



PATH TO PROGRESS

Actress Barkha Singh is on the lookout for diverse roles to push her limits as an actor

LEISURE P2



EASTER BOMBINGS: NO INT'L PROBE

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe rules out having an international probe into the Easter bombings

INTERNATIONAL P10



PARUL CLAIMS GOLD

Parul's stunning dash in the final 40 metres earns her women's 5000m gold at Asian Games

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Hate speech cases against 107 MPs, MLAs

New Delhi: A total of 107 MPs and MLAs have hate speech cases against them and 480 candidates with such cases have contested elections in the last five years, according to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The ADR and National Election Watch (NEW) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all the incumbent MPs and MLAs, besides the unsuccessful candidates in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls held in the country in the said period. The analysis reveals that many of the MPs and MLAs, who are designated lawmakers, have actually declared cases related to "hate speech" against themselves. The analysis is based on the affidavits submitted by the MPs and MLAs prior to the last election they contested. P3

Maha hosp records 18 deaths in a day

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: At least 18 deaths were recorded at the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) here in Maharashtra within 24 hours ending at 8 am, Tuesday, an official said. This comes against the backdrop of 24 deaths at the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital in Nanded, also in Marathwada, in 24 hours between September 30 and October 1, and seven more fatalities between October 1 and 2 - taking the tally to 31 in 48 hours, according to officials. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Hello, police. I've got info that India might improve its press freedom ranking. DO SOMETHING!!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	SENSEX	65512.10	↓	316.31
	NIFTY	19528.80	↓	109.50
	DOLLAR	83.30	↑	₹0.15
	EURO	87.36	↓	₹0.11
	GOLD	₹56,386	↓	₹719
	SILVER	₹67,600	↓	₹2,257

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.4°C	31.0°C
MIN	23.7°C	24.0°C
Humidity	97%	97%
Rainfall	1.2	21.2

Forecast: Cloudy sky with light rain



CLIFFHANGER: 30 passengers had a close shave after the private bus they were travelling in hit the guard wall of Jatimundia-Subernapur bridge over Mahanadi river near Banki in Cuttack, Tuesday, and remained hanging for quite some time before they were rescued. OP PHOTO

NAVEEN LAYS STONE FOR CANCER CARE INSTITUTE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday laid the foundation stone for Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (HBHRC) near here and said Odisha will get a world class cancer care, research and innovation centre by December 2025. The state-of-the-art facility and research centre at NISER campus at Jatni will be a 200-bed cancer hospital, he said. The facility will be a boost for people of Odisha in the treatment of cancer as they will no longer have to rush to Mumbai or other big cities for the purpose. Patnaik said that healthcare is a top priority of the Odisha government and the state is spending more than ₹25 crore every month for medical expenses of about 1.25 lakh people. Stating that Odisha is witnessing a massive transformation in the healthcare, he said "We're strengthening our health infrastructure, prioritizing health education, and making regular recruitments of doctors. New medical colleges are coming up every year creating a huge pool of trained doctors. Our flagship Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana is providing free healthcare to over 94 lakh families in top healthcare institutions across the country," he said. P3

Cuffs on scribes

NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha among 2 held after Delhi Police raids; office sealed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Delhi Police Tuesday arrested NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and HR head Amit Chakravarty after searching more than 30 locations and questioning several journalists in a case filed under the anti-terror law UAPA following allegations that the portal received money for pro-China propaganda. Police sealed NewsClick's office in Delhi, officials said, adding 46 suspects were questioned and digital devices, including laptops and mobile phones, and documents were taken away for examination. They said 37 male suspects were questioned at the office of Delhi Police Special Cell, while nine female suspects were quizzed at their respective places of stay. Two accused - portal founder and editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha and Human Resources (HR) head Amit Chakravarty - have been arrested, Delhi Police spokesperson Suman Nalwa said. The searches began early in the morning and were concentrated in Delhi-NCR. Earlier in the day, Purkayastha was taken to the Special Cell's office for questioning. Among those questioned were journalists Urmillesh, Aunindyo Chakravarty, Abhisar Sharma, Paranjay Guha Thakurta as well as historian Sohai Hashmi, satirist Sanjay Rajoura and D Raghunandan of the Centre for Technology and Development. After being questioned for over six hours, they were allowed to go. "After a day-long interrogation by Delhi Special Cell, I am back home. Each and every question posed will be answered. Nothing to fear. And I will keep questioning people in power and particularly those who are afraid of simple questions. Not

The crackdown caused political ripples with the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Samajwadi Party as well as the Press Club of India reacting to the searches and criticising the government

“... If someone has done something wrong, probe agencies work on it... Nowhere it is written that if you have got money in an illegal manner or done something objectionable, then probe agencies cannot investigate that”
ANURAG THAKUR | I&B MINISTER

backing down at any cost," Abhisar Sharma posted on X. Addressing a gathering in Bhubaneswar, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said probe agencies in the country are independent and work in accordance with law. "... If someone has done something wrong, probe agencies work on it... Nowhere it is written that if you have got money in an illegal manner or done something objectionable, then probe agencies cannot investigate that," Thakur said. Police sources said investigators posed a list of 25 questions on various issues, including their foreign travels, protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Shaheen Bagh as well as

the farmers' agitation. NewsClick is under the scanner of the Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police and the Enforcement Directorate amid allegations it received funds from China. A fresh case was registered by the Delhi Police Special Cell against NewsClick August 17 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other sections of IPC. Meanwhile, the National Alliance of Journalists, the Delhi Union of Journalists and the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (Delhi unit) claimed that the residences of Paranjay Guha Thakurta, Teesta Setalvad, Mahesh Kumar, Subodh Varma, Aditi Nigam, Mukund Jha and many others were raided in morning. The crackdown caused political ripples with the Congress, AAP and Samajwadi Party as well as the Press Club of India reacting to the searches and criticising the government. The website recently hit the headlines for allegedly receiving money from US millionaire Neville Roy Singham for pro-China propaganda in India.

698 elephants, 7 tigers died in 8 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Odisha has lost 698 elephants, 48 leopards and seven tigers to various reasons, including poaching, between 2015-16 and 2022-24, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said, Tuesday. Replying to a query of Bhandaripokhari MLA Prafulla Samal in the state Assembly, Amat said disease, electrocution, train and road mishaps, poaching and poisoning are among the major reasons that led to the loss of the precious lives. The Forest Minister said the state government has taken a host of measures for safety of elephants and tigers in the wild. "Their natural habitats have been strengthened, a large number of elephant fodder plants have been planted and pasture grounds developed. Besides, artificial ponds have also been dug up and steps taken to tackle wildfire and poaching," Amat told the House. The state has 1,976 elephants and 780 big cats, including 20 Royal Bengal Tigers (RBTs) in the wild as per the latest census, the



THE STATE HAS 1,976 ELEPHANTS AND 780 BIG CATS, INCLUDING 20 ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS, AS PER THE LATEST CENSUS
AS MANY AS 602 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN ELEPHANT ATTACKS IN ODISHA FROM 2018-19 TO 2022-23

Forest Minister said, responding to a question of Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati in the House. To another question of Bahinipati, Amat said 602 people were killed in elephant attacks in the last five years, from 2018-19 to 2022-23. Elephants killed 127 domestic animals and pulled down 611 houses during the period, Amat pointed out.

3 scientists win Physics Nobel

Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier win the award for looking at electrons in atoms during split seconds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stockholm, Oct 3: Three scientists, including a woman, have been awarded the 2023 Nobel prize in Physics for their work on creating extremely short pulses of light that can be harnessed to study processes occurring inside atoms and molecules. Pierre Agostini of The Ohio State University in the US, Ferenc Krausz of the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich in Germany and Anne L'Huillier of Lund University in Sweden share



the 11m Swedish kronor (USD 1 million) prize announced Tuesday by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896. This year's award is the 117th Nobel prize to be presented in Physics since 1901. L'Huillier is only the fifth woman to receive the prize. Their experiments "have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of elec-

trons inside atoms and molecules," according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. They "have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy." At the moment, this science is about understanding our universe rather than practical applications, but the hope is that it will eventually lead to better electronics and disease diagnosis. The delicacy is made by soak-

Kendrapara's famous Rasabali gets GI tag

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Kendrapara, Oct 3: Kendrapara's famous Rasabali, one of the heritage sweetmeats of Odisha, received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, Tuesday. The Kendrapara Rasabali Mistanna Nirmata Sangha in the district was the first to demand GI tag for the delicacy in 2021. The district collector of Kendrapara shared the information on his social media account Tuesday. Rasabali finds its place among the chhapan bhog at Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri. The sweet is also offered to the presiding deity at Lord Baladevjeev Temple in Kendrapara from where it is believed to have originated. The delicacy is made by soak-



ing deep fried flattened reddish brown patties of chhena (farmer cheese) in thickened, sweetened milk (rabri). Flattening the chhena into palm-sized patties is done in order to allow those absorb the milk more readily. The thickened milk is also usually lightly seasoned with crushed cardamoms. Rasabali of Kendrapara was

among the list of five products from Odisha which was taken up for discussion to accord GI tag at a conference of Geographical Indication Registry. The date molasses of Gajapati, silver filigree work of Cuttack, Kai Chatni of Mayurbhanj, Magaj Ladoo of Dhenkanal and Rasabali of Kendrapara districts were the nominees in fray for the GI tag. Earlier, several organisations in Kendrapara had raised the demand for a GI tag to the district's famous Rasabali. A delegation from Odisha, led by Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Singh along with Munna Khan and Mamata Mohanta, had met Union minister Piyush Goyal and submitted a memorandum demanding GI tag for Rasabali. The memorandum had mentioned the history and present status of the dessert and claimed that ac-

ording GI tag to it will boost the economic growth in Kendrapara district. Researchers Niranjan Mekap and Anita Sabat said that Rasabali as a sweetmeat was in use since medieval times during King Anangabhima Deva's reign. During his rule, 32 varieties of Rasabali were being used as offerings at the Sri Baladevjeev Temple in Kendrapara and it still continues. Various couplets, mythological scriptures like 'Dandi Ramayan' and family chronology of the Ganga dynasty 'Ganga Banshanucharita' have many pages on Rasabali. It has been stated that the origin of Rasabali is in Kendrapara district. GI-tagged products create scope of economic growth of the area of its origin, said experts.

leisure



ELBA REVEALS HE'S BEEN ON THERAPY FOR A YEAR

Luther star Idris Elba has admitted he has been in counselling for a year as he became workaholic. He once spent 10 days straight on a film set avoiding his family. He told the Changes podcast about deciding to turn to a counsellor to help him tackle his work-life imbalance.

ANISTON SPILLS BEANS ON KEY TO HER GOOD HEALTH

Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston thinks that getting a good amount of 'rest' has helped her to stay healthy and vibrant. "I drink a lot of water, move my body daily, and get as much sleep as I can. That last part is key to my good health," the *Friends* star said.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You are uptight about what is yours and today, you are even less keen on sharing. This possessiveness may have to do with a certain 'someone'. Ganesha says matters regarding love are going forward intensely and your marital life will blossom.

TAURUS

Almost as if crafted by Cervantes himself, you might wake up today feeling passionate and quixotic. Make up and make overs may be on the cards as you will have the urge to be groomed. Once you are done without yourself, you will shower others with attention, says Ganesha.

GEMINI

Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too uncharacteristic, but unusual nonetheless. For most part of the day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes.

CANCER

The workaholic Bull will have more on their plate than they can chew. They will be under so much work pressure that their otherwise robust shoulders may wilt under pressure. Ganesha advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no.

LEO

When it comes to maintaining a balance in any relationship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light guides you towards joyful coexistence, though, at times, it may entail making certain acts of sacrifice, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Take up the gauntlet that promises to test your business acumen, especially those related to capital and finances. You are most likely to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to resolve issues, and Ganesha assures that this will work wonders.

LIBRA

Everyone has a dream, but only few have the fortune to realise them. Be among the lucky ones today as you see your dream project materialise and take its first steps towards a successful future. But all good things have humble beginnings. What matters is that you had a dream, and dreaming it was the hardest part, reminds Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Ganesha predicts that you shall work towards building a better future. But do not expect radical or dynamic changes. Cruise control is the best way to go for now, says Ganesha. Patience in itself will reap rich benefits.

SAGITTARIUS

Problems will push you in a corner today. But try resolving them as soon as possible. Expect delays in making final decisions. But as the day ends, expect fruitful results to come by, predicts Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You may have sweated your guts out for an opportunity to pursue higher studies abroad, and met with disappointment. Try again today, advises Ganesha. For those of you engaged in speculation, transaction in stock and shares is likely and may fetch substantial gains. Opportunities galore, but you won't progress until you exploit them to the best of your interest.

AQUARIUS

Work, work, work! That is what will pay rich dividends. Of course, a pat on the back does matter, and with your commitment record, you may be getting a lot of it! You may back off from taking risks, and yet want change. Ganesha wonders how you will fulfill your wish.

PISCES

Arguments lead nowhere, and why argue when, at the end of the day, you can step back and watch them end up with egg on their faces, break a leg, get crushed under a falling safe, or otherwise suffer the numerous disasters you wish them to, for disagreeing with you. You will end up having the last laugh, so you might as well use your time more effectively, says Ganesha.

SPIC MACAY founder Kiran Seth's cultural discourse at SAI Int'l



Padma Shri Kiran Seth being felicitated on the occasion

Bhubaneswar: Padma Shri Dr. Kiran Seth, the visionary Founder of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY), Tuesday delivered a motivational talk here on the campus of SAI International School igniting a cultural awakening among the students of Classes VIII and IX.

The event served as a testament to the institution's commitment to nurturing holistic education. It underlined the importance of cultural enrichment in the students' academic journey, highlighting why SAI International consistently supports and hosts events by SPIC MACAY.

Seth's enlightening discourse unfolded the profound tapestry of Indian heritage, emphasiz-

ing the transformative power of classical music as a meditative tool that nurtures concentration. Accompanied by four dedicated SPIC MACAY volunteers, he underscored the essence of preserving culture through volunteering, instilling a sense of responsibility in the students.

The interactive session that followed allowed students to actively engage in meditation and absorb insightful anecdotes, deepening their connection to Indian culture. "Our culture's beauty lives in the art forms bequeathed by our ancestors. As future global citizens, you bear the responsibility of preserving this rich legacy," he said.

Armed with strategies for 360-degree learning and academic excellence, students left the event with valuable insights. PNN

'Love to push my limits as an actor'



Mumbai: In the entertainment industry, talent comes in many forms and finds expression on various platforms. Barkha Singh has proven to be a prime example of this. Her success story is rooted in her wise selection of projects. Today, Barkha is recognised as a versatile performer, effortlessly navigating through different mediums and genres.

Talking about her biggest motivation, the actress said, "Doing diverse and challenging roles is my biggest motivation. I believe there is still a lot of potential and possibilities in store for me that I am looking forward to bringing to the screens. I love to challenge myself and push my limits as an actor and for that I am constantly on the lookout for diverse and powerful roles."

One of the defining aspects of Barkha's career is her strong presence on the web, across the streaming platforms. From sharing screens with Madhuri Dixit Nene in *Maja Ma* as Esha Hansraj to her role in *Engineering Girls*, *Girls On Top*, *Breathe*, *Please Find Attached*, she has nailed her presence. Her portrayal in *Murder Meri Jaan* of Sonal Arora and *Masaba Masaba* (S2) as Ayesha Mehrauli further cemented her status as a Born-on-Web actor. AGENCIES

SHRUTI SHOWS HER ROCK 'N' ROLL SIDE

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Haasan has never been shy of showing her Rock 'n' Roll side these days as she has been frequently posting on her social media. This time, the actress-singer was belting songstress Bettye La Vette's song *When a Woman's Had Enough*.

While the original track is more mellow and does not use much high notes, Shruti was singing it completely high and seemed to be doing more out of just casually enjoying herself rather than practicing it or anything.

On her Instagram Story, she posted her clip and captioned it: "Normal screamy mornings at home to annoy @santanu_haz-rika art on national boyfriend day."

Before this also, the actress had never made her love of rock a secret as she grew up listening to rock bands ranging from Nirvana, Rolling Stones, Metallica, Iron Maiden, Creed, The Beatles among other classic acts.

Back in September also, the Premam actress had said that she likes working out with heavy metal music playing in the back which gives her extra boost and makes exercising a lot more enjoyable for her.

Shruti has her own alternative rock band The Extramentals where she is the lead singer and has done various songs with them. PNN



NUAKHAI CELEBRATIONS Expatriates create mini-Odisha in Dubai

Presence of several guest performers like Sarbeswar Bhoi, Manoranjan Patel and Kedarnath Patel, who were flown in from Odisha, was the highlight of the event

Bhubaneswar: Nuakhai Paribar of United Arab Emirates (UAE) organised *Nuakhai Bhetghat-2023* Sunday with much fanfare at The Aquila School in Dubai. This was the largest in-person get together on the occasion of Nuakhai, anywhere outside India in 2023, claimed the organisers.

The event started with a special aarti and puja of Maa Samaleswari. The NuaDhaan (new grain), specially flown in from Jharsuguda, was first offered to Maa Samaleswari and then Nuakhai greetings were exchanged with one another.

As a part of the Bhetghat celebrations, a rich display of Sambalpuri culture was made during the event by showcasing western Odisha's language, music and dance and handlooms. A



A Sambalpuri dance performance during the event. Eminent Emirati singer Yasser Habib (inset) performed on the occasion

mini-Odisha was created and foot tapping Sambalpuri music filled the air.

Sunil Kumar, Consul Passport, Consulate General of India, Dubai, who was the Chief Guest, said the efforts of the UAE Nuakhai Paribar in propagating Nuakhai festival were laudable.

The programme was made spe-

cial by the presence of Yasser Habib, noted Emirati singer who sang Gandhiji's favorite *Bhajan Vaishnava Jana To*.

Swaroop Mishra, former Member of Parliament, Kenya and Maneesh Chirakkara were the guests of honour.

One of the highlights of this year's celebrations was the presence of Sarbeswar Bhoi, noted singer, lyricist, composer, dancer and actor from Kalahandi. A fashion show presenting rich Sambalpuri handlooms was organised by a special contingent from Odisha Samaj Abu Dhabi.

In addition to this, guest artists from Odisha Kedar Nath Patel and Manoranjan Patel performed a comedy show which had the audience in splits. Many people who are originally not from Odisha, also attended the event and were very impressed.

It is noteworthy that Nuakhai celebrations have been happening in UAE since 2014. PNN

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

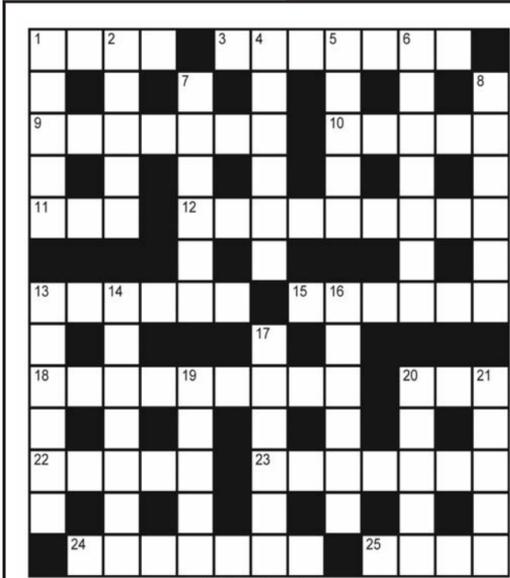


BREVITY



FUN post

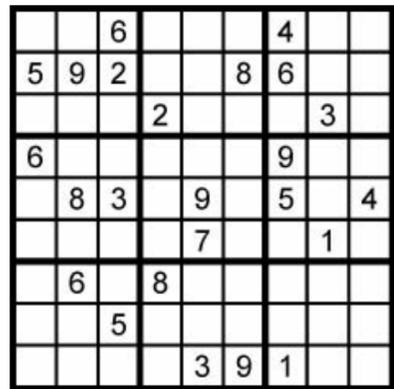
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Rope fibre
 - 3 Short and curt group
 - 9 Rapsallions
 - 10 Caterpillar, for one
 - 11 Storm centre
 - 12 Blitz
 - 13 Sound quality
 - 15 Banjo relative
 - 18 Head honcho (3,6)
 - 20 Slow-witted
 - 22 Taxonomic group
 - 23 Tipped off
 - 24 Stable gear
 - 25 Sabot, e.g.
 - 6 Column, e.g.
 - 7 Steam
 - 8 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.
 - 13 Trinidad's pal
 - 14 Purplish-red colour
 - 16 Out of true
 - 17 Flower parts
 - 19 Green tea
 - 20 Kind of treat
 - 21 Gnatlike insect

SUDOKU

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

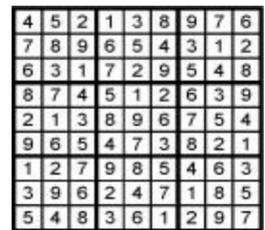


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

CYBER SAFETY

'Cyrra' gives cyber safety lessons to students of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Puri, Tuesday



World class cancer centre at Jatni by '25



Tata Steel Foundation will build the hospital on 65 acres of land at Jatni at a cost of ₹250 crore and donate it to Tata Memorial Centre, department of atomic energy for running it

Department of atomic energy has sanctioned ₹400 crore to purchase equipment, construct the residential complex and hire human resources

Latest cancer treatment technologies, including radiation therapy, advanced surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapies, and stem cell transplant will be available there

₹150 crore assistance for the medical cyclotron facility. Wide access roads, direct transport support along with top class bus stops and a dedicated fire station near the proposed hospital are the facilities to be created by the government.

An Aahar Kendra (cheap meal centre) will also be set up in the premises of the hospital. Patnaik thanked the department of atomic energy, NISER and Tata Steel foundation and Tata Memorial Centre for providing support for the establishment of this facility.

The facility will house the latest cancer treatment technology, including radiation therapy, advanced surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapies, and stem cell transplant. It will be a hub for cancer research, fostering innovation and breakthroughs in cancer treatment and prevention, an official said. Odisha had signed an MoU with Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai in September 2022 for the establishment of the hospital.

Tata Steel Foundation will build the hospital at a cost of ₹250 crore and donate it to Tata Memorial Centre, department of atomic energy for running it. Department of atomic energy has sanctioned ₹400 crore to purchase equipment, construct the residential complex and hire human resources.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday laid the foundation stone for Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (HBHRC) at NISER Campus in Jatni near here and said Odisha will get a world class cancer care, research and innovation centre by December 2025.

The state-of-the-art facility and research centre will be a 200-bed cancer hospital, he said.

The facility will be a great boost for people of Odisha in the treatment of cancer as they will no longer have to rush to Mumbai or other big cities for the purpose and will be saved from financial and mental distress.

The hospital will be empanelled under BSKY for providing free healthcare to patients of Odisha

Patnaik said that healthcare is a top priority of the Odisha government and the state is spending more than ₹225 crore every month for medical expenses of about 1.25 lakh people.

Stating that Odisha is witnessing a massive transformation in the healthcare sector, he said, "We are strengthening our health infrastructure, prioritising health education, and making regular recruitment of doctors. New medical colleges are coming up every year creating a huge pool of trained doctors. Our flagship Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana is

providing free healthcare to over 94 lakh families in top healthcare institutions across the country," he said.

The hospital will be the most advanced research level cyclotron in Asia and will be empanelled under BSKY for providing free healthcare to patients of Odisha.

Apart from Odisha, cancer patients of neighboring states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh will be benefited, he said.

The Chief Minister said the state government has provided over 65 acres land along with



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Din in Assembly over CM's remark

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The state Assembly was adjourned Tuesday till 4pm in wake of protests by Opposition BJP members who demanded to strike out words like 'anti-people' recently used by the Chief Minister in a statement made in the House.

As soon as the House assembled for Question Hour, the BJP members were on their feet raising slogans and condemning the Chief Minister's remarks against opposition parties. They too demanded withdrawal of suspension on two MLAs.

Opposition BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi and MLA Mukesh Mahaling were suspended from the House till end of session on charge of disrespecting the state's first woman Speaker Pramila Mallik by throwing 'dal' at the podium. They immediately trooped into the Well of the House holding placards and raising slogans. They demanded that the word 'anti-people' used by the CM in a statement in the House September 25 be expunged before commencement of any business in the House.

While defending the grievance hearing meetings conducted by officers across the state, Patnaik had said, "Opposition members should be happy that so many grievances in their areas have also been solved. I do not understand how someone can oppose to people's grievances being solved. Such opposition is anti-people and the people will give them a befitting reply for such attitude". As these noisy scenes continued, Speaker Pramila Mallik adjourned

FIRE BREAKS OUT AT LOK SEVA BHAWAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: A minor fire broke out in the main building of Odisha Lok Seva Bhawan (Secretariat) Tuesday, an official said.

However, the fire was immediately doused and no one was hurt in the incident, said the official.

"A minor fire broke out at the Revenue and Disaster Management department office located on the first floor of the building due to a suspected electric short-circuit on an AC. Fire service personnel immediately reached at the spot and doused the fire," said fire officer Abani Swain

The fire broke out in one room of the revenue dept

The Lok Seva Bhawan fire unit received a call about the fire at 10:08 am and the fire brigade team reached the spot immediately and doused the fire, said fire officer Abani Swain

The fire broke out in one room of the revenue department. The Lok Seva Bhawan fire unit received a call about the fire at 10:08 am and the fire brigade team reached the spot immediately and doused the fire, said Abani Swain, a fire service officer.

Due to the fire, dense smoke prevailed in the building for some time. One computer, an AC and two chairs of the department have been damaged in the fire incident, he said.

Apart from the room where the fire broke out, no other office was affected in the fire incident, Swain said.

REPORT ON SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES OUT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in its report presented in the Assembly Tuesday, highlighted the deficiencies in implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in payment of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) and Medhabruti to eligible students of the state.

The report said that the institutional framework for implementation of DBT was deficient, as the State Advisory Committee (SAC) did not have representation from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

It further said that the State DBT Cell (SDC) had decided (April 2018) to make available NPCI's 'VLookup web service and status of bank accounts' in the state DBT portal to identify the latest seeded bank accounts and ascertain the status of bank accounts. For this purpose, NPCI was requested to extend its co-operation, by providing the facility through web service, for integration with the state DBT portal. Despite NPCI's nod to use their 'VLookup web service and Status of bank account service' in the state DBT portal, the same were not utilised.

Out of 3,12,823 accounts of PMS beneficiaries, 2,41,870 accounts (77%) were not Aadhaar seeded. Thus, both PMS and Medhabruti were beset with issues related to failed bank transactions, due to dormant/inactive bank accounts and amount was credited to incorrect bank accounts.

DBT nodal cells had not been formed in both SSD and Higher Education depts.

Eight out of 16 registered institutes of Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts were actually not in existence, and PMS amount of ₹15.57 crore had been availed in the names of bogus students, the CAG report claimed.

Hit-and-run case accused nabbed after long chase

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Three days after a man was killed in a horrific hit-and-run incident at Rajmahal Square here, the Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested the absconding car owner who was at the wheels during the mishap. The accused was identified as Bikash Pal, 26, a native of Kakatpur in Puri district.

"Pal, who is currently staying at Pokhaript under Airfield police station here, works as an assistant manager in Kotak Mahindra Bank. Pal was returning home in his car after finishing some work at Athagarh in Cuttack district September 30," said police sources.

However, Pal suddenly lost his control over the vehicle near Rajmahal Square due to high speed.

His vehicle veered towards the pavement and ran over Dinabandhu Baral, who along



Accused Bikash Pal's vehicle veered towards the pavement at Rajmahal Square, killing Dinabandhu Baral, who was asleep on the footpath late Friday night

with several other homeless labourers, was sleeping on the pavement under the overbridge at Rajmahal Square around 1.45am.

After playing hide-and-seek with the police for three days, Pal was on his way back home when a team of Capital police nabbed him at Siripur here following a long chase Tuesday.

Police arrested Pal in connection with a case (582/23) reg-

istered under Sections 279 (Rash driving or riding on a public way) and 304 (A) (Causing death by negligence) of the IPC.

The accused told the police that he fled the spot in order to avert public outrage. He later hid himself in some of his relatives' houses in Cuttack and Athagarh areas.

He was sent to local court here that later sent him to judicial custody Tuesday.

Hate speech cases against 107 MPs, MLAs: ADR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: A total of 107 MPs and MLAs have hate speech cases against them and 480 candidates with such cases have contested elections in the last five years, according to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Significantly, one MP from Odisha is among the 33 Parliamentarians who have declared cases related to hate speech against themselves as per the analysis of their self-sworn affidavit made by the ADR and National Election Watch (NEW).

The ADR and NEW have analysed the self-sworn affidavits

of all the incumbent MPs and MLAs, besides the unsuccessful candidates in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls held in the country in the period.

The analysis reveals that many of the MPs and MLAs, who are designated lawmakers, have actually declared cases related to 'hate speech' against themselves.

According to the analysis, 33 MPs have declared cases related to hate speech against themselves - seven from Uttar Pradesh, four from Tamil Nadu, three each from Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana, two each from Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal and one each from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Punjab.

In the last five years, 480 candidates with declared cases related to hate speech have contested elections to state Assemblies, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the ADR said.

It said 22 MPs with cases related to hate speech are from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two from the Congress and one each from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), AIMIM, AIUDF, DMK, MDMK, PMK, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the VCK, besides one Independent MP.

Seventy-four MLAs have declared cases related to hate speech against themselves. Nine each are from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, six each

from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana, five each from Assam and Tamil Nadu, four each from Delhi, Gujarat and West Bengal, three each from Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, two each from Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura and one each from Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. Twenty MLAs with cases related to hate speech against them are from the BJP, 13 from the Congress, six from the AAP, five each from the SP and YSRCP, four each from DMK and RJD, three each from AITC and SHS, two from AIUDF and one each from AIMIM, CPI(M), NCP, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, TDP, Tipra Motha Party and TRS, besides two Independent MLAs.

Dark tea beneficial for controlling blood sugar: Study

Drinking dark tea every day may help in controlling blood sugar to reduce diabetes risk, finds a new study.

Dark tea, which originated in China, is a microbially fermented type of tea. The fermentation continues several months to many years and the leaves are often pressed in a cake or brick shape.

The research presented at the ongoing European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Hamburg, Germany, showed that daily consumers of dark tea had 53 per cent lower risk for prediabetes and 47 per cent re-

duced risk for type 2 diabetes.

"Our findings hint at the protective effects of habitual tea drinking on blood sugar management via increased glucose excretion in urine, improved insulin resistance and thus better control of blood sugar. These benefits were most pronounced among daily dark tea drinkers," said Tongzhi Wu, study's co-lead author and Associate Professor at University of Adelaide in Australia.

Along with researchers from Southeast University in China, the team conducted the study on 1,923 adults of 20 to 80 years. Of this, 436



participants were living with diabetes and 352 with prediabetes, and 1,135 had normal blood glucose levels. Participants included both non-habitual tea drinkers and

those with a history of drinking only a single type of tea. They were asked about the frequency and type (i.e. green, black, dark, or other tea) of tea consumption.

The team examined the association between both the frequency and type of tea consumption and excretion of glucose in the urine, insulin resistance, and glycaemic status (defined as a history of type 2 diabetes).

Researchers also found that drinking tea every day was associated with an increase in urinary glucose excretion and a reduction in insulin resistance, as

well as 15 per cent lower risk for prediabetes and 28 per cent reduced risk for type 2 diabetes, as compared to teetotalers.

"These findings suggest that the actions of bioactive compounds in dark tea may directly or indirectly modulate glucose excretion in the kidneys, an effect, to some extent, mimicking that of sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitors, a new anti-diabetic drug class that is not only effective at preventing and treating type 2 diabetes, but also has a substantial protective effects on the heart and kidneys," Wu added.

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Showers for 1 more day: IMD

Yatra garners 1,940 ideas within 14 days

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Within 14 days of commencement, Startup Odisha Yatra and Startup Xpress received more than 1940 ideas, covering 23 districts so far.

The Yatra has visited 137 colleges and 42 schools in the state with participation from more than 18,210 students. Tuesday, the vans visited 9 colleges and 2 schools, received 56 ideas with participation from 848 students.

The Yatra covered 3 colleges and one school of Sambalpur namely Gangadhar Meher University, Gayatri Group of Institutions, Badriprasad Institute of Technology & Lady Lewis Girl's High School respectively.

In Bolangir, the van visited State Institute of Hotel Management, Govt Women's College & Yuvodaya College of Advance Technology. In Nabarangpur, the van visited Model Degree College, Nabarangpur Degree College, Nabarangpur Women's (Degree) College & Mother Teresa High School.

Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress, taking its journey forward will tour Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Koraput districts, while visiting few other institutions of Sambalpur October 4 to foster entrepreneurship and innovation at district level.

The excitement and enthusiasm from the student community was palpable with their passionate pitches.



FIGHT FOR RIGHTS: Members of 'Asthayi Launch Driver and Khalasi Mahasangh' staging a protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, seeking fulfillment of their various demands including a pay hike

OP PHOTO



THE AVERAGE RAINFALL IN THE STATE FROM OCTOBER 1 TO 5:30 PM OCTOBER 3 WAS 57.3 MM AS AGAINST THE AVERAGE OCTOBER MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 114.7 MM

The state received an average rainfall of 26.4 mm in the last 24 hours till 8:30am Tuesday, which is 477 per cent more than normal rainfall of 4.6 mm October 2.

The average rainfall in the state from October 1 to 5:30 pm October 3 was 57.3 mm as against the average October monthly rainfall of 114.7 mm.

Bamra block in Sambalpur district recorded the highest rainfall in the last 24 hours at 146.2 mm.

Meanwhile, the Met department has issued an orange warning, predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) for the districts of Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj till 8:30 am Wednesday.

Heavy rainfall may also occur at one or two places in Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur districts, the weather office said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The Met department Tuesday predicted more downpour for one more day even though the state received heavy rain in the last 24 hours due to southwest monsoon.

As many as 16 districts in Odisha, including Cuttack and Khurda, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, have received heavy rainfall till Tuesday evening.

'BJB Friends' observe Gandhi Jayanti



Bhubaneswar: 'BJB Friends', a student association of BJB Autonomous College in Bhubaneswar, Monday celebrated Gandhi Jayanti in the college campus with patriotic fervour. Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda and former vice-chancellor of Birla Global University Sudhakar Panda graced the occasion as chief guest and guest of honour respectively. Chairman of BJB College Gulam Moinuddin Khan and keynote speaker Dash Benhur also attended the function. The students who won the inter-college essay writing, debate, and general knowledge competitions on Mahatma Gandhi's life and ideals held earlier were awarded with cash prizes, and certificates. Union Bank of India Chief Manager, Odisha Zone Sarbes Ranjan and Assistant Manager, Regional Area Niranjana Barik also attended the event.

WEOs urged to act with integrity

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: State ST and SC Development commissioner-cum-secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo Tuesday launched first phase of the induction training programme for newly appointed welfare extension officers (WEOs) here at the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI).

ST Welfare director Indramani Tripathy welcomed the new appointees and in his address emphasized on the critical role these officers play in promoting social welfare and community development. He then explained the objectives and structure of the training programme.

In her address, Sahoo spoke about three key points that should guide the actions of the WEOs. The principles encompass dedication, compassion, empathy, professional integrity, and a focus on the safety and security of children. "These qualities are vital in the social welfare sector, where the well-being of vulnerable individuals and communities is at stake," she said.

SC Welfare director Laxman Mallik asked the participants



to work with dedication and integrity. Other sessions, like the one conducted by joint secretary Prabir Kumar Khilar, provided insights into the responsibilities of WEOs, as well as information about the mission, vision, and administrative mechanisms of the department.

"This foundational knowledge is essential for WEOs to align their efforts with the department's goals and objectives. This induction training program will not only equip WEOs with the necessary skills and knowledge but also fosters a sense of community and collaboration among them," Sahoo said.

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I, Nemichand Jain Sovalchand Jain, R/o Plot No.6 Chintamaniswar, Fishery Lane, Budheswari, Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar- 751006, Dist.- Khordha have changed my name to Nemichand Jain father's name is Sovalchand Jain for all future purposes.

LOST

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Shrinking planet Mercury still getting smaller: New research

Despite being the closest planet to the Sun, Mercury's interior has been cooling down as internal heat leaks away. This means that the rock (and, within that, the metal) of which it is composed must have contracted slightly in volume.

It is unknown, however, to what extent the planet is still shrinking today – and, if so, for how long that is likely to continue, according to fresh insight published in Nature Geoscience.

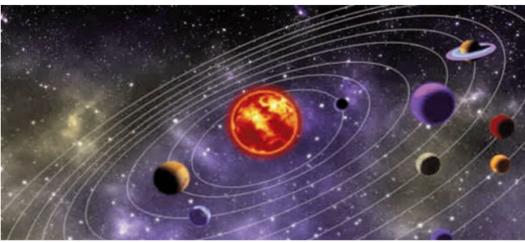
Because Mercury's interior is shrinking, its surface (crust) has progressively less area to cover. It responds to this by developing "thrust faults" – where one tract of terrain gets pushed over the adjacent terrain.

This is like the wrinkles that form on an apple as it ages, except that an apple shrinks because it is drying out whereas Mercury shrinks because of thermal contraction of its interior.

Messenger, which orbited Mercury 2011-2015, showed many more "lobate scarps" (as they had become known) in all parts of the globe.

From such observations, it was possible to deduce that gently dipping geological faults, known as thrusts, approach the surface below each scarp and are a response to Mercury having shrunk in radius by a total of about 7km.

When did that scarp last move? The consensus view is that Mercury's scarps are mostly



about 3 billion years old. But are all of them that old? And did the older ones cease moving long ago or are they still active today?

Mercury's biggest "earthquakes" are probably smaller. To accumulate the 2.3km of total shortening that can be measured across a typical scarp on

related to the interest of the people and when in government we work for the uplift of the people. That is the reason why 18.5 crore people were pulled out of below poverty line. This was achieved within nine years of the Modi government compared to 70 years of previous governments," Thakur told reporters here.

"When the motto of BJP is 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas', how the party can be anti-people and

anti-development," he asked adding Modi never called any person anti-people or anti-development. One can become anti-government, but not anti-people," Thakur asserted.

Asked whether the BJP will give walkover to BJD in the 2024 election in Odisha in the wake of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's open praise for Patnaik, the central minister said BJP will fight the next election with

even if they were initiated billions of years ago.

This work was triggered when a PhD student at Open University in the UK, Ben Man, noticed that some scarps have small fractures piggy-backing on their stretched upper surfaces. He interpreted these as "grabens", the geological word to describe a strip of ground dropped down between two parallel faults.

The grabens are less than 1km wide and less than about 100 metres deep. Such comparatively small features must be much younger than the ancient structure on which they sit; otherwise they would have already been erased from view by impacts tossing material across the surface in a process called

named "impact gardening".

Lessons from the Moon The Moon has also cooled and contracted. Its lobate scarps are considerably smaller and less spectacular than those on Mercury, but on the Moon we know for sure that as well as being geologically recent, some are active today.

The most detailed images of the Moon's surface from orbit reveal the tracks made by boulders bouncing down scarp faces, presumably after being dislodged by moonquakes. Much smaller in scale than Mercury's grabens, similar logic applies to these boulder tracks: they would become erased from visibility after only a few million years, so they must be young.

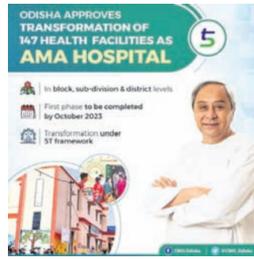
Ama Hospital soon for all govt hosps

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: To ensure universal access to quality healthcare, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday approved in principle extension of the 'Ama Hospital' scheme to all government hospitals of the state.

Under the scheme, the government will undertake renovation works at all district head quarter hospitals (DHH), sub-divisional hospitals (SDHs), community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) in phases over the next four years.

An official notification in this regard said, "To strengthen healthcare services in the state, the government, after careful consideration is pleased to accord in-principle approval for expanding the Ama Hospital



Scheme to all DHH, SDH, CHC and PHCs in the state, over the coming four years."

In another move, the government also enhanced bed strength of the Jajpur DHH by 90, from 330 to 420. Notably, the Jajpur DHH is going to function as the 'teaching hospital' for Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hopsital, Jajpur.

The government also enhanced bed strength of the Jajpur DHH from 330 to 420 as it is going to function as the 'teaching hospital' for Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hopsital, Jajpur

"To provide affordable and quality healthcare to the public and in view of the change in norms of NMC for a teaching hospital with a 100 MBBS intake capacity, the government, after careful consideration, has been pleased to enhance the bed strength of DHH, Jajpur from 330 to 420," read a notification of the Health and Family Welfare department.

Special cleanliness campaign at AIIMS

Bhubaneswar: The City AIIMS celebrated Gandhi Jayanti Monday by organizing the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 within the campus premises. The event witnessed active participation from guests and dedicated volunteers, emphasizing the significance of cleanliness and sanitation. Around 250 police personnel from the Biju Pattanaj State Police Academy (BPSPA), Bhubaneswar took part in the campaign, and an additional 70 personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) joined hands with the AIIMS Bhubaneswar community to promote cleanliness. A tree plantation drive led by institute's Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas was organised near the Dharmashala. It was attended by personalities including Dean PR Mohapatra, Medical Superintendent Dilip Kumar Parida, Hospital Administration Head Jawahar SK Pillai, and sanitation nodal officer.

BJP pulled 18.5cr people from BPL: Thakur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur Tuesday claimed that BJP is pro-poor and its government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pulled more than 18.5 crore people in the country from below the poverty line.

The people of the country believe in Modi and his policies, Thakur said replying to a question relating to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik allegedly calling opposition parties in the state - the BJP and Congress 'anti-people' and 'anti-development'.

He along with his cabinet colleague Dharmendra Pradhan claimed that Modi's present popularity is above 78 per cent that he is the most popular leader not only in the country, but across the world.

"We are a pro-people and pro-poor government. When we are in the Opposition, we raise issues



full vigour and perform very well like it is doing in the rest of the country, he said "BJP always fought elections on the strength of the party workers and came out with good results."

To queries whether the Centre will take action against the BJD government similar to that against the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal, Thakur said the Odisha government was issued a notice in respect to implementation of the PMAY (G). "If the state has not taken any action, then fresh notice will be issued to the government."

I&B Minister said that Odisha has got more funds under NDA than under the erstwhile UPA. "Due to Modi government's mining policy, Odisha's revenue has jumped 10 times from ₹5,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore" as the Centre has pumped huge funds for the development of railways and road connectivity in the state.

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Crores lost due to kendu leaf smuggling

TRADERS CALL THE SHOTS FORCING PLUCKERS TO SELL BUNDLES AT THROWAWAY PRICES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 3: Rampant smuggling of kendu leaves is on the rise in areas under the Keonjhar forest division. This is happening due to the lack of proper security measures to protect the pluckers, sources pointed out Tuesday. With the leaves being illegally sent to neighbouring Jharkhand and West Bengal, the Odisha government is also losing out on huge amount of revenues.

Sources said that more than 3,200 pluckers eke out their living by plucking kendu leaves from jungles in Rairangpur, Asana, Jashipur and Bangiriposhi forest sections. Most of the pluckers are women and the money they earn helps them to run their families.

The Forest department usually buys each bundle of kendu leaves at ₹3.20. However, the payment is always delayed. Taking advantage of this fact, local traders and some from outside the state dupe the pluckers. They offer lesser rates, but instant payments which suits the pluckers and hence they sell the bundles. So both the government and the pluckers lose out on money. Once the traders buy the kendu leaves, they smuggle their acquisitions



FILE PHOTO

through roads in Mayurbhanj district.

Sources pointed out that despite getting better rates from the Odisha government, the pluckers prefer the traders. The pluckers do not have the wherewithal to wait for the payment from the government as they have to maintain their livelihood and also repay loans.

There are various other reasons as to why pluckers are forced to sell off their collection at rates that are less than that offered by the government. First,

it is these traders who lend money to the poor pluckers. It helps the traders have a tight control over the pluckers. Secondly the traders who smuggle the leaves also resort to force at times to create terror in the minds of the pluckers. Without any security measures in place for them, the pluckers have no other option, but to sell the leaves to these corrupt traders.

It should be stated here that a couple of years back, miscreants hired by the traders, set on fire a store room full of kendu

leaves. This act created fear in the minds of the pluckers and currently they do not look at any other option to sell the leaves. The pluckers know that they are being fleeced and exploited, but even then will not seek other options.

Kendu leaf division secretary Sanjay Choudhury said that the only way to fight the menace created by the traders is to make instant payments to the pluckers. Also security measures should be implemented to protect the pluckers, he added.

Choudhury also pointed out that the state government should provide other benefits to the pluckers like monthly wages and educational facilities for their kids. He also pointed out that borders with neighbouring states must be guarded properly to prevent the smuggling of kendu leaves.

When contacted, Bangiriposhi forest ranger Kedarnath Mallick said that the Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) annually conducts an auction to buy kendu leaves. "Last year in the auction, business to the tune of ₹46.77 lakh was done. The amount can increase manifold if smuggling of leaves can be restricted," Mallick informed.

TIRKEY DEMANDS CBI PROBE



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 3: The post-mortem of lady police officer Alice Narmi Lugun was conducted here Tuesday after which the body was handed over to her family members. Alice's family members had objected to the post-mortem without the inclusion of Section 302 of the IPC in the FIR. After the police relented Tuesday, they allowed the post-mortem to be conducted. "The post-mortem was over by Tuesday afternoon. Later, the deceased police officer was given a Guard of Honour and the body was handed over to her family members," Rourkela SP Mitrabhanu Mahapatra told reporters.

Meanwhile in a separate development Tuesday, tribal leader and former Biramitrapur MLA George Tirkey staged a demonstration in front of the Rourkela SP's office demanding a CBI in-

SUSHMITA DEATH CASE

vestigation into the controversial Sushmita Minz death case. "Both the deaths are inter-linked. The attack on Alice, a key officer investigating the Sushmita death case, happened in a pre-planned manner. It is very interesting to note that the police are now saying that Alice was the investigating officer in the Sushmita case," George said.

"The government is trying to play the tribal card against tribals. It appointed a tribal officer and also sent the BDO and CDDP of Gurundia, who are also tribals, to Sushmita's home. We are not going to be fooled by this," George added.

George with nearly one thou-

sand supporters under the 'Justice for Sushmita' platform reached the SP's office around 12 noon. However, there were no untoward incidents as four platoons of police had turned the SP's office into a fortress. Road blocks were also put up at strategic locations to prevent movement of demonstrators.

George also criticised the manner in which Alice's death is being handled. "Why was there such a delay in incorporating Section 302 of the IPC in the FIR? It only happened after Alice's family and we applied pressure on the police," George said. He also informed that they will move court if the state government does not initiate a CBI probe into the death of Sushmita.

LOWER SUKTEL PROJECT COMPENSATION

Manipulation in genealogy alleged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 3: Manipulation of genealogy to grab compensation and other benefits for the displaced people of Lower Suktel irrigation project has rocked Bolangir district after an affected man from Koindapalli village lodged a complaint at the grievance cell of the district collector here Tuesday. The complainant Jagdish Pandey, 48, visited the Collectorate office and lodged a complaint stating that a youth has allegedly manipulated his genealogy by excluding the name of his two sons and only daughter. In their place the youth is trying to grab the compensation and other benefits provided by the state government.

The accused youth has been identified as Sanjiv Patel belonging to the Agharia caste and a native of Patharkhandi village under Sadar block. In his complaint, Jagdish stated that



he belongs to the scheduled caste 'Kewat' (fisherman) community. He has two sons, namely Arabind and Benudhar and a daughter Neeladri. However, the names of his children are missing in the list prepared for compensation. In their place, the name of Sanjiv figures as his son.

Jagdish alleged that the manipulation has been done to grab the compensation amount meant for the displaced villagers in the project-affected area. He has stated in the complaint that Sanjiv is not his son. He has asked how the name of Sanjiv got included in the list of beneficiaries in-

stead of his own children. Jagdish alleged that without the involvement of government officers such a fraud couldn't have taken place. He has demanded a proper investigation into the entire matter to unravel the truth. Jagdish has also alleged that efforts are being made to usurp the compensation and financial assistance that he has received so far. He has asked the district collector to take steps to ensure that he and his kids are not deprived of financial and other benefits in future.

Sources said that providing compensation, financial assistance as well as rehabilitation to the villagers displaced due to the Lower Suktel irrigation project has posed a stiff challenge for the Odisha government and the district administration. Officials are making an all out effort for smooth delivery of various assistance and benefits to the displaced villagers.

BJP calls for Sundargarh bandh October 5

Rourkela: The BJP Mahila Morcha and ST Morcha here have called for a bandh October 5 in Sundargarh district as a mark of protest against the 'improper' investigation being carried out in the death of two tribal officers, namely Sushmita Minz and Alice Narmi Lugun. Speaking over the phone BJP state spokesperson Dhiren Senapaty said, "The two units of the BJP have given a bandh call in Sundargarh district due to gross apathy in investigating the two death cases by the administration. We demand a CBI inquiry so that everything will come out in the open. We feel that the administration is conducting the investigation casually and not showing the alacrity required in handling such sensitive issues." Senapaty stated that the duration of the bandh will be for 12 hours. "It will be a dawn to dusk bandh beginning at 6.00am. Unless our members are provoked, the bandh will be peaceful," he added.

POLICE BUST BURGLARY GANG

Close to 3kg gold along with ₹26 lakh in cash seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 3: Police solved Tuesday the burglary at the house of a government official here while raiding a gold-testing centre at Sana Bazar locality in this city. In the process, police seized close to three kilograms of gold and more than ₹26 lakh in cash. Four persons have been arrested in this connection, Berhampur SP Dr Saravana Vivek M informed media-persons Tuesday.

Thieves had burgled the house of Kalu Charan Panda, executive engineer of the Public Health department September 20 night. The thieves fled with 400gm of gold jewellery and an equal amount of silver ornaments.

After an FIR was filed at the Nimakhandi police station, a special team headed by IIC Bhabananda Pradhan was formed to investigate the matter. After thorough investigation, police arrested Sania Gowd, the mas-

termind behind the burglary.

On being questioned Sania informed the police that he had sold the gold and silver ornaments to two different people. He told the police that with the help of a manager of a financial firm he had sold the gold to a testing centre at Sana Bazar Chowk.

Police first arrested the manager, identified as Mohan Padhi, for helping Sania sell stolen items. Police then raided the gold-testing centre and made substantial seizures as mentioned above and also arrested its manager Santosh Gaekwad, a resident of Maharashtra.

Later in the day police arrested Surendra Mohapatra, 36, of new Goudasahi locality in this city. He had purchased the silver ornaments stolen from Panda's house. Police produced all the four accused in a court here Tuesday and they were remanded to judicial custody. Police are questioning all the four to find out about the involvement of others in the crime.

Cancer treatment facility launched



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Oct 3: A community palliative care centre was launched Monday at SEWAK, rural resource centre (RRC - SEWAK) for the information and support of cancer patients. The centre is a joint venture between Amritdhara Palliative Care Trust, Bhubaneswar and SEWAK voluntary outfit, Sundargarh. District public health officer of Sundargarh, Dr Kanhu Charan Nayak was present as chief guest and inaugurated the centre.

Namrata Rath, managing trustee of Amritdhara Palliative Care Trust, Dr Sunita Mohanty, Head of Anaesthesia and Palliative Medicine at Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer, (Prof) Dr Dhaneswari Jena of Government Medical College Sundargarh, Dr Sagar Dalei from Day Care Centre Sundargarh, Shankar Acharya, district programme manager of National Health Mission and PM-NCD Swapanjit were present at the function.

Dr Mohanty provided information regarding treatment and counselling

services for cancer patients. The community palliative care centre will provide counselling to cancer patients through telephone and video calls, distribute free medicines and undertake home visits, informed Dr Mohanty. Dr Mohanty also explained with the help of a video about the role of family members of cancer patients, the mental preparation, financial support and the part to be played by volunteers for pain relief.

The centre will provide palliative care training to the local volunteers and healthcare workers while bereaved families will be provided with psychological support. The PHO said that regular assistance will be provided by the Health department to manage the programme.

SEWAK Chairman Amiya Kanta Naik, secretary Pradeep Kumar Brahma, treasurer Umesh Chandra Patel and various other officials and staff from Amritdhara were also present at the inaugural function.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH
E-mail Id: eerw_deogarh@yahoo.co.in
No. O-1175 **E-Procurement Notice**
Bid Identification No. SEDGH-Online-05/2023-24

1. No. of Road Works : 23 Nos.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.04 lakhs and Rs.13.45 lakhs
3. Mode of submission of tender : Tender shall be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
4. Availability of tender for : 05.10.2023, 10.00 A.M. to 13.10.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
5. Date and time of opening of tender : 16.10.2023, 10.00 A.M.
6. Other details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
7. Corrigendum/Addendum if any shall only be published in the above website. **Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Deogarh**

OIPR-25087/11/0007/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
GANJAM [R&B] DIVISION NO.II, BERHAMPUR
Phone/Fax: 0680-2233996, e-mail: sernb2.ganjam@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
TENDER CALL NOTICE

Bid Identification No. SC (R&B)-GM-II-31/2023-24, No.8602, Dated 30.09.2023
No.B-1000:1 The Superintending Engineer, Ganjam [R&B] Division No.II, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in single cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE only for the work as detailed below.

- 1) Nature of Work : Electrical work. 2) No. of work : 01 No.
- 4) Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/-
- 5) Class of Contractor : HT Licensed Contractor.
- 6) Availability of bid documents in the website : From 07.10.2023 10.00 AM to 17.10.2023 4.00 P.M.
- 7) Date of opening of Bid : 18.10.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
- 8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in> (Sd/- S. Patel)

Superintending Engineer
Ganjam (R&B) Division No.II
OIPR-34080/11/0023/2324

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Regional Office : 55 & 55/1, Chowringhee Road, 5th Floor, Chowringhee Court
Opp. Nehru Children's Museum in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata - 700 071, W.B.
Branch Address : 2nd Floor, Plot No. 394, Bomikhal, Near Santoshi Ma Temple, Cuttack Road, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin - 751 010

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-auction Sale Notice for the Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Proviso to Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and particularly to the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, the same shall be referred herein after as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be auctioned on 27.10.2023 on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis through E-auction.

It is hereby informed to General Public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>

Sl. No.	Account No. and Name of the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s. 13(2)	Description of the Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	a) Reserve Price (RP) b) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) c) Bid Increment Amt.	a) E-Auction Date and Time b) EMD Submission Last Date c) Inspection Date d) Date of Possession (Status of Possession)
2.	Loan A/c. Nos. : X0HEBH00002901642 & X0HEBH00002951694 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Bidyaraj Jena (Applicant) 2. M/s. Meena Bastralaya (Co-Applicant) 3. Sumita Jena (Co-Applicant) 4. Laxmidhar Jena (Co-Applicant) 5. Smita Mohanty (Co-Applicant) 6. Susama Jena (Co-Applicant) 7. Debraj Jena (Co-Applicant) All are at : Plot No. 31/A, Near BDA Park, BJB Nagar, Near Bjem School, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin - 751 014.	10.04.2023 Rs. 2,62,08,103.00 as on 06.04.2023	District - Khurda, Tahasil - Bhubaneswar, under the Jurisdiction of Office of the District Sub-Registrar, Khurda (BBSR), P.S. - New Capital, P.S. No. 52, Mouza - Bhubaneswar Sahara Unit No. 30, Laxmisingar-1, Mutation Khata No. 1593/1005, Shitiban Plot No. 2534, Area Ac. 0.096 Decs, Kisan-Gharabari-1 which corresponding to Khata No. 1927, Plot No. 2534 which further corresponding to G.A. Plot No. A/32, Drawing No. C/3654, measuring an extent Dimension and Area (55 X 80) Ac. 0.096 Decimals approximately. Bounded by : North - Conservancy Lane, South - Road, East - Plot No. A/31, West - Plot No. A/33, (DRT Case No. : SA/624/2023 - Pending before Cuttack DRT)	a) Rs. 3,15,00,000.00 b) Rs. 31,50,000.00 c) Rs. 1,00,000.00	a) 27.10.2023 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. (with unlimited extension of 5 min)) b) 26.10.2023 (up to 5.00 P.M.) c) 19.10.2023 & 20.10.2023 (10.00 A.M. to 1.00. P.M.) d) 21.06.2023 (Symbolic Possession)
3.	Loan A/c. No. : X0HECUK00003066381 and X0HECUK00003773530 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Debashish Routray Nuapada, Madhupatana, Cuttack, Odisha, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha, Pin - 753 004. 2. Sushila Pattanaik 3. Jay Hanuman Industries 4. Itisipita Swain All are at : (2, 3 & 4) : Shantinagar, Nuapada, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha, Pin - 753 004.	11.11.2022 Rs. 67,09,683.00 as on 05.11.2022	District - Cuttack, Tahasil - Cuttack, SRO-Cuttack, P. S. - Cuttack Sadar, P.S. No. 55, Mouza - Nuapada, Mutation Khata No. 639, Plot No. 479, Area Ac. 0.050 Decimal with Status - Dakhalta Satwya Bisista, Kisan - Gharabari (Homestead) which corresponding to Sabak Khata No. 190, Sabak Plot No. 397, Area Ac. 0.150 Decimal out of Area Ac. 0.100 Decimal. Physical. Bounded by : North - Plot No. 484, South - Plot Nos. 480, 481, East - Road, West - Plot No. 483.	a) Rs. 65,00,000.00 b) Rs. 6,50,000.00 c) Rs. 50,000.00	a) 27.10.2023 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. (with unlimited extension of 5 min)) b) 26.10.2023 (up to 5.00 P.M.) c) 19.10.2023 & 20.10.2023 (10.00 A.M. to 1.00. P.M.) d) 21.01.2023 (Symbolic Possession)

1. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on E-auction prospective bidders may contact M/s. A Closure; Contact : Jaya Prakash Reddy, Contact No.: 81420 00064, Mr. Muhammed Rahees, Contact No. : 81240 00030, E-mail ID : info@bankauctions.in, Odisha Contact No. : 98365 22775, 79787 44193.

2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in E-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002)

Date : 04.10.2023
Place : Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited
Authorised Officer

FOCUS POLITICS

DEMOCRATIC RECESSION



Modern autocrats have devised a new playbook for consolidating, exercising, and maintaining power – one that depends significantly on keeping some trappings of democracy

makes this blatantly clear. One can see these fluctuating dynamics at work in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In the latter, after a period of liberal resistance to authoritarianism and corruption, pro-Putin arch-populist Robert Fico could return to power in the upcoming snap election. Perhaps we should replace the term backsliding with “careening,” a term proposed by Hanley and Cianetti to capture an often-unpredictable zig-zagging trajectory.

If we assume that democracies are on a linear, practically inescapable, path back to old-style authoritarianism, we will fail to give adequate thought to potential paths out of the new authoritarianism. Prior to elections with authoritarian incumbents on the ballot – such as in Hungary last year, or Turkey earlier this year – liberal observers are usually clear about their desired outcome; but they rarely offer much of a plan for the day after the vote.

One might attribute this failing to fatalism: no one really expects power to change hands. But it might also be a sign of intellectual laziness, with observers assuming that one can simply apply off-the-shelf lessons from previous transitions – thus showing scant regard for the novel elements of today’s autocratic systems. They would do well to acknowledge that the new authoritarians’ supporters may have very different incentives and motivations than those of the communist-era nomenklatura, for instance. Those with a stake in kleptocratic mafia states and corrupted militaries may well be reluctant to sit down at round tables to negotiate.

Such generalizations – like those based on past experience – might be misleading, but that is the point. To preserve, restore, or promote democracy globally, we need careful analyses of individual cases, not just broad assumptions about “global trends.”

The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

It seems that 2023 will be another dismal year for democracy. There have been several coups in Africa. Tunisia – long touted as the Arab Spring’s one democratic success story – has seen the consolidation of an authoritarian (and xenophobic) regime. And Donald Trump appears on course to secure the Republican nomination for the 2024 US presidential election.

How we describe such developments matters. After all, words have consequences. Unfortunately, some of the language used to analyze the global democratic recession is having precisely the wrong effect. The term “backsliding” – which has contributed to a curious passivity among pro-democracy forces – is a case in point.

The world is not moving “back” toward some regimes familiar from the past, nor even toward dynamics and circumstances that we have seen before and can easily comprehend. The conventional wisdom has long been that, while democracies make mistakes, they also learn from those missteps and adjust accordingly – a feature that sets them apart from all other political systems. But authoritarians have now shown that they, too, can adapt, learning from their own mistakes, those of their antecedents, and their peers.

In fact, modern autocrats have devised a new playbook for consolidating, exercising, and maintaining power – one that depends significantly on keeping some trappings of democracy. As the social scientists Sergei Guriev and Daniel Treisman have shown, these so-called spin dictators are a far cry from the violent or even genocidal “fear dictators” who dominated the twentieth century. They eschew the use of overt repression to fortify their positions. They also avoid committing obvious breaches of law, and even deploy the law to achieve their own aims, in what scholars call “autocratic legalism.”

These autocrats focus on manipulating public opinion, while gradually weakening the democratic norms and institutions

from which they claim to derive their legitimacy. For example, rather than engage in old-fashioned blunt repression, they might use modern surveillance technologies, such as spyware, to identify possible dissenters. And rather than deploy security services to knock on dissenters’ doors late at night, they might send the tax authorities to find fault with an NGO or newspaper.

Spin dictators also fabricate new “facts” on the ground. For example, far-right populists in Poland and Hungary managed to fool the European Union for long enough to restructure domestic institutions and change personnel in service of consolidating their own rule. While undoing this damage is not impossible, it gets harder every day.

This is not to say that today’s autocrats are political magicians capable of fooling all the people all the time. They also make plenty of blunders that can endanger their rule, and they hold violence and other means of overt repression in reserve. Russian President Vladimir Putin had no problem abandoning all pretense of legality or tolerance for dissent after he ordered the invasion of Ukraine. However, the point remains: we are not simply returning to a kind of authoritarianism that

we have seen before. If “back” is misleading, so is “sliding.” Much like the phrase “erosion of democracy,” the term sliding suggests that we are dealing with a kind of accident, or even a quasi-natural process. But many aspiring authoritarians have a plan, and that plan often includes elements copied from others. Once Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán demonstrated how to fool the EU and play for time while he consolidated his autocracy, others could easily imitate him – as Poland’s ruling party has done.

“Backsliding” also suggests that the current democratic recession is a linear process. As Sean Hanley and Licia Cianetti observe, this “risks reproducing, in reverse, the intellectual constraints of the transition paradigm of the 1990s.” In both cases, there has been an assumption that everyone is moving inexorably along the same path. But unjustified optimism (everyone is pursuing more robust democracy) has given way to unjustified pessimism (everyone’s democracy is being “eroded”).

In reality, the world today is not experiencing a comprehensive, let alone inevitable, shift toward autocracy any more than it is experiencing the conclusive rescue of democracy. The fact that authoritarian populists are sometimes – but hardly always – voted out of power



Jan-Werner Mueller

SPIN DICTATORS ALSO FABRICATE NEW ‘FACTS’ ON THE GROUND

Proxy War

The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it.

THE MOTHER



Bad news comes for India from Maldives. The Indian Ocean archipelago occupies a crucial position in the geopolitics of the region and it is courted by both India and China. The political power play in the country is dictated by the choice of its top leaders between its close neighbours India and China. The just announced Presidential election results show China is preferred to India by the party that has emerged victorious. In fact, the election has been touted as a referendum on whether the country should be forging strong ties with India or China. The overwhelming mandate has gone to the candidate whose party has pledged to wean the country away from India’s influence and cement ties with China. Maldives Opposition candidate Mohamed Muizzu, who supports closer relationship with China, won the presidential runoff on 30 September securing over 53 per cent of the vote. One of Muizzu’s electoral promises was to remove Indian troops from the Maldives and balance the country’s trade relations, which he said, were heavily in India’s favour. This is another major example of a setback of diplomatic maneuverings of the Indian government.

The defeated President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has been perceived to be pro-India and the popular mood is against India. This was reflected in the voting pattern with Solih managing to get 46 per cent of the vote. As is customary, Muizzu’s victory speech underscored the need for the new government to work for building the country’s future “sinking differences” with the Opposition.

On the surface, Solih lost to Muizzu because of his failure to manage the country’s economy battered by COVID-19. The people were also angry with his handling of the country and failing to redeem his election pledge of rooting out corruption. They were apparently not so much bothered about the attempts by India and China to bring the archipelago within their respective orbit of influence as opposed to the economic difficulties they have been passing through.

Yet, during the run-up to the election Muizzu’s party, People’s National Congress (PNC) and its ally Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), whipped up “sovereignty” issues and launched an “India out” campaign to oust Indian military personnel. PPM chief and former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen is the main brain behind the tirade against India. He has been serving a jail term of 11 years on charges of corruption which also debarred him from contesting the presidential election this time. He was at odds with India during his tenure when he openly advocated better ties with China. He also paved the way for a free trade agreement with China and loans for infrastructure projects. The Opposition then, however, slammed him for leading Maldives into a debt trap. On the other hand, after coming to power Solih publicly announced an “India First” policy. New Delhi also responded by undertaking many infrastructure projects, helping the Maldives during the pandemic. However none of those are completed today. For this reason the duel between Solih and Muizzu in the run-off was projected as an India versus China contest. In this sense the results are a setback for India.

Muizzu is a smart player. He has not himself criticised India the way his party has. This is a clever ploy. The most challenging task before him is to shore up the Maldivian economy as debt repayments come due. He cannot afford to let his country go the Sri Lankan way which virtually went bankrupt.

Solih, who was elected President in 2018, was battling allegations by Muizzu that he had allowed India an unchecked presence in the country. But, Solih insisted the Indian military’s presence in the Maldives was only to build a dockyard under an agreement between the two governments and that his country’s sovereignty would not be violated.

However, PPM leader Yameen had made the Maldives a part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) during his presidency from 2013 to 2018. The initiative is meant to build roads, ports and highways to expand trade and China’s influence across Asia, Africa and Europe.

The Maldives is made up of 1,200 coral islands in the Indian Ocean located by the main shipping route between the East and the West.

The question that arises is how India’s foreign services establishment could allow the situation in Maldives to take a turn that helped public opinion veer away from India and toward China. It only shows colossal diplomatic failure that helps China encircle India even further. Maldives presidential election results should act as a wake-up call about China’s tenacity to corner India using every opportunity that comes its way.

WISDOM CORNER

It’s not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It’s our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless. HARRY S. TRUMAN

Those that go searching for love only make manifest their own lovelessness, and the loveless never find love, only the loving find love, and they never have to seek for it. DH LAWRENCE

Letting go gives us freedom, and freedom is the only condition for happiness. If, in our heart, we still cling to anything – anger, anxiety, or possessions – we cannot be free. THICH NHAT HANH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1582: The Gregorian calendar was introduced, and over the following centuries numerous countries adopted it. The calendar was put in place to realign events like equinoxes and solstices with the calendar, ensuring that Easter is always celebrated around the Northern Hemisphere’s spring equinox. Because of the new calendar, several days were skipped, and October 4 was followed by October 15. Today, the Gregorian calendar is the most used calendar around the world.

1883: The Orient Express departed on its first official journey from Paris to Istanbul. The Orient Express was a by-word for luxurious train travel and had its heyday in the 1920s and 1930s. The service was created by Belgian Georges Nagelmackers who set up Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits, a luxury travel service that included trains. Their most famous was the Orient Express. In 1883 the route began in Paris and ended in Istanbul, passing through Vienna and Munich. Over the years the route changed many times and was famed for the luxury of its sleeping and dining cars. From the 1960s its service was gradually reduced and finished completely in 1977.

1957: On this day in 1957 the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, which orbited Earth until 1958. The Soviet Union launched the Sputnik from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Baikonur Cosmodrome is the world’s oldest and largest space launch facility still in operation. The successful launch of Sputnik spurred the Space Race – a race between Cold War rivals USSR and US to gain supremacy in spaceflight.

1992: The 15-year long civil war was fought between the Mozambique Resistance Movement and the Mozambican government. The conflict, which began in 1977, just a couple of years after the War of Independence against the Portuguese, resulted in massive losses of human life and property. The civil war ended with the signing of the Rome General Peace Accords by both of the warring parties.

IN JEST THIS

Tortoises keep teaching us lessons



Melvin Durai

QUITE OFTEN IN LIFE, THE PERSON WHO IS SLOW AND STEADY COMPLETES AN IMPORTANT TASK, WHILE THE PERSON WHO TRIES TO BE THE FASTEST MAKES HAREBRAINED ERRORS

Children all over the world are exposed to many animal fables, stories intended to teach them lessons or morals. Among the most well-known is an Aesop fable called “The Tortoise and the Hare,” in which a hare makes fun of a tortoise for being too slow, prompting the tortoise to challenge the hare to a race.

The hare is so confident of winning that he decides to take a nap in the middle of the race. But he sleeps for too long and the tortoise beats him to the finish line. The moral of the story is that you should never take a nap without setting an alarm. Otherwise, a 30-minute nap might turn into a two-hour nap, causing you to miss something important, such as a job interview or an exam or a tortoise walking past you.

Another lesson is that you should not be overconfident and underestimate your opponent. This is how underdogs pull off

upsets in sporting events or even national elections.

The third and perhaps most important lesson is that speed does not always determine the winner of a race. Being slow and persistent can also get you to the finish line. Quite often in life, the person who is slow and steady completes an important task, while the person who tries to be the fastest makes harebrained errors.

I was reminded of the importance of persistence when I read about Tank, the world’s slowest escape artist. Tank is a tortoise belonging to Mike Nelson, a veterinarian in Leighton, Pennsylvania, U.S. During the warm months, Dr. Nelson keeps Tank in an outside pen at his veterinary clinic, but Tank recently escaped, squeezing through a hole in the fence. He had created the hole by continuously ramming the fence. (I did not know that tortoises could do this. If you have a tortoise as a pet, you might want to put

a sign: Beware of the Tortoise.)

“I call him Houdini,” Megan McFarland, a veterinary technician at the clinic, told a local TV station. “This is probably the third time he’s gotten loose. We found him the past two times, obviously relatively close. The last time he was missing for maybe about two weeks.”

Tortoises do not like to stay in one place. And sometimes they’re forced to move to a new place, as depicted in the Panchatantra fable called “The Tortoise and the Geese.” Two geese and a tortoise live happily together in a pond until a drought ruins their paradise. The geese decide to fly to another place, where there’s plenty of food and water. The tortoise can’t fly, but begs the geese to take him with them. The geese are reluctant, but finally relent, coming up with a plan: they’ll carry a stick between them in their beaks, while the tortoise hangs onto the middle with his jaws. They caution

him not to open his mouth during the flight, but we all know what happens. When villagers point and shout at the trio of travelers, wondering if the tortoise has been captured, the poor creature can’t help saying something to them. He opens his mouth, and next thing you know, he falls to the ground. (Thankfully, he doesn’t hit the ground directly but falls on a sleeping hare.)

The moral of the story, of course, is that you should never fly without a parachute.

In case you are wondering, Tank’s third escape from the veterinary clinic ended in capture too. He was found almost two weeks later and returned to the clinic. But you can bet that Tank will try to do it again. Persistence is in his blood. However, if you ask him if he’s scheming to escape again, he won’t say a word.

He knows that tortoises can get in trouble when they open their mouths unnecessarily.

Data for polls

Sir, The Bihar government has released its first-of-its-kind caste-based census. The census reveals the numbers of different castes of people residing in Bihar. According to the survey, people from extremely backward classes and other backward classes constitute more than 60 per cent of Bihar’s population. As per the Bihar government and supporters of the survey, the survey will give a clear picture of society’s divisions and help administrators shape policies. Similarly, it will make the governance process more transparent. On the other side, this survey could lead to the demand for similar kinds of surveys in other states as well. The data coming out of the survey could also inspire policymakers to make policies leaning toward the majority community. The parties in power could also take advantage of the data and play dirty politics. The majority community could be offered lavish things for electoral success. The survey has its own pros and cons so now the time is to see how the data will be used in upcoming elections.

Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL

Highest strength

Sir, Ahimsa is the farthest limit of humility. It means non-violence in thought, word and deed. Ahimsa or non-injury is a basic tenet of Jainism. Now, the world is besmirched by violence and war. Non-violence is antagonistic to cruelty. “I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and non-violence are as old as hills,” said Mahatma Gandhi. Non-violence is not timidity and escaping from problems. It is not weakness. It is the strength of the highest degree. The state government’s plea to keep Ahimsa in the Preamble of the Constitution of India is plausible and praiseworthy.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Deserving win

Sir, Hungarian biochemist Katalin Kariko and American physician-scientist Drew Weissman have deservedly won the Medicine Nobel 2023 for their pioneering work on COVID-19 vaccines. The duo’s research ensured that mRNA Covid vaccines were safe and did not lead to excessive inflammatory immune response. The mRNA technology is now used to develop cancer, influenza, and heart failure treatments. Dr Kariko is only the 13th woman to win the prize. Future generations will be grateful to the pair.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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GUWAHATI GETS ₹59CR BOTANICAL GARDEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 3: Residents of Assam's Guwahati get a 59-acre botanical garden built on the land where once a central jail stood.

Spanning an area of 36 bigha (nearly 12 acres), including 2.58 acres of water bodies, the botanical garden has been inaugurated by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The park has 85,000 plants belonging to more than 230 indigenous species of flora. Also, a dedicated space of around 2.08 acre has been kept for medicinal plants inside the complex.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Sarma on Sunday said, "After the Guwahati Central Jail was shifted to Lokhra, it was initially decided that a shopping mall would be constructed on the vacant land.

With the BJP government coming to power in 2016, a decision was reached that a public park should be built.

The botanical garden will provide a great amount of open space for the residents of Guwahati, he added.

"Rather than being referred to as a park, it has been named botanical garden with the aim of transforming it into a repository of indigenous and rare species of flora of the region,"

Sarma said. The Chief Minister also spoke about the number of ongoing and upcoming projects meant to transform Guwahati into the "Gateway to South-East Asia".

"The first phase of the riverfront development project along the bank of Brahmaputra near Kachari Ghat will be inaugurated very soon. Public parks will be built on the land in Chandmari currently housing the offices of flood control and irrigation," he said.

Sarma also said that plans are in place to build an urban forest at Borbari, and deliberations are also going on to construct embankments surrounding the

Deepor Beel (lake) that will provide cycling and walking spaces for the public. "The ongoing construction of the inland water terminal near Fancy Bazar on completion will lend a huge boost to the city's tourism potential and provide an experience similar to the ones available in South-East Asian nations such as Singapore and Malaysia," he added.

With the aim of securing the life and property of the residents of Guwahati, a surveillance camera project covering the entire city will be launched soon and the cabinet's nod to spend ₹250 crore on it has already been given, Sarma said.

Delhi L-G approves extension of Home Guard volunteers for six months



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 3: Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena Tuesday approved the extension of all 8539 Home Guards volunteers, including 4060 deployed with DTC as bus marshals.

He has also reiterated his earlier directions to Chief Minister and Home Minister to complete the process of fresh enrolment within the specified period.

The proposal for fresh enrolment of 10,285 Home Guards Volunteers is pending with the GNCTD since July and no time schedule for completion of enrolment process has been mentioned by Home Department in the latest proposal.

The last enrolment of Home Guards Volunteers was made in the year, 2011 and since then, their tenure has been extended from time to time with the approval of the L-G.

The Rule 8 of Delhi Home Guards Rules provides that "The term of office of a member of the Home Guards shall be three years".

The proposal approved reads that the tenure of the existing Home Guards Volunteers were going to lapse on 30.09.2023 and with the L-G approving the proposal for amendment in Rule 8 of Delhi Home Guards Rules, 1959, last week, their term has been extended up to 31.03.2024.

It said that therefore, the tenure of Home Guard Volunteers on roll as on 30.09.2023 (and due for the discharge between the period 31.03.2023 to 30.09.2023) may be extended up to 31.03.2024 or till the time fresh enrolment takes place, whichever is earlier subject to satisfactory service records, general conduct as Home Guards during the tenure and also subject to physical fitness.

FIGHTING AIR POLLUTION

Launched in 2020, the Green War Room has state-of-the-art air quality monitoring equipment and a team of experts, including scientists & data analysts, which keeps an eye on all sources contributing to Delhi's air pollution and helps the city administration implement its action plan

Delhi's 'Green War Room' to combat pollution starts ops



The war room team then forwards these complaints to the relevant department for resolution, he said.

The Green War Room now includes 17 experts, compared to nine last year, and will be led by environmental scientist Nandita Moitra, the minister said. Though the Green War Room functions round-the-year, the 24x7 monitoring started Tuesday onwards, an official said.

The Delhi government Friday launched a 15-point action plan to mitigate air pollution in the capital during the winter season, with a strong emphasis on addressing dust pollution, vehicular emissions and the open burning of garbage.

During a press conference, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that separate and specific action plans have been designed for each of the 13 air

pollution hotspots in Delhi based on real-time data collected from 40 air quality monitoring stations in the capital. Kejriwal said the winter action plan primarily focuses on preventing crop residue burning, dust pollution, vehicular and industrial emissions, open burning of garbage, regulating firecrackers, tree planting, ensuring effective implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan, managing e-waste and fostering collaboration with neighbouring states.

Rai had earlier warned of stern action against project proponents at large construction and demolition sites flouting dust control norms.

He had also announced a comprehensive ban on the manufacture, storage, sale, and bursting of firecrackers in the city.

Nanoparticle emissions pose health risks: Study

New Delhi: Delhi has been experiencing hazardous levels of nanoparticles in urban air, especially in the roadside environment, directly related to vehicular engine exhaust, raising public health concerns, according to a study. Nanoparticles are minuscule particles, often measuring between 10 to 1000 nanometers (nm) in diameter, making them invisible to the naked eye. These particles are more dangerous to human health due to their much smaller size compared to PM 2.5 or PM 10. Being 600 times smaller than a human hair, they can penetrate deep into our lungs, bloodstream, and even the brain. The study, published in the journal Urban Climate, was conducted on Bawana Road in northwest Delhi, connecting Delhi to Rohtak in Haryana. The monitoring location is surrounded by educational institutions, households, and commercial areas where the dominant source of pollution is vehicular, the researchers said. Other sources include biomass burning, fuel used for residential heating in winter, and fireworks events, among others, they said. Bawana Road is a busy place, with around 1,300 vehicles passing by each hour and an average of 40,000 vehicles every day.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Delhi government's control centre to monitor air pollution and redress complaints -- 'Green War Room' -- started functioning round-the-clock with a larger team of analysts and experts from Tuesday, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said.

Launched in 2020, the Green War Room has state-of-the-art air quality monitoring equipment and a team of experts, including scientists and data analysts, which keeps an eye on all sources contributing to Delhi's air pollution and helps the city administration implement its action plan. Talking to reporters here, Rai said people can report air pollution-related complaints to the Green War Room through the Green Delhi mobile application.

'Warmer Sept pushes power demand in national capital'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: An "exceptionally" warm September this year saw a record-breaking power demand in Delhi, discom officials said Tuesday.

The peak power demand of the city exceeded the September 2022 levels on 80 per cent of the corresponding days, according to State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) data.

In fact, Delhi's peak power demand clocked 6,993 megawatts (MW) September 5, 2023, the highest ever for the month of September, the officials said. Last year, the highest peak demand was 6,687 MW.

"Delhi's unusually hot weather was reflected in the city's peak power demand, which remained consistently high in comparison to the similar period last year for the last couple of months," an official said.

Also, only once has the peak power demand in Delhi dropped below 5,000 MW this September,

he said, adding that it happened on a third of the days in the month last year.

August too witnessed a similar trend and except for one day, Delhi's peak power demand surpassed August 2022 levels every day, the official added.

A BSES spokesperson said next-generation technologies like SCADA enable the discoms BRPL and BYPL to ensure reliable supply.

"Innovative solutions and capacity additions have equipped BSES to address Delhi's power demand during extended summer months with around 700 transformers (and sub-stations) added and augmented in 2022-23," he said.

Over 1,500 MW of green power is also playing an important role in powering the city in the BSES area, he added. According to SLDC data, Delhi's peak power demand clocked the season's high of 7,438 MW on August 22. Since 2012, Delhi's peak power demand has always clocked the season's highest in June and July.



DEMANDING RIGHTS: TMC workers during protest against the alleged denial of MGNREGA scheme funds to the West Bengal government, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

Assam govt hikes minimum wage of tea garden workers

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Oct 3: The Assam government has decided to hike the daily minimum wage of tea garden workers by ₹18 to ₹250 and ₹228 in Brahmaputra and Barak valley, respectively, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

During a cabinet meeting chaired by Sarma, the decision was taken to increase the wages in both Brahmaputra and Barak valleys with effect from October 1.

"The cabinet decided to increase the minimum daily wages of tea garden workers. In Brahmaputra valley, the daily wage has been increased to ₹250 from ₹232 with effect from



October 1. In Barak valley, the workers will get ₹228 instead of ₹210 from now," he said.

Briefing the press after the meeting on Monday, Sarma said the government has given instructions to the garden managements to give a 20-per cent bonus for the ensuing Durga Puja.

"There will be a 3-per cent reservation in government jobs

for tea garden workers and adivasi people with immediate effect. This will be for only the non-creamy layer," he said.

The Chief Minister also said a decision was taken to create Bajali district by bifurcating the existing Barpeta district.

Sharing another decision of the cabinet, Sarma said that for students in government schools from Class 7-12, 5 per cent seats will be reserved in medical and engineering courses.

"This will attract students towards government institutions," he said.

The cabinet also decided to ban drinking water bottles of sizes up to 250 ml from Monday, Sarma added.

ANTI-TOBACCO IMAGERY IN CINEMA HALLS

Purpose of showing ads to spread awareness: Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The purpose of showing distasteful and gross anti-tobacco imagery in the health spots during film screenings in cinema halls and on television and OTT platforms is to make people aware of the ailments and ill-effects of consuming tobacco products, the Delhi High Court has said.

The court's observation came while dismissing a petition seeking directions to the government to prohibit the display of anti-tobacco health spots during film screenings in cinema halls and on television and OTT platforms, which have graphic or gross images.

The court said the petition was backed by the tobacco industry lobby to prevent the government from raising awareness against tobacco use, which is the sole cause for a number of ailments among people, and restrain authorities from ensuring that people do not become tobacco addicts. The court also raised concerns over the abuse of the process of public interest litigation (PIL), which it said

was actually a tool for providing a voice to the voiceless but is now being used for private gains.

"With a view to deter people from smoking tobacco and tobacco products, the Government of India has brought in advertisements to educate people about the ill-effects of tobacco and tobacco products. "The graphic description given in these government-issued advertisements which, according to the petitioner, are gross and graphic imagery, are in fact meant to be eye-openers for the people not to use tobacco and tobacco products and is, therefore, in public interest," Justice Subramonium Prasad said in an order that was passed earlier but made available on the court's website Tuesday.

The high court said the purpose of displaying distasteful, gross and graphic anti-tobacco imagery in the health spots played during the screening of movies and television programmes is only to make people aware of the ailments and ill-effects of consuming tobacco and tobacco products and show them what tobacco can do to their health.





CRPF women bikers leave for the motorcycling expedition 'Yashasvini' from the Lal Chowk in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the expedition Tuesday



Second batch of Agniveer soldiers celebrate after the passing out parade at Gaur Drill Ground, Danapur in Patna



West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) qualified candidates for upper primary teachers participate in a protest rally demanding jobs, in Kolkata



A man sailing a small boat plucks lotus flowers from a water body in Nadia



Vice President of Dominican Republic Raquel Peña Rodríguez calls on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi



Bhopal Metro train runs on a track during its final trial run from Subhash Nagar Depot to Rani Kamalapati Railway Station, in Bhopal, Tuesday



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi performs 'sewa' during a visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar

national

of the day quote

The Central government plans to establish a training centre at the cost of Rs 200 crore to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Goa

During my tenure as chief minister of Punjab, lingering issues left behind by previous governments were dealt with on priority. We used both debt and our own revenue resources to fund organisations or schemes ignored by my predecessors, utilised the new debt to create capital assets and undertook development activities in the state

This news of death of 24 people including 12 newborns in a government hospital in Nanded, Maharashtra is very painful. May God give courage to all the bereaved families in this difficult time

SHORT TAKES

Tremors in north India

New Delhi: Four earthquakes, the strongest being of magnitude 6.2, jolted Nepal in quick succession with tremors reverberating through parts of north India including Delhi-NCR, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said Tuesday. An NCS official said the first quake of magnitude 4.6 struck west Nepal at a depth of 10 kilometre at 2:25 pm, followed by the 6.2 magnitude jolt at 2:51 pm. Two more quakes (magnitude 3.6 and 3.1) hit the same region at a depth of 15 km and 10 km at 3:06 pm and 3:19 pm, respectively. The epicentre for the strongest quake was 206 km southeast of the pilgrimage town of Joshimath in Uttarakhand and 284 north of Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow. People in Delhi and the National Capital Region reported strong tremors after the second quake and rushed out of their offices and high-rise residential buildings.

Anupriya pitches for caste census

Rae Bareilly: A day after the Bihar government released figures of the caste survey conducted by it, BJP ally and Union Minister Anupriya Patel Tuesday pitched for a nationwide caste census and demanded a separate ministry dedicated to the welfare of the Other Backward Classes. Addressing a meeting of her party, the Apna Dal (S) leader said a caste census is very much needed so that authentic statistics about backward castes, including their population, is known and their problems and issues effectively addressed.

Gehlot files apology affidavit in HC

Jaipur: In an affidavit filed Tuesday in the Rajasthan High Court, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tendered an "unconditional apology" for his remark suggesting that there was "trampant corruption" in the judiciary. The affidavit was in response to a petition filed by an advocate over Gehlot's remark on August 30 that had triggered outrage in the lawyers' community.

Railways releases new timetable

New Delhi: The Indian Railway Tuesday released its new timetable of trains effective from October 1. The highlights of the new time table are the induction of 64 Vande Bharat trains along with 70 other train services.



Political conspiracy is clearly visible in the caste census data released by the Bihar government. Many statistics have been inflated for the political benefit of one caste while attempts have been made to project less than actual population of many castes

CHIRAG PASWAN | LOK JANSHAKTI PARTY (RAM VILAS) LEADER

BIHAR GRANTS 10% EWS QUOTA

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar Tuesday announced 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in the judicial services, and the state-run law colleges and universities. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister



TMC leaders detained during dharna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and several other party leaders were detained Tuesday night after they held a dharna at the Union Rural Development Ministry office here demanding a meeting with the minister.

The development came as the tug-of-war between the Centre and the West Bengal government over the release of funds to the state intensified with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) holding protests in the national capital for the second consecutive day.

Banerjee, along with party lawmakers, state ministers and supporters including MGNREGA workers, protested at Jantar Mantar here, a day after they held a two-hour sit-in at the Rajghat on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary before being evicted by the police.

They later took out a march to the Rural Development Ministry at the Krishi Bhavan, where they had an appointment with Minister of State Sadhu Niranjana Jyoti. However, around an hour and a half after going to the Bhavan, TMC leaders claimed



that the MoS refused to meet them saying she would not meet more than five representatives.

The TMC leaders, who had brought with them bundles of letters addressed to the prime minister and the rural development minister, refused to leave till the MoS met them. Led by Banerjee, a group of TMC leaders sat on a dharna, which continued till around 9 pm, after which they were detained by the police and evicted from the ministry premises.

The Trinamool Congress claimed that the phones of some leaders were also taken by the police. Earlier, addressing the protesters at Jantar Mantar, Banerjee said their party's elected representatives will forgo their salaries to pay MGNREGA workers and the payments will be made within two months even if the Centre does not pay their dues.

He also accused the Centre of trying to stall their protest. "Yesterday they sent around 5,000 to 10,000 police personnel, RAF and other forces to stop 50 leaders of the TMC. Today as

well the number of security personnel here makes it appear as if India-China war is going on here," said Banerjee, flanked by party leaders holding placards on the stage.

"There are 70,000 elected representatives from Trinamool in Bengal. We will forego a month's salary and ensure that these 2,500 people get their money before November 30. I promise you that these people will get their money within two months," he said.

He also said the Union government is spending thousands of crores on planes and the New Parliament Building, but is not paying dues to workers. The TMC leader accused the central government of trying to threaten the protesters and said despite all its efforts, the Centre could not stop the TMC.

Lok Sabha MP from Krishnanagar Mahua Moitra alleged the Centre is collecting taxes from West Bengal, but not giving the state's dues. "We have not come here to beg but for our rights... Mamata Banerjee is fighting not only for Bengal but for the people of the entire country," the firebrand leader said.

NO REPRIEVE FROM TOP COURT TO NAIDU



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu Tuesday failed to secure any relief from the Supreme Court which posted for October 9 his plea challenging the high court order refusing to quash an FIR against him in the Skill Development Corporation scam case.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Andhra Pradesh government, to place on record all material which were produced before the high court in connection with the case.

Rohatgi argued that Naidu's petition for quashing the FIR be rejected as the question about the applicability of section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act does not arise as the provision came into force in July 2018, while the CBI began probing the case in 2017.

Section 17A was introduced by an amendment with effect from July 26, 2018 and the provision stipulates a mandatory requirement for a police officer to seek prior approval from the competent authority for conducting any enquiry or inquiry or investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PC Act).

PROTEST OVER NAMAZ BY HINDU STUDENTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 3: Hindu right-wing activists staged a protest Tuesday and the Gujarat government ordered a probe after Hindu students were allegedly asked to perform namaz as part of an awareness program at a private school here.

Videos of the protest showed a teacher being beaten up. The state government ordered an inquiry into the program organised at Kalorex Future School, located in Ghatlodia area of the city, on September 29. The intention behind organizing the program

in question was only to make students aware of the practices of different religions and no student was forced to perform the Islamic prayer, the school said, while also tendering an apology.

In a video of the event, which was later removed from the school's Facebook page, a student of the primary section can be seen performing namaz. Then, four other students join him in singing 'Lab pe aati hai dua', a prayer, in the Islamic way. Activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Bajrang Dal and other right-wing organisations staged a pootest on the school premises.

Want constructive ties with India: Canada PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Toronto, Oct 3: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Tuesday said Canada was not looking to "escalate" the situation with India amid the diplomatic row between the two countries over the killing of a Khalistani separatist and asserted that his government will continue to have "constructive relations" with New Delhi.

Speaking to reporters in Ottawa, Trudeau also said that it's important for Canada to have diplomats on the ground in India, amid a report by London-based Financial Times that New Delhi wants as many as 41 of 62 remaining Canadian diplomats out of the country, the Toronto

Sun newspaper reported.

"Obviously, we're going through an extremely challenging time with India right now," Trudeau was quoted as saying by the Canadian newspaper. He, however, did not confirm the FT report that India has asked Canada to withdraw 41 of 62 diplomats from the country.

Asked if his government would retaliate by asking India to remove diplomats based in Canada, Trudeau insisted his government would try to keep working with New Delhi.

"We're not looking to escalate, as I've said, we're going to be doing the work that matters in continuing to have constructive relations with India through this extremely difficult time," Trudeau was quoted as saying by the state-run CBC News.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly told reporters in Ottawa that the government believes in having a "strong diplomatic footprint" in India.

Another hospital tragedy in Maha



The official said two pre-term babies died on the sixth day of treatment (between October 2 and 3) at the hospital

THIS COMES AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF 24 DEATHS AT THE DR SHANKARRAO CHAVAN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL IN NANDED, ALSO IN MARATHWADA, IN 24 HOURS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1 AND SEVEN MORE FATALITIES BETWEEN OCTOBER 1 AND 2, TAKING THE TALLY TO 31 IN 48 HOURS, ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Oct 3:

At least 18 deaths were recorded at the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) here in Maharashtra within 24 hours ending at 8 am on Tuesday, an official said.

This comes against the backdrop of 24 deaths at the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital in Nanded, also in Marathwada, in 24 hours between September 30 and October 1 and seven more fatalities between October 1 and 2, taking the tally to 31 in 48 hours, according to officials.

"18 deaths were recorded at the Government Medical College and Hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar between 8 am on October 2 and 8 am on October 3," the hospital medical superintendent said.

He said out of the 18 deaths recorded at the GMCH, four persons were brought dead. "Among the 18, two patients died due to heart attack while two others were suffering from pneumonia. Another three deceased patients were suffering from renal

failure and another with liver failure. One patient died due to the failure of liver and kidney. One casualty each was reported due to road accident, poisoning, and infection after appendix burst," he said.

The official said two pre-term babies died on the sixth day of treatment (between October 2 and 3) at the hospital. "They were pre-term babies and weighed only 1,300 grams each," he added. The official said the facility was not running short on life-saving drugs.

"We are ascertaining which are the last-minute referrals to the GMCH among these cases (18 fatalities)," he added. He said the facility has the permission for 1,177 beds but anytime more than 1,600 patients remain admitted.

"As this facility is a tertiary care unit, we had nearly 28,000 admissions last month. Out of these admissions, 419 deaths were recorded with us (in September). The percentage is 1.45 per cent," he added. Patients from various districts of the Marathwada region and cities in north Maharashtra visit the GMCH.



Security personnel, forest department officials, NGO staff and others after rescuing a baby crocodile from a swimming pool of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), in Mumbai, Tuesday

MoE frames draft guidelines on suicide prevention in schools

WITH 'EVERY CHILD MATTERS' AS THE UNDERLYING BELIEF IN DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES, THE DRAFT DETAILS DIRECTIONS TO SCHOOLS FOR ENHANCING SENSITIVITY AND UNDERSTANDING AND PROVIDING SUPPORT IN CASE OF REPORTED SELF-HARM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Setting up wellness teams, identifying students exhibiting warning signs and those at risk of self-harm and supporting them are part of the draft guidelines prepared by the Union Ministry of Education (MoE) for schools to prevent student suicides.

With "Every Child Matters" as the underlying belief in developing the guidelines, the draft details directions to schools for enhancing sensitivity and understanding and providing support in case of reported self-harm.

The draft accessed by PTI also emphasises nurturing partnerships between schools, parents and the community, fostering

societal support as a critical strategy for preventing suicides and reducing the stigma associated with suicidal behaviour.

Discarding damaging notions, including comparisons with peers, the perception of failure as permanent and the sole measurement of success based on academic performance, have also been recommended in the draft, besides locking empty classrooms, lighting up dark corridors and cleaning gardens and areas with excess growth of grass.

The draft for UMMEED (Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Empower, Develop) guidelines comes at a time when a record number of students preparing for engineering and medical entrance exams in coaching hub Kota have committed



suicides in 2023.

"A School Wellness Team (SWT) may be formed under the leadership of the School Principal, where each member of SWT is oriented in handling crisis situations. When a student displaying warning signs has been identified by any stakeholder, they need to be reported to the SWT,

which takes immediate action.

"The SWT will also play an important role in implementation of school activities directed towards creating awareness about mental well-being, leading towards suicide prevention. However, SWT alone will not suffice in a school's efforts towards prevention of sui-

cide and would require the support of all stakeholders," the guidelines said.

It has also been recommended that depending on the resources available within the school, the SWT be reconstituted on a regular basis to give all stakeholders in the school the opportunity to build awareness and capacity.

Additionally, it is important for the school to review the effectiveness of the SWT and its functioning on an annual basis, the guidelines said. "Students go through many transitions during their school life which can cause extreme stress, for example, transition from home to school, from one school to another, school to college, losing a parent, sibling, friend, near and dear one, etc.

"Along with this, children also experience changes as they progress through the developmental stages, leading to concerns such as those related to physical changes and appearance, peer pressure, career decisions, academic pressure, and many more. Amidst these challenges, a single insensitive comment has the potential to inflict lasting harm," the guidelines noted.

The draft further recommended that in order to effectively prevent suicides and ensure appropriate and timely response in situations of crisis, schools must actively work towards building the capacity of all stakeholders which includes teachers and school staff, students, families of students and others.

international

of the day quote

I will use peace as a beacon and democracy as a compass. In the complex geopolitical situation, I will brave the winds and the waves to lead Taiwan steadily forward

India has supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in continuing the Black Sea Grain Initiative and hopes for an early resolution to the present impasse

The debt crisis faced by 40 per cent of the developing countries is because of the inequality built into our outdated global financial system, which reflects the colonial power dynamics of the era when it was created

SHORT TAKES

Niger's junta says jihadis kill 29 soldiers

Abuja: At least 29 Nigerian soldiers have been killed by jihadis near the country's border with Mali, Niger's junta said, as they struggle to end a spate of attacks. More than 100 extremists used homemade explosives to target the West African nation's security forces who were deployed at the border area on a clearance operation, Niger Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Salifu Mody said. It's the second such attack against Nigerian soldiers in a week. Jihad attacks targeting civilians quadrupled in August compared with the month before.

Armenia Parliament votes to join the ICC

Yerevan: Armenia's parliament voted Tuesday to join the International Criminal Court, a move that further strains the country's ties with its old ally Russia after the court issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin over events in Ukraine. Moscow last month called Yerevan's effort to join the ICC an "unfriendly step," and the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil.

Tunisia rejects European funds

Tunis: Tunisia Monday announced it would reject an installment of funds sent by Europe to help the debt-ridden country patrol the Mediterranean Sea as migrant boat crossings spike to levels not seen in several years. President Kais Saied Monday accused the European Union of not following through on agreements made earlier this year to help Tunisia patrol its border, curb smuggling and balance its federal budget.

SA culls nearly 2.5M chickens

Cape Town: South Africa has culled nearly 2.5 million chickens in an effort to contain dozens of outbreaks of two separate strains of avian influenza that have threatened to create a shortage of eggs for consumers and are hitting an industry already struggling due to an electricity crisis, the government said Tuesday. Another 205,000 chickens have died from bird flu in at least 60 separate outbreaks across the country, with more than half of those outbreaks in Gauteng province, which includes the country's biggest city, Johannesburg, and the capital, Pretoria.

EASTER BOMBINGS

SL Prez rejects int'l probe



Ranil Wickremesinghe accused the Western world of double standards in calling for an international investigation in Lanka when the Western governments had not allowed any international inquiries when accusations were made against them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Oct 3: Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe has ruled out having an international-aided independent probe into the 2019 Easter bombings by a local Islamist extremist group as he slammed the Western media for its double standards. Nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three Catholic churches and as many luxury hotels April 21, 2019, killing nearly 270 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500. In September, UK's Channel 4 television station aired a documentary titled 'Sri Lanka's Easter Bombings - Dispatches', alleging the involvement and complicity of certain government officials, including intelligence service chief Major General Suresh Sallay, in orchestrating the 2019 Easter suicide bombings. It called the attacks a "crafted act" aimed at forcing a political change in favour of the then-powerful Rajapaksa brothers. During a fiery interview with the German state-owned broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) against the backdrop of Channel 4's allegations, Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka will not have any international inquiry into the Easter blasts. "It is out," he said. "The Sri Lankan government does not have international investigations. Full stop. Few people may want (it), but the Parliament doesn't," he said. Referring to an FBI report on the terror attack,

Wickremesinghe said, "No one outside was involved." "We had the FBI, the British Police, the Australians, Indians, Chinese and the Pakistanis. If those secret services have given reports, what are these allegations?" he questioned the interviewer. The president accused the Western world of double standards in calling for an international investigation in Lanka when the Western governments had not allowed any international inquiries when accusations were made against them. "Germany does not have such inquiries. The UK does not have such inquiries. What international inquiries have they gone into? Why is it for Sri Lankans and Asians? You think we are second class?" Wickremesinghe asked. "You need to take this Western attitude out. The Western media thinks we are bad. The way we have an inquiry is by using Sri Lankan personnel," he said. Wickremesinghe has pledged to appoint a parliamentary select committee to investigate allegations levelled by the British channel that the whole attack was a conspiracy and there is a mastermind behind the attacks. "You are talking nonsense. You have no right to ask me this question. Do you think we are second class? You need to take this Western attitude out. You stop it, I stop it. We go off," he retorted angrily when the interviewer suggested that his government stood in the dock for its lack of accountability for human rights violations. The president said that his government has rejected the "wrong" report of the UN Human Rights Commission.

leging the involvement and complicity of certain government officials, including intelligence service chief Major General Suresh Sallay, in orchestrating the 2019 Easter suicide bombings. It called the attacks a "crafted act" aimed at forcing a political change in favour of the then-powerful Rajapaksa brothers. During a fiery interview with the German state-owned broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) against the backdrop of Channel 4's allegations, Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka will not have any international inquiry into the Easter blasts. "It is out," he said. "The Sri Lankan government does not have international investigations. Full stop. Few people may want (it), but the Parliament doesn't," he said. Referring to an FBI report on the terror attack,



China firmly opposes the US's overstretching of the national security concept and abuse of export control measures to wantonly hobble Chinese enterprises

MATTER OF CONCERN At least one in five children arriving in South Sudan from Sudan are malnourished and more than 90 per cent of arrivals haven't eaten in days, the UN food agency said

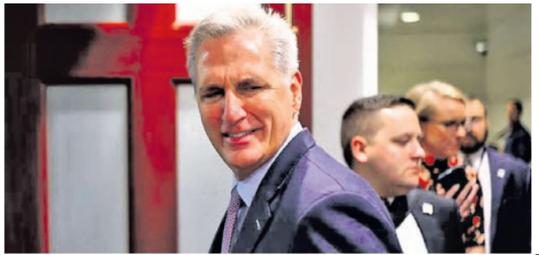


President Joe Biden walks with actress Selma Blair and Blair's service dog Scout as they arrive for an event to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act on the South Lawn of the White House, in Washington

Shooting at Bangkok shopping mall kills 2

Bangkok: A shooter opened fire inside a major shopping mall in the centre of Thailand's capital Tuesday afternoon, killing at least two people before being apprehended, authorities said. Police said a suspect was taken into custody less than an hour after the first reported gunshots at the Siam Paragon Mall, long been seen as one of Bangkok's biggest and most upscale shopping destinations. Major Thai media said he was 14 years old, though recently appointed police chief Torsak Sukvimol confirmed only that he is a minor and appeared to be suffering from mental illness. Torsak said two people had been killed, a visitor from China and a Myanmar national. Earlier, Yuthana Sretthanan, director of Bangkok's Erawan Emergency Medical Centre, had said three people were killed and six were injured. There was no explanation of the discrepancy, though Yuthana later supported the police number.

House to vote on McCarthy's future



Washington, Oct 3: Embattled US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy Tuesday teed up a vote on a challenge to his leadership by a fellow Republican, in an intra-party dispute that could plunge Congress into chaos. "I'm confident I'll hold on," McCarthy told reporters. The House will likely take up Gaetz's motion around 1:30 p.m. (1730 GMT). The chamber could hold a straight up or down vote, or could hold a vote to sideline it. If McCarthy hangs on to his job, Gaetz could potentially push for another vote. The leadership fight comes just days after Republican infighting took Washington to the brink of a partial government shutdown. Several Republicans said they were sticking with McCarthy as they emerged from a closed-door meeting in which they said he received multiple standing ovations. "I don't think there's any question that there's only one person prepared to lead our party. That's understood by over 95% of the members," said Republican Representative Darrell Issa. Gaetz did not speak to reporters after the meeting. McCarthy's party controls the chamber by a narrow 221-212 majority, and it would take as few as five Republican defections to threaten his hold on power if all Democrats also vote against him. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries declined to say how his members would vote, or whether they would vote as a unit.

McCarthy said the House of Representatives will vote later in the day on a motion by Representative Matt Gaetz, a McCarthy antagonist, that could potentially remove him from his post. If successful, it would be the first time in US history that House lawmakers voted their leader out. "We are ready, willing and able to work together with our Republican colleagues, but it is on them to join us to move the Congress and the country forward," he said following a morning meeting. Democrats broadly view McCarthy as untrustworthy after he broke an agreement on spending with Democratic President Joe Biden, and are angered by his decision to greenlight an impeachment investigation of the president. Several said they would not vote to keep him in office. There is also little inclination in the White House to help McCarthy, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. McCarthy said he did not expect Democratic support. Gaetz and other far-right Republicans are angered that McCarthy relied on Democratic votes to pass a temporary funding extension Saturday that headed off a partial government shutdown. A faction of about 20 Republicans, Gaetz included, had forced McCarthy's hand by repeatedly blocking other legislation. Other Republicans said they should focus on legislating, rather than infighting.

Xi vows to deepen ties with Maldives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 3: Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday pledged to deepen bilateral ties with the Maldives as he congratulated President-elect Mohamed Muizzu, whose party campaigned for forging close ties with Beijing. Muizzu, from the People's National Congress and a close associate of former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen who forged close ties with China during his Presidency from 2013 to 2018, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held on Saturday. Yameen is currently serving an 11-year prison sentence for corruption. In his message, Xi said that China and the Maldives enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges. Xi, who visited Maldives in 2014 and announced several Chinese investments under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which subsequently evoked criticism of being "debt traps" by the country's opposition parties, said the two countries are not only friends of sincere trust and mutual assistance but also



partners of joint development and common prosperity. He said he attaches great importance to the development of bilateral relations and stands ready to work with President-elect Muizzu to carry forward the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation and push for new progress in the future-oriented, all-round friendly and cooperative partnership between the two countries, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Muizzu's election raised expectations in China that the archipelagic state strategically located in the Indian Ocean close to India's southern coast will pursue pro-Beijing policies, unlike Solih who pursued India's

first policy and established close ties with New Delhi. Muizzu is due to take over the office on November 17 after which he was expected to outline his foreign policy priorities. During Solih's tenure, India besides undertaking many infrastructure projects and providing economic assistance to Maldives which has a population of 5.21 lakh people also actively campaigned for Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid election as President of the UN General Assembly. India also provided vaccines to Maldives during the Covid crisis. Observers say despite his party's pro-China rhetoric, Muizzu, a British-educated civil engineer, may follow a more nuanced foreign policy as the country faces a precarious economy with several debt repayments due, taking a cue from the worst economic crisis faced by Sri Lanka. India stepped in with \$4 billion in assistance to Sri Lanka while China dithered despite massive BRI investments in the country including the Hambantota port which Beijing took over for a 99-year lease as debt swap.

Insta, FB to charge EU users for ad-free service: Source

THE COMPANY WANTS TO CHARGE USERS ABOUT 10 EUROS (USD 10.50) A MONTH TO USE INSTAGRAM OR FACEBOOK WITHOUT ADS ON DESKTOP BROWSERS, THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED, CITING UNNAMED PEOPLE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROPOSAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 3: Meta plans to give Facebook and Instagram users in Europe the option of paying for ad-free versions of the social media platforms as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. The company wants to charge users about 10 euros (\$10.50) a month to use Instagram or Facebook without ads on desktop browsers, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed people familiar with the proposal. Adding more accounts would cost 6 euros each. Prices for mobile would be

higher, at roughly 13 euros a month, because Meta needs to account for commissions charged by the Apple and Google app stores on in-app payments, the newspaper said. Meta reportedly is hoping to roll out paid subscriptions in the coming months as a way to comply with European Union data privacy rules that threaten its lucrative business model of showing personalised ads to users. Meta would give users the choice between continuing to use the platforms with ads or paying for the ad-free version, the WSJ said. "Meta believes in the value of free services which are supported by personalised ads," the company



said in a statement to The Associated Press. "However, we continue to explore options to ensure we comply with evolving

regulatory requirements. We have nothing further to share at this time." The EU's top court said in July that Meta must first get consent before showing ads to users — a ruling that jeopardises the company's ability to make money by tailoring advertisements for individual users based on their online interests and digital activity. It's not clear if EU regulators will sign off on the plan or insist that the company offer cheaper versions. The newspaper said one issue regulators have is whether the proposed fees will be too expensive for most people who don't want to be targeted by ads.

business

of the day quote

During pandemic, when crude oil prices crashed, the world came together to stabilise the prices to make it sustainable for the producers. Now, as the world is at cusp of economic recession & slowdown, oil producers need to show same sensitivity towards the consuming countries

We have been benchmark creators in standardisation of vehicle safety features. Now, we are elated to announce the standardisation of six airbags across all models and all variants

The moderation in the first half was along expected lines, and the government's infrastructure push and spending are helping corporate India report positive credit ratios.

SHORT TAKES

Maruti output dips 1% in Sept

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Tuesday said its total production declined by 1 per cent to 1,74,978 units in September. The company had produced 1,77,468 units in September 2022. Last month, production of entry level cars -- Alto and S-Presso -- declined by 70 per cent to 10,705 units from 35,887 units in the year-ago period, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. Similarly, production of models like Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift and WagonR, declined to 90,849 units in September as against 92,717 units in the same month last year. Production of mid-sized sedan Ciaz declined to 2,304 units last month. It was 2,654 units in September 2022. Total passenger car production dropped by 21 per cent to 1,03,858 units last month as against 1,31,258 units in the year-ago period.

Vedanta shares climb nearly 4 pc

New Delhi: Shares of Vedanta Ltd climbed nearly 4 per cent Tuesday after the announcement of a major business shake-up. The stock ended at Rs 230.80 apiece, up 3.73 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 5.07 per cent to Rs 233.80. On the NSE, it climbed 5 per cent to Rs 233.75 in intra-day trade. Later, it ended at Rs 230.95 per share, a gain of 3.77 per cent. The company's market valuation jumped Rs 3,085.07 crore to Rs 85,792.90 crore. Mining magnate Anil Agarwal's conglomerate Friday announced a major business shake-up, with flagship Vedanta approving a spin-off of its metals, power, aluminium and oil and gas businesses into separate listed entities and an overhaul of a lucrative zinc unit planned as part of value creation and reducing debt load.

IHC ups stake in Adani Enterprises

New Delhi: Days after selling its stake in two of Adani group companies, Abu Dhabi conglomerate International Holding Company (IHC) Tuesday said it has raised stake in the group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd to above 5 per cent. In a filing to Abu Dhabi stock exchange, IHC said, "This strategic increase reflects IHC's conviction in the world leading incubation model of AEL." Stating it has increased its stake in AEL to above 5 per cent, it said it believes that "the inherent strength of airports, data centres, green hydrogen, and various other verticals being incubated under AEL and that AEL is poised to uniquely capitalise on India's robust growth journey."



The cost of transporting goods in India is the highest, So JSW Infra has a huge potential to grow its business to create what the government has created, CONCOR

SAJJAN JINDAL | JSW GROUP CHAIRMAN

SMART TV SHIPMENTS FALL 5% IN H1

India's smart TV shipments are expected to decline 7 per cent in 2023 on account of factors such as inflation and other macroeconomic headwinds in the country, said a Counterpoint Research report. In the first half of 2023, the India smart TV shipments have already declined 5%, the report said.



India to grow at 6.3% in FY24: WB

ACCORDING TO THE MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, INDIA CONTINUES TO SHOW RESILIENCE AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A CHALLENGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Washington, Oct 3: The World Bank Tuesday retained India's growth forecast at 6.3 per cent for current financial year on the back of robust services activities despite global headwinds.

According to a World Bank report released Tuesday, India continues to show resilience against the backdrop of a challenging global environment.

In India, which accounts for the bulk of South Asia region, growth is expected to remain robust at 6.3 per cent in 2023-24, India Development Update of the World Bank said.

The World Bank had projected 6.3 per cent GDP growth in its April report as well. India recorded 7.2 per cent growth in 2022-23.

Last month, Asian Development Bank (ADB) marginally lowered India's growth forecast to 6.3 per cent for current financial year.

As per RBI's latest forecast, the Indian economy would grow at 6.5 per cent in 2023-24.

The Organisation for



Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its latest report upped the GDP growth projection for India to 6.3 per cent from the previous estimate of 6 per cent.

While global rating agency Fitch retained India's growth forecast at 6.3 per cent, S&P Global Market Intelligence raised it to 6.6 per cent from the earlier projection of 5.9 per cent.

Sharing sectoral growth projections, the World Bank report said, the agriculture sector is expected to clock a growth of 3.5 per cent, industry 5.7 per cent and services 7.4 per cent during 2023-24. At the same time, investment growth is projected to remain robust at 8.9 per cent.

"An adverse global environment will continue to pose challenges in the short term. Tapping

public spending that crowds in more private investments will create more favourable conditions for India to seize global opportunities in the future and thus achieve higher growth," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director in India.

On inflation, the report said, it is expected to decrease gradually as food prices normalize and government measures help increase the supply of key commodities.

Retail inflation is expected to remain elevated at 5.9 per cent during the year, it said.

The World Bank expects fiscal consolidation to continue in FY24 with the central government's fiscal deficit projected to decline from 6.4 per cent to 5.9 per cent of GDP.

"Public debt is expected to stabilize at 83 per cent of GDP. On the external front, the current account deficit is expected to narrow to 1.4 per cent of GDP, and it will be adequately financed by foreign investment flows and supported by large foreign reserves," it said.

Stocks fall on unabated foreign fund outflows



Fall in index majors HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries also dragged Sensex, Nifty lower

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined Tuesday amid unabated foreign fund outflows and sluggish Asian market cues.

Fall in index majors HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries also dragged the benchmark indices lower.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 316.31 points or 0.48 per cent to settle at 65,512.10. During the day, it fell 483.82 points or 0.73 per cent to 65,344.59.

The Nifty fell 109.55 points or 0.56 per cent to end at 19,528.75.

Among the Sensex firms, Maruti, NTPC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, JSW Steel, ITC and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards.

Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the gainers.

In the broader market, the

BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.61 per cent and midcap gained 0.09 per cent.

Among the indices, oil & gas declined 1.30 per cent, auto fell by 1.21 per cent, metal (0.78 per cent), utilities (0.72 per cent), FMCG (0.50 per cent) and commodities (0.20 per cent).

Industrials, capital goods, consumer durables, realty and services were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower while Shanghai ended in the green.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.07 per cent to USD 90.73 a barrel.

FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) turned net sellers and pulled out over Rs 14,767 crore from the Indian equities in September, primarily due to dollar appreciation, steady rise in the US bond yields, and a spike in crude oil prices.

Equity markets were closed Monday on account of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 320.09 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 65,828.41 Friday. The Nifty advanced 114.75 points or 0.59 per cent to end at 19,638.30.

Ivory Coast seeks Indian investment in cocoa processing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abidjan, Oct 3: Cote d'Ivoire - the world's largest producer of cocoa - is eyeing investments from India to establish cocoa processing units and for direct sale of cocoa products.

State-owned Transcao, established in February 2019, to encourage production of value-added products of cocoa to ensure better returns to local farmers, has already received an investment of 255 million Euro from China for two greenfield projects here. With demand for cocoa reaching a saturation point in the US and Europe, Cote d'Ivoire, known as Ivory Coast, is focusing on transformation of cocoa and exploring collaborations with Asian countries.

"With India having the largest consumer base. Cote d'Ivoire is very keen to have stronger ties with South Asian nations," Transcao General Manager Colubily Konan Theodore told PTI in an interview. Currently, Transcao - also called Societe De Transformation De Cacao Cote D'Ivoire - is in the process of setting up two greenfield projects with a total processing capacity of 100,000 tonnes a year with a Chinese investment. "The total project cost is 300 million euro. We have received 85 per cent investment from China in the form of a loan and the rest is funded by us," Theodore said. In lieu of the loan, Transcao will supply 40 per cent of the total production from these two greenfield units to China for the next 15 years, he said.

Chocolate liquor, cocoa butter and cocoa powder are some of the processed products - used in making of confectionery, - that will be manufactured at the greenfield units.

COAL PRODUCTION RISES 16% IN SEPT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The country's coal output increased 15.81 per cent to 67.21 million tonnes in September as against 58.04 million tonnes in the year-ago period, an official statement said Tuesday.

The cumulative coal production up to September increased to 428.25 MT in the ongoing fiscal, over 382.16 MT in the year-ago period, registering a growth of 12.06 per cent, the coal ministry statement said.

The output of state-owned Coal India Ltd, which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, increased to 51.44 MT in September as against 45.67 MT a year ago.

Additionally, coal dispatch increased to 70.33 MT over 61.10 MT in September last fiscal.

The coal sector witnessed an unprecedented upswing, with production, dispatch and stock levels soaring to remarkable heights, the ministry said.

"This exceptional growth is attributed to the unwavering dedication of coal PSUs, which has played a pivotal role in driving this extraordinary progress," the statement said.

The coal ministry added that it remains committed to maintaining consistent coal production and dispatch, ensuring uninterrupted supply for a reliable and resilient energy sector contributing to the nation's continued growth and prosperity.

31mn users in India seen upgrading to 5G in 2023

5G users in India stand out for their high daily engagement with apps, such as streaming high definition video

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: As many as 31 million users in India are expected to upgrade to 5G phones in 2023, amid an accelerated adoption of the ultra high-speed services in the country, according to a report by Ericsson.

5G users in India outpace global counterparts in daily adoption of apps.

In India, 5G has elevated the overall network satisfaction by an 'impressive' 30 per cent compared to 4G, Ericsson Consumer Lab's Global Survey showed.

"According to the study, based on tech attitudes and affordability, 31 million users could upgrade to 5G phones in 2023. This presents a vast opportunity for further 5G adoption in the country," it said.

5G users in India stand out for their high daily engagement with apps, such as streaming high definition video, video calling services, mobile gaming and augmented reality.

On an average, they spend two hours more per week using these services compared to users in other early adopter 5G markets such as the US, the UK, South Korea, China and many others. "Moreover, India's 5G satisfaction levels and perceived 5G availability match or surpass those in early adopter markets. India boasts a remarkable 13 per cent higher share of very satisfied 5G users compared to the early adopter market average," it said.

Overall satisfaction increases by a substantial 30 per cent when transitioning from 4G to 5G, with higher download speeds playing a key role in driving this satisfaction, the survey by the Swedish telecom gear maker noted.

BIZ BUZZ

SBI holds cleanliness drive

Bhubaneswar: Under "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign of Government of India, to commemorate the auspicious birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, more than 100 staff of SBI Local Head Office (LHO), Bhubaneswar took part in a cleanliness drive near LHO premises. State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle Chief General Manager Chander Shekhar Sharma, General Manager P Murugan and Uttam Kumar Hazara Chowdhury, Circle Development Officer Manoj Kumar Singh and more than 100 staff members participated in this programme with great enthusiasm. On the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, CGM Sharma congratulated all and called upon the staff to uphold Gandhi's ideals and values of integrity and transparency in their work and life. In the afternoon, a cleanliness drive and awareness rally was organised at sea beach near Puri Digbarini under leadership of CGM Sharma. Along with high-ranked officials, more than 60 SBI staff carried out cleaning work of nearly half kilometre radius of the beach and took out a rally for awareness. CGM Sharma called upon all to make cleanliness a daily habit rather than a formality.



Union Bank of India organises "Swachhata Hi Seva"



Berhampur: Union Bank of India, Berhampur Regional Office, organised "Swachhata Hi Seva" programme October 1, under the guidance of Satyabrata Samal, Regional Head, Regional office, Berhampur. The cleanliness drive was undertaken by the staff of Regional Office and other branches from Janana Hospital Road, Tata Benz Square to Janana Hospital and from Railway Station to Nehru Park. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, various programmes were organized October 2, in the conference hall of Berhampur Regional Office under the chairmanship of the Regional Head in the presence of Deputy Regional Head Meghraj Marndi and Raghu Narayan Swain. Retired Col. LK Achary attended the programme as Chief Guest. During this programme, the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri were elaborated and prizes and checks were given to girl students by the Regional Head and the Chief Guest. On this occasion, a health check-up camp was organised for employees, retired employees and others.

Solar, wind to power 2/3rd of India's growth by 2032: Report

INDIA'S POWER GENERATION GROWTH, WHICH WAS PREDOMINANTLY COAL-DRIVEN, COULD SHIFT TOWARD SOLAR AND WIND SOURCES IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS, PROVIDED THAT INDIA STAYS ON COURSE TO ACHIEVE ITS NEP14 OBJECTIVES, AS PER EMBER'S ANALYSIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Solar and wind energy are poised to drive two-thirds of India's power generation growth by 2032 if the nation successfully attains its renewable energy targets, according to a new analysis conducted by the global energy think tank Ember.

Solar power in India has evolved significantly since 2017 when it accounted for only 1 per cent of the country's power mix. Should India meet its solar targets outlined in the 14th National Electricity Plan (NEP14), its share is expected to surge from 5 per cent to 25 per cent during

the financial year 2022-2032, marking a period of rapid expansion.

This suggests that India's power generation growth, which was predominantly coal-driven over the past decade, could shift toward solar and wind sources in the next ten years, provided that India stays on course to achieve its NEP14 objectives, as per Ember's analysis.

Meanwhile, as India's adoption of solar energy broadens, there is an increasing demand for significantly greater storage capacity to manage peak demand during evenings and early mornings, especially in light of recent power shortages.



Ember's India Electricity Policy Analyst, Neshwin

Rodrigues, said, "India's electricity supply landscape is pro-

jected to change quite significantly in the next decade or so, with solar and wind likely to drive the growth in generation."

"Given their variable nature, a significant increase in storage capacity is crucial to balance generation and demand."

India has committed to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity installed capacity by 2030. At present, the country has 424 GW of power generation capacity which includes around 180 GW from non-fossil energy sources.

Union Power and New Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh last week said India will achieve its 500 GW renewable

energy capacity target before the 2030 deadline.

As part of its commitment to renewable energy, the government intends to tender 50 GW of solar and wind capacity annually over the next five financial years.

However, to meet the ambitious NEP14 targets, Ember's analysis indicates that India must increase its annual solar capacity addition by around 36 per cent each year until 2026-27.

This translates to a commissioning of at least 17.5 GW of solar capacity in the financial year 2024, with a further increase to 41 GW by the target year of 2027.

Medal rush continues

PARUL TAKES SENSATIONAL 5000M GOLD, WHILE ANNU ACES JAVELIN THROW AS INDIA BAG 6 MEDALS IN ATHLETICS



PARUL CHAUDHARY



ANNU RANI

The stunning performance earned Parul her second medal in Hangzhou after claiming a silver in the women's 3000m Steeplechase Monday. Kazakhstan's Caroline Chepkoech Kipkirui won the bronze clocking 15:23.12.

The 31-year-old Annu, who hails from Meerut, produced a season-best effort of 62.92m in her fourth attempt to win gold. Sri Lankan Nadeesha Dilhan and China's Huihui Lyu claimed the silver and bronze with efforts of 61.57 and 61.29 respectively.

Mohammed Afsal Pulikkalakkath and Praveen

Chitharvel also made India proud, securing a silver and bronze in men's 800m and triple jump with efforts of 1:48.43s and 16.68m respectively. Tejaswin Shankar secured a silver in men's decathlon with a national record of 7666 points, following a fourth-place finish in the 1500m – the final event of the physically-demanding competition.

It was India's first men's decathlon medal since 1974. Vijay Singh Chauhan was the last Indian to win a decathlon medal in Asian Games in 1974, while the national record belonged to Bharatinder Singh (7,658 points).

Vithya Ramraj, 25, came up with a timing of 55.68s to claim a bronze medal in women's 400m hurdles. It wasn't her best show but it was good enough to secure a third-place finish.

Bahrain's Oluwakemi Mujidat Adekoya produced a Games record of 54.45s and Jaidie Mo of China came up with a season-best of 55.01 to claim the gold and silver respectively.

The Indian had equalled PT Usha's 400m hurdle national record, which was set in 1984, with a personal best effort of 55.52s to top her heat and directly qualify for the final on Monday.

Ramraj was also part of the Indian quartet, including Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi, Rajesh Ramesh and Subha Venkatesan, that had won the bronze in mixed team 4x400m relay before it was upgraded to silver on Monday after Sri Lanka's disqualification for lane infringement.

In men's 400m hurdles, Yashas Palaksha (49.39) and Santhosh Kumar (49.41) finished fifth and sixth respectively in the final. In women's high jump final, Pooja and Rubina Yadav ended their campaign at the sixth and ninth positions respectively.

HOSTS AIM TO REPLICATE 2011 SUCCESS AT HOME

An emphatic performance in the Asia Cup followed by a dominant show with the willow against Australia placed the Indian team in good headspace going into the World Cup but problems remain when it comes to zeroing in on the ideal playing XI. India begin their campaign against Australia October 8 in Chennai.

Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that this batting line-up is the best India have had since the historic batch of 2011.

A line-up comprising Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Hardik Pandya is as formidable as it gets. And there will be Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav in the dug-out in case there is requirement to replace anyone.

India haven't had such a galaxy of stars in one line-up for the longest time. And with most batters hitting the straps at the right time, the fans could be in for a run-feast on flat batting decks, which are expected to be on offer.

The spin bowling department, on the other hand, might be looking good on paper but there is no way to judge how the two veterans Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will perform on the tracks that will be heavily loaded in favour of batters.

Going by form, Kuldeep Yadav is expected to feature in every playing XI unless he suddenly



loses his touch or there is an injury. Ashwin's presence on Indian tracks might cheer many but truth remains that on good decks, he has had a tendency of struggling. Yet, for some teams like Australia, Ashwin plays with the minds of batters and that's his advantage.

Home advantage is a reality even if it's an ICC event where the global body's curators are always doing a recce of various venues and conditions. In these conditions, Rohit Sharma will have the perfect setting and best chance of winning the World Cup.

HOLDING THE KEYS TO SUCCESS
Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Kuldeep Yadav & Jasprit Bumrah.



66 You got to play good cricket and you got to stay in the present. For us, that is very critical. Everybody staying in the present, doing their job, putting the hand up when the team need them to do it and things like that. I think preparation-wise, we have achieved quite a bit. There is a bigger goal, bigger picture in mind at this point in time. So focusing on that will be very crucial for us

ROHIT SHARMA

Deotale, Verma ensure first-ever archery gold



OJAS DEOTALE



ABHISHEK VERMA

Hangzhou, Oct 3: An exuberant Ojas Deotale set up an all-Indian final against the experienced Abhishek Verma in the men's compound event to confirm the first-ever individual gold medal for the country in archery at the Asian Games here Tuesday.

On a day when the recurve archers ended their campaign in individual sections following the painful exits of Atanu Das and Dhiraj Bommadevara, Deotale, Verma and seasoned Jyothi Surekha Vennam led the charge in compound section to assure India of three medals.

It also matched their best-ever haul of 2014 Asian Games in Incheon where they had won a gold, silver and bronze each.

Seventeen-year-old Aditi Swami, who is the reigning senior world champion, will fight for a bronze after losing to her 'role model' Jyothi in the women's compound individual semifinal.

The Indian archers also remained in the hunt for a podium finish in six more team events – three each in recurve and compound – having already advanced into the quarterfinals Monday.

Reigning World Champion Deotale blazed his way to the men's compound individual final with a perfect score of 150 in his four-point win over South Korean seventh-seed Yang Jaewon.

Veteran Verma evicted Korean top-seed Joo Jaehoon with a clinical 147-145 victory to set up an all-Indian gold medal clash and assure the county of a first ever top-two finish at the continental



JYOTHI SUREKHA VENNAM

Arjun, Sunil end canoe medal drought

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 3: Canoeers Arjun Singh and Sunil Singh Salam combined well to win India's first medal at the Asian Games since 1994, bagging for a bronze in the men's double 1000m event, here Tuesday.

The Indian duo clocked 3:53.329 seconds to finish third, winning the country's only second medal in the event in the Games' history.

In the 1994 Hiroshima edition of the Games, India had bagged a bronze in the same event through Siji Sadanandan and Johnny Rommel.

Uzbekistan's Shokhmurod Kholmurodov and Nurislom Tukhtasin Ugli won the gold clocking 3:43.796s while Kazakhstan pair of Timofey Yemelyanov and Sergey Yemelyanov claimed the silver with a timing of 3:49.991s.

Lovlina books Paris ticket
World Champion Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) locked an Olympic quota for herself by moving into the final while Preeti Pawar (54kg) and Narender

Berwal (+92kg) signed off with bronze medals.

Borgohain cleverly managed her bout against Baisong Manikon of Thailand to win by an unanimous 5-0 decision and remain in the hunt for a gold medal in the continental showpiece.

Preeti lost 0-5 to reigning fly-weight champion China's Chang Yuan. Narender went down 0-5 to Kamshybek Kunkabayev of Kazakhstan in the semifinal to miss out on an Olympic quota.

3 medals assured
Sourav Ghosal was dominant in his men's singles victory, while the mixed doubles pairs were also equally facile in their waltz to the semifinals of the squash competition, assuring India of three medals.

Veteran Ghosal was in his elements while scoring 11-5, 12-10, 11-3 win over Japan's Ryunosuke Tsukue, while the mixed doubles team of Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh defeated Yang Yeonsoo and Dongjun Lee 11-4, 8-11, 11-1 in 32 minutes.

India started the quarterfinals on a bright note through the mixed doubles duo of Dipika



Pallikal and Harindar Pal Singh Sidhu, who produced a come-from-behind victory over Jemyca Aribado and Andrew Garcia of Philippines 7-11, 11-5, 11-4.

Contrasting results
The top-seeded Indian men's team was held to a 2-2 draw by Iran in the fifth round of chess. In women's team event, second-seed India crushed Mongolia 4-0 in round five with Koneru

minton competition.

World No.7 Prannoy dished out a clinical performance to expectedly outwit Mongolia's Batdavaa Munkhbat 21-9, 21-12 in 25 minutes. He will face Kazakhstan's Dmitriy Panarin next.

Srikanth also notched up a 21-16, 21-11 win over Korea's Lee Yun Gyu to set up a clash with Japan's second seed Kodai Naruka.

Sindhu prevailed 21-10, 21-15 over World No.21 We Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei. Sindhu will play Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani next.

Good day in kabaddi
Indian kabaddi players had a good day in office as both the men's and women's teams notched up comprehensive victories in their group fixtures.

The Indian men's team, who are a record seven-time champions, began their campaign with an emphatic 55-18 win over Bangladesh in a group A match. Later in the day, the women's side recorded a 56-23 win over South Korea in their second group A game.

Jaiswal guides India into semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 3: Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed a blazing hundred (100, 49b, 8x4, 7x6) but a gritty Nepal stretched Indian bowling unit to its limit before losing in the quarterfinal of the men's cricket event by 23 runs at the Asian Games here Tuesday.

Jaiswal, Indian cricket's new pin-up boy, earned the distinction of being the youngest T20I centurion from the country with his knock that took India to a healthy 202/4 in 20 overs, foundation of their semifinal entry.

The men from the Himalayan nation made a match of it but lack of experience became their undoing as their innings ended on 179/9, ensuring a last four spot for Rituraj Gaikwad's men.

No praise would be enough for the Monty Desai coached side as the smaller ground dimensions helped them embarrass two Indian pacers Arshdeep Singh (2/43) and Avesh Khan (3/32), who gave away 75 runs in their cumulative 8 overs.



There is one piece of statistics that will certainly annoy head coach VVS Laxman. India, in all, hit 12 sixes but Nepal batters surpassed them with 14 maximums. It was debutant left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore (1/25) and IPL star Ravi Bishnoi (3/24) who actually controlled the middle overs to save India from what could have been an upset.

Credit should also be given to

Rinku Singh, who once again enjoyed his role as a finisher with a 15-ball 37 (2x4, 4x6), including 20-odd in the final over which made the difference in the end.

BRIEF SCORES: India 202/4 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 100, Rinku Singh 37 n o) beat Nepal 179/9 (DS Airee 32; Ravi Bishnoi 3/24, Avesh Khan 3/32) by 23 runs.

Chelsea beat Fulham, breathe a sigh of relief

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 3: Chelsea's long wait for another Premier League win came to an end with a 2-0 victory at Fulham. Two goals in the space of a minute in the first half from Mykhailo Mudryk and Armando Broja Monday secured the points for Mauricio Pochettino's struggling team at Craven Cottage and moved them up to 11th in the standings. It was Chelsea's first win in the league since August 25 and only their second in the top flight all season.

Mudryk, a USD 108 million signing last season, fired Chelsea in front in the 18th minute after controlling Levi Colwill's ball and finishing past Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno.

Broja then doubled the lead a minute later, with summer signing from Manchester City, Cole Palmer, seizing on a mistake and providing the assist.

The victory should give Pochettino something to build on



after such a troubled start to the season and comes after his side beat Brighton in the English League Cup last week.

It has not been easy for the Argentine who was hired at the end of last season and charged with the responsibility of returning Chelsea to their glory days. Their only win in the league had come against newly promoted Luton and their only other victories had been in the League Cup. That is despite owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital spending big in the transfer market again in the off-season.