffer an embarrassing defeat in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A clash against Baroda at Vadodara's Kotambi Stadium Monday.

Trailing by 263 runs, Odisha were bowled out for 165 in their second innings in just 34 overs to hand Baroda victory by an innings and 98 runs with more than a day to spare.

All wickets fell to spin, with left-arm spinner **TRPOHY** Ninad Rathva claiming a career-best 6/60, while Bhargav Bhatt and Mahesh Pithiya shared the other 4.

Skipper Krunal Pandya (119 off 143 balls, 15×4 , 4×6) hit his third first-class century as Baroda added 102 runs on the third morning in just over 20 overs before folding up for 456 in the first innings.

Not sure how to approach the tough task of saving the game on a spin track, Odisha started on a cautious mode. Shantanu Mishra failed to open his ac-

being dismissed to the 16th ball he faced.

That signalled a change in approach, with fellow-opener Anurag Sarangi (49, off 62, 7×4, 2×6) and Sandeep Pattanaik (29, 3×4, 1×6) playing their strokes

freely. Four wickets fell THE TEAM cheaply, in the space of **WITNESS** 6 overs for the addition of 19 runs, to leave

INNINGS

DEFEAT IN

RANJI

Odisha gasping at 88/5. Pushed to a corner. Kartik Biswal decided to counter-attack with no hopes left. Biswal (53 not out off 26 balls)

smashed 11 fours and a six as he and Aashirwad Swain added 46 runs for the sixth wicket in 4 overs. But it was too good to last, and once Swain fell to Bhatt, Baroda spinners cleaned up the Odisha lower order in no time, leaving Biswal stranded.

It was Odisha's first defeat in 3 games this season, and they sit in sixth place with 4 points.

Poddar's men will face Ranji Trophy heavyweights Mumbai in their next fixture.

Sainz wins Mexico City Grand Prix

NORRIS TIGHTENS CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico City, Oct 28: Carlos Sainz Jr got the win he desperately wanted in the final days of his Ferrari career. The Formula 1 title race, meanwhile, grew a lot more contentious.

Sainz won the Mexico City Grand Prix Sunday and Lando Norris closed the gap on Max Verstappen after another furious battle that cost the reigning three-time series champion three penalties and shaved 10 points off Verstappen's lead in the standing.

Sianz not only won but finished on the podium for the first

time in Mexico City. It was the fourth win of his career, and second of the season for the driver who is being replaced by Hamilton next year at Ferrari. The Spaniard had never before won two races in a season.

"Honestly, I really wanted this one," said Sainz, who sounded emotional on his radio on the cool-down lap. "I really needed it for myself, I wanted to get it done. I've been saying for a while I wanted to get one more win before leaving Ferrari, and to do it here in front of this mega crowd, it is incredible.

The restart was spicy with the Ferraris racing Verstappen and Norris for position. And for a second consecutive week, the title contenders clashed.

Norris was penalized last week. This time it cost Verstappen two penalties totaling 20 seconds. After the race, the FIA also penalized Verstappen two points to give him six for the 12-month period.

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Manchester: Manchester United fired manager Erik ten Hag Monday after a troubled start to the season left the 20-time English champions in 14th place in the Premier League. Ten Hag, who was hired in 2022, paid the price for leading United to just in the opening months of the campaign. There have been four Sunday being his last game in place last season, its lowest in the Premier League era, and appears to have little hope of challenging for the title this campaign. It already leaves the storied team in danger of

three wins in nine league games defeats, the 2-1 loss at West Ham charge. United finished in eighth

once again.

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freestyle category also included

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