



SHOWBIZ'S DARK SIDE

Taapsee Pannu shares how low budget films get affected by 'star system' in Hindi film industry

LEISURE P2



NK'S NUCLEAR THREAT

North Korea threatens nuclear action after a US aircraft carrier battle group arrived in South Korea

INTERNATIONAL P10



CLASH OF TITANS

India aim to maintain unbeaten record in ODI WC when they face today arch rival Pak in a group game at Ahmedabad

SPORTS P12

Four killed as cattle-laden truck overturns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Oct 13: At least four people and 20 bovine animals were killed after a stationary truck carrying cattle overturned upon being hit by another vehicle on NH 53 here, police said Friday.

The accident took place at Katapali Chhak in Burla police station area late Thursday night, a police officer said.

The West Bengal-bound cattle-laden truck, which was coming from Bargarh, was parked by the roadside and five people were cooking food underneath it when suddenly another vehicle rammed into it from behind, he said.

The cattle truck was overturned, killing on the spot three people cooking food, while 20 bovine animals also died.

The driver of the cattle-laden vehicle, who was among those cooking food, was critically injured and was admitted to VIMSAR, Burla where he succumbed to his injuries, he said, adding another person is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

All the deceased were from West Bengal and their identities are yet to be ascertained, he added.

CALAMITOUS EXODUS



Families of staff of international organisations shelter at a UN centre after UNRWA said it relocated its central operations centre to the south of Gaza Strip after Israel's call for more than 1 million civilians in northern Gaza to move south

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Oct 13: Palestinians began a mass exodus from northern Gaza Friday after Israel's military told some one million people to evacuate towards the southern part of the besieged territory, an unprecedented order ahead of an expected ground invasion against the ruling Hamas militant group, even as the UN warned that so many people fleeing en masse — almost half the Gaza population — would be calamitous.

It urged Israel to reverse the order: Families in cars, trucks and donkey carts packed with blankets and possessions streamed down a main road out of Gaza City, the biggest city.

Israel hammered neighbourhoods in southern Gaza with airstrikes Friday, and it said ground troops have conducted temporary raids in the territory to battle militants, search for weapons and evidence of the missing hostages.

Hamas, which staged a shocking and brutal attack on Israel nearly a week ago and has fired thousands of rockets since, called on people to stay in their homes, saying the order was "psychological warfare" to break their

solidarity. Many hesitated to leave, fearing nowhere was safe in the tiny territory under constant bombardment by Israeli airstrikes. Gaza is sealed off from food, water and medical supplies and under a virtual total power blackout. "Forget about food, forget about electricity, forget about fuel. The only concern now is just if you'll make it, if you're going to live," said Nebal Farsakh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza City, as she broke into heaving sobs. The Gaza Health Ministry said Friday that roughly 1,800 people

AIRSTRIKES KILL 70 FLEEING GAZA CITY

Hamas officials said that 70 people, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israeli airstrikes on convoys fleeing Gaza City. Hamas' media office said the cars were struck in three places as they headed south from Gaza City. It was not immediately clear who the target of the airstrikes was, or whether militants were among the passengers. The Israeli army ordered residents to evacuate the city early Friday ahead of an expected ground invasion. AP

ple have been killed in the territory — more than half of them under the age of 18, or women. Hamas' assault last Saturday killed more than 1,300 Israelis, most of whom were civilians, and roughly 1,500 Hamas militants were killed during the fighting, the Israeli government said.

The week-old war has sent tensions soaring across the region. Israel has traded fire in recent days with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, sparking fears of an ever wider conflict, though that frontier is currently calm.

Odia returnees recall horror | P3 MORE P9 & 10

SJTA suggests dress code for devotees

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: In a bid to discourage devotees coming to Srimandir in 'inappropriate costumes' from January 1, 2024, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Friday suggested decent dresses like pant-shirt, chudidhar-punjabi and dhoti for men, while saree and salwar-kameez for women.

"Although no illustrative list of dresses has been prescribed by the temple administration, we leave it to the conscience of devotees to wear decent and appropriate dresses like pant-shirt, chudidhar-punjabi and dhoti in case of men and saree, salwar-kameez for women," SJTA chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said in an advisory to different servitor groups and members of hotel associations seeking their cooperation.

Stating that shrines of different religions throughout India and abroad have their own dress codes for devotees, the SJTA advisory said scholars and researchers, priests and devotees of Lord Jagannath had been demanding for introduction of the

NO: Shorts, transparent and revealing clothes, torn and ragged jeans

YES: Pant-shirt, chudidhar-punjabi and dhoti for men; saree and salwar-kameez for women

same in Srimandir too. In the recently held Niti (ritual) sub-committee meeting of SJTA, it has been proposed to urge all devotees to come dressed in proper and decent attire keeping the sanctity, traditions and customs followed here, Das said.

"People coming in shorts, transparent and revealing dresses, torn and ragged jeans and other inappropriate costumes should be discouraged," the SJTA chief administrator said. He said many visitors and devotees used to stay in hotels and guest houses which are the originating points

before coming to the temple. "Temple administration may take more stringent measures at all the gates to ensure it from the New Year," he said, seeking co-operation for developing a better spiritual ambience in the sacred temple of Lord Jagannath.

We urge you (hotel association) to educate your staff, tourist guides and yatri pandas to spread awareness among visitors in this regard

RANJAN KUMAR DAS | SJTA CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It's difficult to get hold of him. Try an election rally, road show, temple...

BRIBE FOR COVID CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

CBI arrests port doctor; \$20K, ₹17L cash seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paradip, Oct 13: CBI sleuths have arrested a doctor working under the Port Health Organisation, Paradip on the charge of accepting a bribe of ₹54,000, an officer of the probing agency said, Friday.

A case was registered against the health officer after a trap was laid and he was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe Thursday, the CBI official said. The sleuths also searched his premises in Paradip, Cuttack and Balasore and 'recovered ₹17 lakh and USD 20,558 in cash' and several documents, including deeds of properties at various places in Odisha and in Hyderabad in Telangana.

While being taken by CBI for medical examination to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, the accused claimed that he was innocent. The doctor allegedly took a 'bribe from a West Bengal-based shipping company to issue COVID-19 clearance certificates to its employees', the official said.

While working under the Port Health Organisation, Paradip, his main function was to provide COVID clearance certificates to those coming from other countries, a port official said. The doctor was accused of demanding a bribe of ₹1,500-2,000 from each crew member to give them the COVID clearance certificate. He demanded over ₹1 lakh from 70 crew members of the shipping company Thursday and was apprehended while taking the bribe, the official added.

SHORT TAKES

Baliyatra to kick off Nov 27

Cuttack: Baliyatra, the eight-day-long open-air fair, touted to be the biggest in Asia, is all set to kick off November 27, the district administration said, Friday. Additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahoo chaired a preparatory meet involving all stakeholders at the Collector's conference hall here. Collector BS Chayani highlighted the efforts by stakeholders for road repair, fairground infrastructure development, drinking water supply, lighting and enhancing stalls by ORMAS to 400 for ensuring visitors to take home a pleasant experience. P3

Curb on laptop imports lifted

New Delhi: India will not impose the licensing requirement on imports of laptops and computers but will only monitor their inbound shipments. The remarks assume significance as the government in August announced that these products, including laptops, tablets and computers, would be put under licensing regime from November 1. "On laptops, we are of the view that there are no restrictions as such. Somebody who is importing these laptops, have to be under close watch, so that we can look at these imports," Commerce Secretary S Barthalwal said.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	CHANGE	PERCENTAGE
SENSEX	66282.74	↓ 125.65	-0.19%
NIFTY	19751.00	↓ 43.00	-0.22%
DOLLAR	83.31	↑ ₹0.03	+0.36%
EURO	87.74	↓ ₹0.74	-0.84%
GOLD	₹59,192	↑ ₹1274	+2.15%
SILVER	₹71,030	↑ ₹1956	+2.80%

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	35.0°C	34.2°C
TEMP MIN	24.7°C	26.5°C
Humidity	80%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	

Hydropower projects fuelling disasters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: Violations of norms during the construction of hydropower projects in the fragile Himalayan region are fuelling disasters in the hilly states, environment experts and activists have warned.

A glacial lake outburst flood in Lhonak Lake in Sikkim last week resulted in severe damage in Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi districts. The incident also resulted in the breach of the Chungthang dam, also known as Teesta III dam, a crucial component of a mega hydropower project in the state.



These experts and activists emphasised that the series of dams built on the Teesta river fuelled the disaster and demanded the cancellation of the proposed Teesta IV dam. Several occasions in the last two decades have seen government agencies and research studies warning about potential glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in Sikkim, which can cause massive damage

to life and property. A study conducted by the Central Water Commission in 2015 clearly informed the state government that most of the hydropower projects on the Teesta are highly vulnerable to such events.

Gyatsso Lepcha from Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT), a local advocacy group, said, "The 1,200 MW Teesta III was completely washed away. This dam was built only 30 km away from Lhonak Lake. The state government is blaming the previous government for substandard construction. The previous government is blaming GLOF, but nobody is questioning the construction of the dam in such a fragile area." Dams act as force multipliers in times of disasters. Most casualties occur near them, said Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers, and People (SANDRP).

The Himalayas' glacial melt has accelerated due to rising global temperatures. Also, the outburst may have been nudged by a cloudburst and earthquake that struck a day earlier in neighbouring Nepal. The flood's impact and intensity were exacerbated severely by the dams on the Teesta River, triggering a cascading effect downstream.

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On festivals, consume nutritious and saatvik food products from Patanjali and digest it with Patanjali Pachak.

leisure



MICHAEL DOUGLAS TO BE FETED WITH SATYAJIT RAY EXCELLENCE HONOUR

Hollywood actor Michael Douglas will be honoured with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award at the 54th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, this year, shared Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur on X.

MONROE'S HOME COULD BE SAVED FROM DEMOLITION

Legendary Hollywood actress Marilyn Monroe's home could be saved from demolition after an action group has found something significant about the property. Monroe purchased the 1929-built Spanish-style hacienda on 5th Helena Drive in Los Angeles just six months before she was found dead.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Ideas play havoc in your head today. The good thing is that you will execute them well. Here is a word of caution for you: avoid hasty decisions. Experienced people will help you find a firm footing. Ganesh advises you to pay heed to elders' counselling.

TAURUS

Religious sentiments will be ruling your thoughts today, says Ganesh. This is a great day for making a trip to a temple or a popular religious destination. You should take your parents and other family members along on this auspicious journey.

GEMINI

You will be faced with household problems and worries about your children today. You will need to help your children with schoolwork in the morning. In the evening you will likely head out to dinner with family and friends and relax, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Today, it will be all about finding your comfort zone, and spending the day there. You are likely to spend most of the day with your close friends. Your smooth demeanour will help you breeze through all business deals. The opposite sex may find you irresistible.

LEO

Don't expect you'll be handed everything on a silver platter. Especially today, you must put such expectations on the back burner, says Ganesh. Today, you would do better to dig deep into your resources of persistence, as a somewhat less productive day awaits you.

VIRGO

You will charm people with your flexibility of thought and willingness to adjust today. Those under the spell of love will see an unexpected turn of events; but don't panic, as things will eventually work out in your favour. Some quality family time is also on the cards. Strengthen the family bond by adopting your responsibilities and paying respect to family tradition and conventions, advises Ganesh.

LIBRA

Somebody in a position of power at your workplace may decide to pick on you, just for fun. But your luck is strong, and no one but your own thoughts and misgivings can harm you. You shall find it relatively easy to come out of these troubles; much to the chagrin of those who wish otherwise, predicts Ganesh.

SCORPIO

If you have recently started a joint business venture, today you may take your first step towards sealing a profitable deal. However, you should buy some time before signing any contract today; also, be cautious that you do not get the short end of the stick. The best thing is to go through the finer prints of the deal in order to avoid any misgivings in the future, suggests Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

You will enjoy the magic of the Midas touch today, feels Ganesh. In business, sheer brilliance will help you derive the best possible results in productivity and clinching new contracts. Your approach, in general, will be methodical, disciplined and systematic for most part of the day.

CAPRICORN

Your power of reasoning will be strong today, says Ganesh. Those of you beginning your career will show a disposition to take up a job in television or print media. The spiritual side of you may also come to the fore and make you feel at peace, especially when visiting a holy place.

AQUARIUS

You zoom in on research and development today. Your fabulous work speaks volumes and your commitment pays off. You're keen to play Romeo today, and all your gimmicks and surprises will work wonders! Love on, says Ganesh.

PISCES

For those who are salaried, today should be a progressive day for you. Important meetings at the work-place will benefit from your presence and the suggestions you have to make. This should enhance your relationship with your superiors.

Hrithik takes metro ride to work, wins hearts

Mumbai: Known as the 'Greek God' of Hindi film industry, Hrithik Roshan Friday opted for an eco-friendly commute and took a metro ride as he headed to work, leaving his swanky car behind.



In a heart-winning move, the War actor joined the daily grind of the metro and blended in with the commuters. The actor who is an ardent social media user took to his Instagram account and shared a string of photos and videos of his metro ride.

Hrithik captioned the post: "Took the metro to work today. Met some really sweet n kind folks. Sharing with you the love they gave me. The experience was spectacular. Beat the heat + the traffic."

The post is liked by Alia Bhatt and Ayushmann Khurrana and Hrithik's ladylove Saba Azad and many others. No wonder, fans couldn't stop pouring comments filled with admiration for

the actor. One of them said: "Celebrity who believes to live a common man's life. Hat's off to you sir (sic)." "Life in a metro," wrote another. "Ur always kind," read yet another post while a netizen said, "The sweetest post on Instagram today." On the work front, Hrithik has an aerial action drama *Fighter*. The movie also stars Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor.



Mrunal busts showbiz myth

The 'Sita Ramam' actress says she is affected by the current practice of hiring actors on the basis of their following on social media

New Delhi: Actress Mrunal Thakur after working in the industry for almost 5 years now has realised that it's a myth that the actor who is seen more, sells more. "I don't believe in the concept, 'Jo zyada dikhta hai vahi bikta hai'. After your first release, people see if you

are capable of performing or not. Based on that, you get roles. Earlier, I had this pressure where I was told, 'Go attend these parties, you need to be seen everywhere.' Now, I have a new team which motivates me to work on myself," shared the Super 30 actress. However, she is affected by

the current practice of hiring actors on the basis of their following on social media. She said, "That just breaks my heart because you end up losing a character which you dreamt of. But sometimes, I feel it is what it is, maybe I am meant for better characters."

On the work front, Mrunal Thakur will be next seen in Aankh Micholi alongside Paresh Rawal and Divya Dutta in the film.

Taapsee calls out 'star system'

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu, in a recent interview, shared how low-budget films get affected by the 'star system' and discussed the hypocrisy prevalent in the industry.

"This myth I had about people believing in 'content is king' was shattered while making this (*Dhak Dhak*) film. There's so much hypocrisy. They will hear your one-line story and will be quick to ask, 'Who is the hero in the film?' That decides their financial and emotional investment in the project," stated the Pink actress. "Everyone involved is to be blamed for this culture. It includes the actors, studios, audience, and everyone. It's a cycle. Just because the studios recover their investment (by selling digital rights) for the smaller films, there's minimal interest in packaging and releasing a film well. That's detrimental to the growth of the industry because you are only enabling the big names," commented an angry Taapsee. "How will the rest get a chance? It will only widen the gap between actors and stars. We keep saying Bollywood doesn't attempt something meaningful but when we try to do that, there's rarely any support and this must change," rued the actress.



Kanya Suna: Stage adaptation of Fakir Mohan's classic October 16

National School of Drama alumnus Dolagovind Rath has designed and directed the play written by Panchanan Dash

Bhubaneswar: Byasa Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati's classic short story *Birei Bishal* has been adapted into a stage play and will be performed here at Bhanjakala Mandap, Monday.



Titled *Kanya Suna*, the play is an ongoing 56-day workshop production under the guidance of eminent theatre director Dolagovind Rath, an alumnus of the National School of Drama. The workshop is a collaboration of

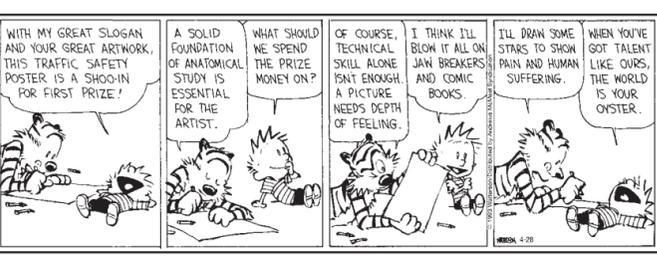
Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, and Panchadhvani Natya Parishad, a well-known theatre troupe in this city. Panchanan Dash has written the play, while Rath has designed and

directed it. The sound has been designed by Pratap Chandra Rout and Vivekananda Rout. Former Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi secretary Pradip Kumar Mishra and TV & film actor Krishna Kar (KK) also pitched in with their inputs during the workshop as guest trainers. "The trained participants of the workshop will perform the play. As the drama is based on a story from our land, we hope it will be liked by the audience," said the troupe's president, Panchanan Dash. PNN

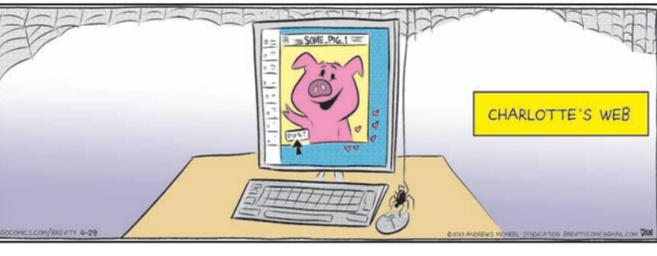
PEANUTS



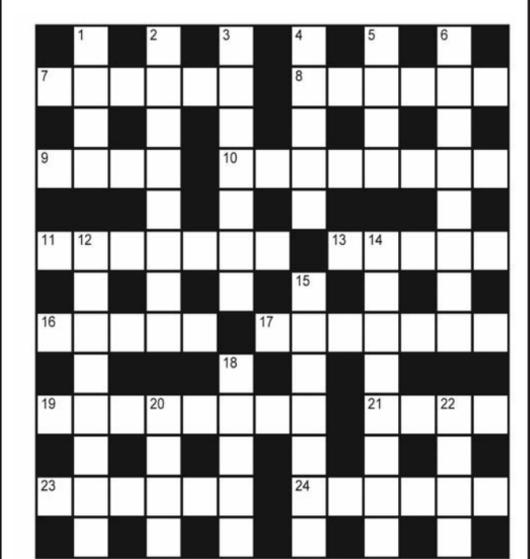
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



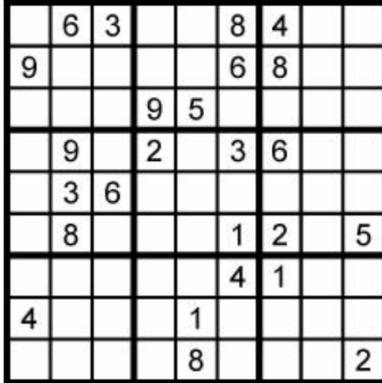
FUN post CROSSWORD



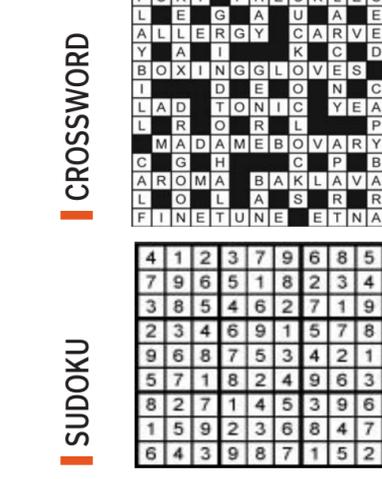
- Across**
- 7 Get back
 - 8 Puma
 - 9 Minor quarrel
 - 10 Tyros
 - 11 Good turns
 - 13 Aesop output
 - 16 Lessen
 - 17 Post
 - 19 Auguste Rodin, e.g.
 - 21 Medical breakthrough
 - 23 Frozen dessert
 - 24 Bring into existence
 - 5 Set ablaze
 - 6 Final crushing defeat
 - 12 Small tuna
 - 14 Magazine opinion pieces
 - 15 Draw in
 - 18 Prepare, as tea
 - 20 Easy run
 - 22 Evaluate
- Down**
- 1 Himalayan legend
 - 2 Face up to
 - 3 Pretentious person
 - 4 Vamoose

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Cuttack Baliyatra to kick off Nov 27

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 13: Baliyatra hoppers, it's for you. The eight-day-long open-air fair, touted to be the biggest in Asia, is all set to kick off November 27, according to the district administration Friday.

Additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahoo chaired a preparatory meet involving all stakeholders at the Cuttack Collector's conference hall here Friday.

Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani highlighted the efforts by stakeholders for road repair, fairground infra development, drinking water supply, lighting and enhancing stalls to 400 for ensuring visitors to take home a pleasant experience. Chayani urged the additional chief secretary for enhancing funds for the mega event.

Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) chairperson Anil Kumar Samal urged the additional chief secretary to direct TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL)



For ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the fairground during the mega event.

Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Central) Suresh Chandra Dalai sought cooperation from all stakeholders for a smooth fair.

Cuttack deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Pinak Mishra highlighted measures in place for a safe fair.

"As lakhs of visitors are expected to throng the fair, we have identified parking lots for vehicles. Besides, adequate watch-towers will also be in place during the fair. If required, additional police personnel will be deployed," Mishra said.

Cuttack Mayor Subhash Chandra Singh said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had urged the Prime Minister to ac-

Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani highlighted the efforts by stakeholders for road repair, fairground infra development, drinking water supply, lighting and enhancing ORMAS stalls to 400 for ensuring visitors to take home a pleasant experience

CDA chairperson Anil Kumar Samal urged the additional chief secretary to direct TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited for ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the fairground during the mega event

cord the national maritime heritage festival tag to Baliyatra. He said the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) will extend all cooperation for making this year's Baliyatra a grand success.

Additional Collector (development and revenue) Umakant Raj, Chief Development Officer-cum Cuttack Zilla Parishad Executive Officer Subash Chandra Ray, District Information and Public Relations Officer Lalatendu Mohapatra were among those who attended the meet.

FLAGSHIP PROG

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launches 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' initiative in Puri and Nayagarh districts through videoconferencing in Bhubaneswar, Friday, as 5T Secretary VK Pandian looks on



FESTIVE FERVOUR: A 85x120 ft replica of Gujarat's famous Mani Mahal being erected by Nayapalli Durga Puja Committee of Bhubaneswar that is expected to attract huge footfall during the festivities this year

IRS officer PK Misra passes away at 76

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: 1970-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Pradyot Kumar Misra breathed his last Wednesday. He was 76.

He is survived by wife professor Smita Das — daughter of Justice Naba Kumar Das —, son Sanjit Misra — an investment banker in Singapore —, daughter-in-law Charu Bahl, daughter Suchita and son-in-law Dr. PR Panda. Born to illustrious Economics professor Dr. DC Misra February 26, 1947, Pradyot served as the chief commissioner of Directorate General (Vigilance). He represented the state in hockey.

Monsoon withdraws

Bhubaneswar: The southwest monsoon has completely withdrawn from Odisha, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday. The monsoon had set in over parts of Odisha June 22 this year. It had covered parts of Malkangiri, Koraput and Gajapati districts on the first day, an IMD official said. "The monsoon has completely withdrawn from Odisha," the weather department said on X. Meanwhile, it said a low-pressure area is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal in the second week of October.

9 Odias return from Israel, recount horror

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Oct 13: At least nine people from Odisha arrived here Friday from war-torn Israel under Operation Ajay, a special drive launched by the Indian government to facilitate safe return of Indians. The Odias, mostly research scholars, were among over 200 Indians who returned to the country safely Friday morning.

After landing in Delhi, they went to Odisha Bhawan where necessary arrangements were made to facilitate their return to Odisha.

The state government has made arrangements for their travel to Bhubaneswar via flight. The Odias who returned home are: Jiten Kumar Pattanaik, Satabdi Nayak, Barun Barick, Bhupesh Meher, Bimalendu Mahapatra, Sumanta Sahu, Nilakantha Meher, Subrata Meher and Shweta.

Bhupesh from Sonepur said that the situation was so grim in Israel that they had to hide in bunkers for safety.

He said that there is an application 'Cumta' which alerts about the rocket strikes in advance. It helped a lot in terms of reaching safer places during the rocket strikes.

Bimalendu, who hails from Nayagarh district, said he was a research scholar in Israel and

THE RETURNEES SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS SO GRIM IN ISRAEL THAT THEY HAD TO HIDE IN BUNKERS FOR SAFETY

staying at a city in Northern Israel. He told the media here that the situation was not so tense in the place where he was living but the family members were worried due to the media reports.

Odisha Resident Commissioner Ravi Kant said that the state government is in contact with the Ministry of External Affairs to find out the exact number of Odisha people stranded in Israel.

"We have been preparing a database of Odisha people stranded in Israel. We are in regular touch with the Ministry of External Affairs. We have made arrangements at Odisha Bhawan for their partial halt and facilitating their return to Odisha via flight or any medium of their choice," the Resident Commissioner told the media here.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court Friday sought a report from the AIIMS medical board on whether the 26-week foetus of a married woman, who wants her pregnancy terminated medically on grounds of her ill health, is suffering from any abnormality.

The apex court took note of the submissions of the petitioner's counsel that the woman is undergoing treatment for post-partum psychosis since October 10 last year.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud asked the medical board to apprise it about whether extending the pregnancy to its full term will get jeopardised by medicines which may be prescribed for the alleged condition from which the woman is stated to be suffering.

The bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said medical professionals at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) would be at liberty to carry out their own diagnosis with regard to the woman's medical condition and indicate their own independent evaluation of the mental and physical condition of the petitioner.

"Upon doing so, we request the doctors to apprise this court if the petitioner is found to be suffering from post-partum psychosis and whether any alternate administration of medication consistent with the pregnancy would be available so as to neither jeopardise the well-being of the pe-

TERMINATION OF 26-WEEK PREGNANCY

SC seeks report from AIIMS medical board



Under MTP Act, upper limit for termination of pregnancy is 24 weeks for married women, special categories including survivors of rape, and other vulnerable women

tion or the fetus in that regard," the bench said.

The bench was hearing arguments on the Centre's application seeking recall of the apex court's October 9 order permitting the 27-year-old woman, a mother of two, to undergo termination of pregnancy at AIIMS.

It said bearing in mind the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971, it would be necessary to have a report of the medical board specifically on the aspects, including, "Whether the fetus is suffering from any abnormality as provided by sub-section 2(b) of section 3 of the Act".

"Though the earlier report mentions that the fetus is normal, nonetheless, in order to place the matter beyond doubt, we request a further report to be submitted on the above aspect," it said, adding, the exercise be carried out during the course of the day.

Under the MTP Act, the upper limit for the termination of pregnancy is 24 weeks for married women, special categories including survivors of rape, and other vulnerable women such as the differently-abled and minors.

The apex court is faced with a conundrum over whether to allow the woman to terminate her 26-week pregnancy.

The bench observed that during the hearing, the petitioner's counsel submitted a bunch of prescriptions in support of his submission that she is undergoing treatment for post-partum psychosis at a clinic since October 10, 2022.

It noted that a handwritten prescription dated November 7,

2022, which contains instructions for administering five drugs, does not specify the nature of the ailment for which the medicines have been prescribed.

"Similarly, all other prescriptions, apart from containing the name of the petitioner and the date of the prescription, are silent in regard to the condition for which she was sought to be treated," the bench said.

While posting the matter for hearing at 10:30am October 16, it said the prescriptions may be forwarded by Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhatti, representing the Centre, to the doctors at AIIMS and the woman shall appear before the medical board preferably at 2pm Friday.

The apex court had on Thursday asked Bhatti and the petitioner's lawyer to talk to the woman about the possibility of retaining the pregnancy for a few weeks more so that a healthy child could be born.

During the hearing Friday, the ASG told the bench, "Unfortunately, we have not been able to persuade her (petitioner). She is still vulnerable. My lords will have to decide this."

She said the MTP Act, as amended, is a "pro-choice legislation" but "pro-choice can't be read to mean extinguish life". "We are a pro-choice country. We will proceed on that basis," the bench said, adding that the life of the woman is given paramount importance under the law.

"One thing is very clear; we are far ahead of other countries... Our law is far ahead, very liberal and forward looking," the CJI observed.

Antarctica ice shelves' volume dips by 40% in 25 yrs

As many as 71 of the 162 ice shelves surrounding Antarctica have reduced in volume over 25 years from 1997 to 2021, with a net release of 7.5 trillion metric tonne of melt-water into the oceans, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Science Advances, found that almost all the ice shelves on the western side of Antarctica experienced ice loss. On the other hand, most of the ice shelves on the eastern side stayed the same or increased in volume.

Over the 25 years, the scientists calculated almost 67 trillion metric tonne of ice were exported to the ocean, which were offset by 59 trillion metric tonne of ice being added to the ice shelves, giving a net loss of 7.5 trillion metric tonne.

"There is a mixed picture of ice-shelf deterioration, and this is to do with the ocean temperature and ocean currents around Antarctica," said Benjamin Davison, a research fellow at the University of Leeds, UK, who led the study.



"The western half is exposed to warm water, which can rapidly erode the ice shelves from below, whereas much of East Antarctica is currently protected from nearby warm water by a band of cold water at the coast," Davison said. Antarctica is a vast continent and the seas on the western side experience different currents and winds than on the east, and this is driving warmer water underneath the ice shelves on the western flank.

to go through cycles of rapid, but short-lived shrinking, then to regrow slowly. Instead, we see that almost half of them are shrinking with no sign of recovery," Davison said.

He believes human-induced global warming is likely a key factor in the loss of the ice. If it was due to natural variation in climate patterns, there would have been some signs of ice regrowth on the western ice shelves.

Ice shelves float on the seas surrounding Antarctica and are ex-

Over the 25 years, the scientists calculated almost 67 trillion metric tonne of ice were exported to the ocean, which were offset by 59 trillion metric tonne of ice being added to the ice shelves, giving a net loss of 7.5 trillion metric tonne

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tensions to the ice sheet that covers much of the continent. The ice shelves act as giant "plugs" at the end of glaciers, slowing down the flow of ice draining into the oceans.

When the ice shelves thin or reduce in size, these plugs weaken with the result that the rate of ice lost from the glaciers increases. Some of the biggest ice losses were observed on the Getz Ice Shelf, where 1.9 trillion metric tonnes of ice were lost over the

25-year study period. Just 5 per cent of those was due to calving, where large chunks of ice breakaway from the shelf and move into the ocean. The rest was due to melting at the base of the ice shelf.

Similarly on the Pine Island Ice Shelf, 1.3 trillion metric tonne of ice were lost. While about a third of the loss—450 billion metric tonne—was due to calving, the rest was due to melting from the underside of the ice shelf.

In contrast, the Amery Ice Shelf—on the other side of Antarctica—gained 1.2 trillion metric tonnes of ice. It is surrounded by much colder waters.

The researchers analysed over 1,00,000 satellite radar images to produce this major assessment of the "state of the health" of the ice shelves.

If the ice shelves disappear or even diminish, there will be major knock-on effects for the ice system on Antarctica and for global ocean circulation, the giant "conveyor belt" which moves nutrients as well as heat and carbon from this sensitive polar ecosystem, they added. PTI

Train drivers shouldn't work beyond 12 hours: Rly Board

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: Train drivers' maximum working hours should not exceed 12 hours, subject to severe operational exigencies, the Railway Board said, while issuing consolidated guidelines to all the zones Thursday regarding the duty hours of the running staff, including drivers and guards.

The new instruction, a compilation of the board's various previous guidelines, aims at reminding zones to take care of the working and rest hours of the running staff to enhance operational safety.

However, the drivers' association, the Indian Railway Loco Runningmen Organisation (IRLRO), has alleged there are riders in these instructions, which take away their right to proper rest and there is no provision for a lunch break during work.

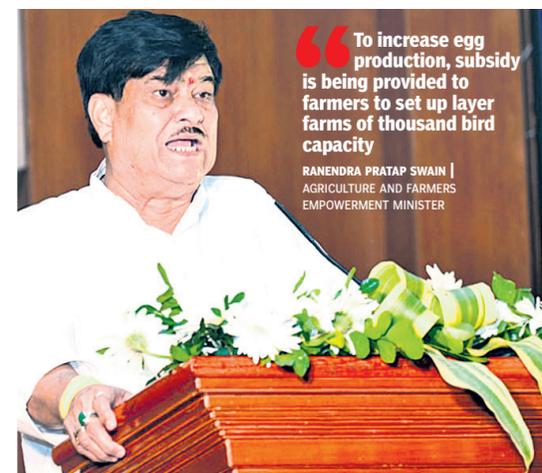
One of the instructions of the board states the maximum working hours of a driver in one trip should not exceed 12 hours, how-

One of the instructions states the maximum working hours of a driver in one trip should not exceed 12 hours, but another asks them to work beyond the limits in case of exigencies

ever, another instruction asks them to work beyond the limits in case of operational exigencies, the association said.

"Running duty at a stretch should not ordinarily exceed nine hours. Such duty may extend further provided the railway administration gives at least two hours notice before the expiry of nine hours to the crew that they would be required to perform running duty beyond nine hours, with the stipulation that total duty from 'sign on' to 'sign off' shall not exceed 11 hours," one of the instructions, accessed by PTI, says.

Farmers urged to take advantage of schemes



To increase egg production, subsidy is being provided to farmers to set up layer farms of thousand bird capacity
RANENDRA PRATAP SWAIN | AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS EMPOWERMENT MINISTER

several programmes to increase egg production and develop poultry farming in the state.

Incentives are being provided to entrepreneurs to set up layered poultry farms through Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana. To increase egg production, subsidy is being provided to farmers for setting up layer farms of thousand bird capacity, he informed.

Swain further said that eggs are rich in a variety of nutrients including lutein, xanthine, choline, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D, amino acids, vitamin B-12 and folic acid. The nutrients help children grow.

The rich amount of lutein and xanthine keeps the eyes healthy and improves eyesight. Choline is a key nutrient for cell and brain growth. One egg contains around 100 micrograms of choline. Omega-3 fatty acids also contribute to early brain development. The 9 amino acids found in eggs help promote healthy hair and nail growth. Vitamin B-12 and folic acid prevent neurological problems.

Principal secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishta said that benefits of government schemes in poultry sector need to be taken by state farmers to make the state self-reliant in egg production.



LIBERATION OF SOUL: People offer 'tarpan' to their ancestors during 'Pitru Paksha' at Bindu Sagar in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

WORLD EGG DAY

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The state government is providing 100 per cent assistance for backyard poultry and duck rearing. Farmers and entrepreneurs of the state should take advantage of this facility said Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain at the state-level World Egg Day celebration here Friday.

World Egg Day is observed on the second Friday of October every year to make people aware of the nutritional benefits of eggs and to increase egg production worldwide. This year, the theme for the day has been set by International Egg Commission as: Eggs for a healthy future.

Swain, attending the event as chief guest, said that the state government has implemented

Ensure safe return of stranded workers: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: As many as 35 labourers belonging to Odisha were allegedly held captive by a company for which they were working in Laos, a Southeast Asian country, prompting Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to direct the administration to ensure their safe return home.

Urging the government to

bring them back, the labourers in a video message said the plywood company stopped its operations about one-and-a-half-months ago, but they were neither allowed to return nor paid wages.

The workers from Rajkanika block in the coastal district of Kendrapara district alleged that the company had also forcibly taken away their passports.

After it was brought to the notice of the Odisha government, the Chief Minister directed the officials to safely bring them back home. Following this, the state labour commissioner has taken up the issue with the Indian embassy in Laos, a CMO official said.

The Embassy authorities have informed the Odisha authorities that all steps will be taken

for the safe return of the workers to India. The labourers had sent the video message to people in their village, who contacted the local MLA. The legislator in turn brought it to the notice of the state government.

"We have no money or food to eat. We are also not allowed to return," said one Saroj Palai, one of the labourers who were held captive in Laos.

Puja vacation from Oct 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Schools in the state will remain closed from October 20 to 29 on account of Durga Puja, the Directorate of the Secondary Education and the Directorate of Elementary Education said Friday.

October 14 has also been declared a holiday on account of Mahalaya, they said, adding that all the District Education Officers have been intimated for information and necessary action.

Inspiron exhibition at KIIT International School

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Creativity, innovation, games, food, dance and songs converged at the Inspiron Exhibition and Fun Binge 2023 organised at KIIT International School (KIIT-IS) here Friday.

Students participated in literary activities documenting the success of India's G20 presidency, Chandrayaan-III, and remembering legendary bilingual poet Jayanta Mahapatra, who passed away recently. They staged a short play from the Shakespearean era and released a magazine Kloud9 which they have contributed to, informed a member of the literary club.

Apart from the literary club, there were other stalls at the Inspiron Exhibition and Fun Binge 2023 including Spectrum Photography Club, Archimedes Science Club, Infinity Math Club, Green Brigade Eco Club, Youth Philatelic Club, and Yuva Tourism (Heritage) Club.

Focus on clean energy at climate clock assembly

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The KIIT School of Mechanical Engineering in association with Energy Swaraj Foundation organised the largest climate clock assembly and display event of the state here Friday.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Energy Swaraj founder and environmentalist Chetan Singh Solanki highlighted three principles to follow to end use of conventional and carbon-based energy, namely 'avoid', 'minimise' and 'generate' for conservation and efficient use of energy.

Solanki elaborated the three key principles to combat climate change: using right energy source (solar power), efficient energy use, and responsible timing of energy consumption. He encouraged people to adopt energy-efficient practices, such as using LED lights, and to minimize their energy consumption



KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta applauded Solanki's initiative and highlighted the gravity of the climate change threat, emphasizing the need to act swiftly before reaching a point of no return. If the world can come out of the dreaded Covid pandemic, it can also overcome climate change. "We have to set nature correct. If we don't act now we might not reach a point of no return," he added.

KIIT DU VC Saranjit Singh and registrar JR Mohanty spoke about the green initiatives of Achyuta Samanta and how KIIT & KISS have generated 5 million watts of solar energy and planted one lakh trees as part of its sustainable energy initiatives.

Uphold high ethical standards, secy to newly-recruited WEOs

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: ST and SC Development department commissioner-cum-secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo urged newly recruited Welfare Extension Officers (WEOs) to commit to excellence in service and uphold high ethical standards at closing ceremony of an eleven-day induction programme for the officers here Friday.

SCSTRTI director Indramani Tripathy congratulated all the WEOs on successful completion of their training and urged them to work with dedication and commitment to serve the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. He emphasised the importance of compassion, empathy, and professional integrity in their work and said that the eleven-day induction programme will help them perform their duty effectively which



will make a positive difference in lives of the people.

During the closing ceremony of the training program, participants shared their observations, insights, and findings from their field exposure in Gajapati and Keonjhar where they learned about the working of various schemes and programmes undertaken by the ST and SC Development department.

"During the field visit, participants observed how different projects are bringing positive change in lives of ST and SC

communities in the area. They learned how the projects had helped improve access to education, healthcare, and other essential services," informed a department official.

The trainees shared their insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by ST and SC communities along with suggestions for improvement in the future. Participants presented their findings from the field visits that included data and evidence on the impact of the project on the lives of ST and SC communities.

City student 3rd in nat'l project competition

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Shreyansh Nayak of Class-XI was felicitated here Friday by DAV Unit-VIII for bagging the third position among 441 students who had displayed their projects at the prestigious 10th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLPC) under INSPIRE-MANAK.

Nayak's project, automated straw processing and packaging machine for oyster mushroom, secured third rank nationwide at the event held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Delhi from October 9 to 11.

Tanmay Kumar Nayak, guide mentor of Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) in school guided and mentored him in developing this innovative project. Further Shreyansh will also participate in festival of innovation and entrepreneurship (FINE) at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He would also have the privilege to showcase his project in Japan soon.

COFFEE MAY HELP REDUCE WEIGHT GAIN: STUDY

Coffee is well recognised as having a positive impact on long-term health. Drinking the equivalent of three to four cups of instant coffee a day reduces the risk of many health conditions including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers.

Most people gain small amounts of weight each year as they age. But can coffee help prevent this gradual weight gain?

A group of researchers examined whether drinking an extra cup of coffee a day – or adding sugar, cream or a non-dairy alternative – resulted in more or less weight gain than those who didn't adjust their intake.

Their research (currently a pre-proof, which means it has been peer reviewed but is yet to undergo the final formatting and copyediting) found a modest link between coffee and gaining less weight than expected.

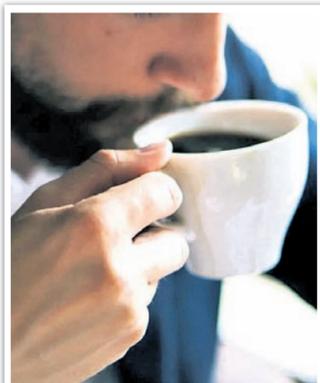
People who drank an extra cup of coffee a day gained 0.12 kg less weight than expected over

four years. Adding sugar resulted in a fraction more (0.09 kg) weight gain than expected over four years.

Researchers combined data from three large studies from the United States: two Nurses' Health Studies from 1986 to 2010, and from 1991 to 2015, and a Health Professional Follow-up study from 1991 to 2014.

The Nurses' Health Studies are two of the largest cohort studies, with more 230,000 participants, and investigates chronic disease risks for women. The Health Professional Follow-up study involves more than 50,000 male health professionals and investigates the relationship between diet and health outcomes.

Participants in all three studies completed a baseline questionnaire, and another questionnaire every four years to assess their food and drink intake. Using the combined datasets, researchers analysed changes in coffee intake and



CAFFEINE IS A NATURAL STIMULANT WHICH HAS BEEN SHOWN TO TEMPORARILY REDUCE APPETITE AND INCREASE ALERTNESS. THIS MAY HELP TO FEEL LESS HUNGRY FOR A SHORT PERIOD, POTENTIALLY LEADING TO REDUCED ENERGY INTAKE

changes in the participants' self-reported weight at four-year intervals.

The average four year weight-

gains for the nurses' studies were 1.2kg and 1.7kg, while participants in the health professionals study gained an average

of 0.8kg. People who drank an extra cup of coffee a day gained 0.12 kg less weight than expected over four years. Adding sugar resulted in a fraction more (0.09 kg) weight gain than expected over four years

But the findings around weight were very modest. The average four-year weight gain averted, based on one cup of coffee, is about 30 grams per year, which may not be a meaningful change for most people looking to manage weight

The researchers found that increasing unsweetened caffeinated or decaffeinated coffee intake by one cup a day was associated with a weight gain that was 0.12 kg less than expected over four years.

These associations were stronger in participants who were younger and had a higher body mass index at the beginning of the studies.

This study is unique in two ways. It had a very large sample size and followed participants for many years. This adds confidence that the associations were real and can likely be applied to other populations.

However, there are reasons to be cautious. First, the findings represent an association, not causation. This means the study does not prove that coffee intake is the true reason for the weight change. Rather, it shows the two changes were observed together over time.

Second, the findings around

weight were very modest. The average four-year weight gain averted, based on one cup of coffee, was 0.12 kilograms, which is about 30 grams per year. This amount may not be a meaningful change for most people looking to manage weight.

Caffeine is a natural stimulant which has been shown to temporarily reduce appetite and increase alertness. This may help to feel less hungry for a short period, potentially leading to reduced energy intake.

Caffeine has also been shown to speed up our metabolism, causing more energy to be burned while resting. However, this effect is relatively small and is not a suitable substitute for regular physical activity and a healthy diet.

Losing weight can be influenced by various factors, so don't get too enthusiastic about the coffee-weight link highlighted in this new study, or increase your coffee intake to unreasonable levels.

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Lokayukta notice over illegal mining in Jajpur

Despite the presence of government representatives in Jenapur area, Lokayukta highlighted concerns over unlawful mining of black stone



OP
IMPACT

port September 25. Although the report clearly stated that the lease holder Gangadhar Ojha was engaged in illegal quarrying of black stone by using Caterpillar 323D3 hydraulic excavator, the involvement of any government official in the illegal quarrying could not be established.

According to the report, despite repeated efforts made by the Inquiring Officer to examine Ojha, he did not cooperate and successfully avoided the inquiry.

The Lokayukta prima facie found evidence that Ojha was illegally quarrying black stone by openly using hydraulic excavator which is a heavy machine and during such illegal quarrying, two persons lost their lives.

The anti-corruption body further wondered how Ojha could openly carry out illegal mining of black stone without the knowledge of concerned public servants, who are duty bound to protect the natural resources of the state from illegal mining.

The anti-corruption body questioned whether persons involved in such illegal mining resulting in deaths of workers can be allowed to get away only with the registration of criminal case against them followed with a prolonged trial or that they should also be dealt with an administrative action by the department. It further asked whether the concerned public authority should be made accountable for the illegal mining within his territorial jurisdiction. The next date of hearing of the case has been fixed to November 23.

from a height of 20 feet during the illegal quarrying. A heavy machine was being openly used for illegal mining of black stone and had the tragedy not taken place, illegal mining of quarry would not have been reported at all.

Taking suo motu cognisance of this report published in the Orissa POST June 1, the anti-corruption watchdog had earlier directed the director of Vigilance to conduct a preliminary inquiry to ascertain whether there exists a prima facie case against any public servant(s) or person(s) for proceeding further in the matter and submit a report within a period of two months.

The director of Vigilance after conducting an inquiry submitted the preliminary inquiry re-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 13: The Odisha Lokayukta issued notices to the state government Thursday in connection with illegal mining at a stone quarry in Lunibara mouza near Chadheidhara under Jenapur police limits in Jajpur district, where two workers were killed May 31 this year.

Additional chief secretary of department of Steel and Mines and the quarry's lessee Gangadhar Ojha have been summoned by the Lokayukta seeking their views and comments on the matter within six weeks.

Notably, the workers identified as Appu Raut and Shantanu Khilar died after a large boulder came crashing down on them



WORLD EGG DAY: School students pose with eggs they were distributed as part of an event organised at the office of Chief District Veterinary Officer (CDVO), Sambalpur to celebrate World Egg Day. Friday

Fake admission racket busted; 3 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 13: A team of Bolangir cyber police Friday busted a racket involved in cheating and duping money from aspirants all over the state on pretence of giving admission in government medical colleges and arrested three persons in this regard. The racket was being operated from Capital Bhubaneswar.

The accused were identified as Byasadeb Mohanty, 28, of Maa Mangala Sahi of Balarang Prasad village under Khandapada police limits in Nayagarh district, Abinash aka Kanha Purohit, 33, of Kendupada village in Phulbani district and Manas Parida, 31, of Jharapada in Bhubaneswar; a native of Odagaon in Nayagarh



district.

Police seized ₹1.90 lakh in cash, five mobile phones, six debit cards, four SIM cards, office furniture, diary and other items from the possession of the accused. The bank accounts of the accused were also seized, informed Bolangir SP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo in a press conference Friday afternoon.

As per reports, the matter came to light after a complaint was lodged by Brundaban Meher, fa-

ther of an aspirant of Suryanagar Padmapur area at Bolangir cyber and economic offences wing October 4. A case (No-24/23) was registered as per the complaint at the police station.

As per his complaint he was duped of ₹16 lakh with false promise to get her daughter's admission at Bhima Bholi Medical College and Hospital, Bolangir. Even the accused sent mails regarding admission of the girl from the forged domain mail id of the medical college to win the trust of the victim.

However, when the girl went to the college for taking admission with a copy of the mail, she was told that the admission mail was fake and was not sent by the college.

As per the report, Brundaban's

daughter had not qualified in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), to take admission in government medical colleges. So, she was willing to take admission in a private medical college. After a few days of declaration of NEET results, Kalinga Academy of Baramunda Ruchika market allegedly contacted the girl and assured to get her admitted in a government medical college.

A special investigation team consisting Bolangir SP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo, cyber police station IIC Bharati Naik, sub-inspectors Abhinash Nayak, Akash Samal, S Barik, police from Bolangir Town PS and Sadar PS reached Bhubaneswar and sealed the Kalinga Academy of Baramunda and arrested the three accused.

बँक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
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एक परिवार एक बैंक

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
SAMBALPUR BRANCH
Shivlok Complex, Gaiety Talkies Road, Near Gole Bazar, Sambalpur-768001, Tel.: 6370704855, E-mail: brmgr1824@mahabank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Maharashtra for an amount stated below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Co-Applicant(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s) / Guarantor(s): 1) Ms KK Flyash Bricks, Through its Prop. Mr. Kalpalabata Mirig, 2) Mr. Kshirod Chandra Mirig, Both are At: Gadamunda, Hirakud, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha-768006	Equitable Mortgage of Land bearing Plot No.: 2913/4664, Khata No.: 667/525, Area admeasuring 0.30 dec., situated at Mouza: Gadamunda, PS: Hirakud	₹ 10,22,104.19 as on 04.07.2023 + interest & other charges thereon	04.07.2023 / 11.10.2023

No. 6, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, registered in name of Mr. Kshirod Chandra Mirig. Bounded by-East: Road, West: Plot No. 2913, North: Plot No. 2896, South: Plot No. 2913. (Physical Possession)
Date: 11.10.2023, Place: Sambalpur Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

FMU celebrates India's hockey success in Asiad

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 13: Fakir Mohan University here congratulated the Indian men's and women's hockey teams for their exceptional success in the 19th Asian Games in a programme held Friday at the varsity premises.

Vice-Chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy, Registrar Kukumina Das and Director, Sports Council Vaskar Behera were present during this event along with teaching staff, non-teaching staff and students.

Notably, the Indian men's hockey team won the gold medal and the women's hockey team bagged the bronze medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou. The national hockey team has achieved this success due to the strong support



of CM Naveen Patnaik for hockey. He has succeeded in making Odisha known internationally as a hub of hockey. It is hoped that the Indian hockey team will prepare with the aim of winning the gold medal in the upcoming Paris Olympics. Due to the important decisions of the PM, the complete make-up of the Indian hockey team has changed and Odisha's Amit Rohidas and Deepgrace Ekka, who are called hockey giants, managed to win the gold medal for India in this year's Asian Games.

ODISHA GRAMYA BANK
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DEMAND NOTICE

Demand Notice as per section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Odisha Gramya Bank as per power conferred upon him under section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and under Rule 9 of Security Interest Enforcement Rule 2002 had issued demand notice (date mentioned below) against the below mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and as per said notice they were called upon to discharge in full their liabilities along with future interest, costs & incidental expenses thereon to the Bank as secured creditor within 60 (sixty) days of the said notice. The said demand notice had been sent to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) by Registered post with A/D, but the same has been returned back undelivered to the undersigned by the Postal Authority. The details of the secured assets are given below. Once again the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) are called upon to discharge in full their liabilities to the Bank with further interest, charges, costs within 60 days of publication of the said notice and if they fail to discharge their liability in full to the bank within 60 days hereof, the bank shall have to take recourse to one or more measures provided under u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 as may be required besides further course of action in accordance with law. They are also debarred under section 13(13) of the aforesaid Act from transferring by way of sale / lease etc. or otherwise part with possession of the below mentioned secured assets (except in the ordinary course of business) without prior written consent of the bank. The notice has been issued without prejudice to the right of the secured creditor, Bank to initiate any other legal proceeding / action as it deemed fit and necessary under the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name of Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s)	Date of Notice Outstanding dues	Description of the Property/ies / Nature of Facility
1.	GOPALPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Ranjit Samantasinghar, S/o- Judhistira Samantasinghar / Guarantors & Mortgagors: 1) Mr. Benudhar Penthoi, S/o- Nityananda Penthoi, 2) Mr. Judhistira Samantasinghar, S/o- Nityananda Penthoi, 3) Mr. Govinda Chandra Jagdev, S/o- Nityananda Penthoi / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Ganeshwar Behera, S/o- Saneel Mishra, At: Mallipur, PO: Garhnia, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 3) Mr. Shyam Sundar Jena, S/o- Sanatan Jena, All are At/ PO: Narasinghpur, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752026	16.09.2023 ₹ 11,67,225/- as on 15.09.2023 + interest, costs & expenses thereon	Creation of equitable mortgage of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Narasinghpur, Khata No.: 552, Plot No.: 793 & 794, Area: Ac.0.070dec. & Ac.0.040dec., Recorded Owner- Mr. Benudhar Penthoi, Mr. Judhistira Samantasinghar & Mr. Govinda Chandra Jagdev, S/o- Nityananda Penthoi/ Term Loan for Purchase of Tractor.
2.	GOPALPUR BRANCH / Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Pradeep Kumar Samantary, S/o- Dambardhar Samantary / Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Hemalata Samantary, W/o- Dambardhar Samantary / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Parsuram Mansingh, S/o- Bramhachari Jena, All are At: Andharua, PO: Mahatpalla, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752025, 2) Mr. Bishikesan Singh, S/o- Dhruva Charan Singh, At/PO: Haladita, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 3) Mr. Amitav Rout, S/o- Krushna Chandra Rout, At: Kandapada, PO: Jasodapur, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752025	16.09.2023 ₹ 4,66,800/- as on 15.09.2023 + interest, costs & expenses thereon	Creation of equitable mortgage of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Andharuasamantasingharpur, Khata No.: 243, Plot No.: 1289 & 1371, Area: Ac.0.060dec. & Ac.0.10dec., Recorded Owner- Mr. Pradip Kumar Samantary, S/o- Dambardhar Samantary & Hemalata Samantary, W/o- Dambardhar Samantary / Term Loan for Purchase of Tractor.
3.	HALADIA BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Govind Chandra Behera, Bapujee Gramya Silpodyog Samiti (Chairman), S/o- Late Bula Behera, At: Kochilakana Sahi, PO: Gurujanga, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 2) Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Mishra, Bapujee Gramya Silpodyog Samiti (Secretary), S/o- Radha Mohan Mishra, At: Mallipur, PO: Garhnia, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 3) Mr. Dasarathi Das, Bapujee Gramya Silpodyog Samiti (Treasurer), S/o- Abhimanyu Das, At/PO: Muktapur, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057/ Guarantors: 1) Mr. Govind Chandra Behera, S/o- Late Bula Behera, At: Kochilakana Sahi, PO: Gurujanga, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 2) Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Mishra, S/o- Radha Mohan Mishra, At: Mallipur, PO: Garhnia, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 3) Mr. Dasarathi Das, Bapujee Gramya Silpodyog Samiti (Secretary), S/o- Radha Mohan Mishra, At: Paltanpada, PO: Khurda, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 4) Mr. Hrushikesh Sathy, At: Mallipur, PO: Garhnia, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 5) Mr. Anuradha Rao, At: Mallipur, PO: Garhnia, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 6) Mr. Nrusingha Nayak, At: Mallipur, PO: Garhnia, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 7) Mr. Bijaya Kumar Sathy, At: Samantarapur, PO: Khurda, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 8) Mr. Arun Kumar Das, At: Sarat Nath Das, All are At: Forest Colony, PO: Khurda, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057, 9) Mr. Rabindra Kumar Sahoo, 17) Mr. Sarat Kumar Sahoo, 18) Mr. Krupansindhu Sahoo, 19) Mr. Rama Chandra Sahoo, 20) Mr. Purna Chandra Sahoo, 21) Mr. Rabindra Kumar Das, All are At: Mallipur, PO: Garhnia, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-752057.	16.09.2023 ₹ 41,30,891/- as on 16.09.2023 + interest, costs & expenses thereon	Creation of Equitable mortgage of Land & Building situated at Mouza: Champapur, Khata No.: 194, Plot No.: 257 & 329, Area: Ac.0.185dec. & Ac.0.730 dec., Recorded Owner- Secretary, Bapujee Gramya Silpodyog Samiti / Working Capital for Manufacturing of Silk Saree.

Place: Khurda
Date: 13.10.2023
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Odisha Gramya Bank

NHRC seeks status report on death of pregnant schoolgirl

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 13: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Gajapati District Collector and Superintendent of Police to submit the status report on the death of a pregnant school girl. The NHRC passed the order last week acting on a petition by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

The direction came after the authorities informed the commission that the case could not be solved due to want of a chemical examination report and viscera report. The authorities also could not specify details regarding monetary compensation paid to the victim's family.

The petitioner alleged that a minor Dalit girl studying in Class VIII of Jhirjira Ashram school, run by the ST/SC Development department in Gajapati district died on account of medical negligence May 6 while undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital. She was found four months pregnant.

The school authorities, Tripathy alleged, did not inform the parents about her pregnancy earlier. It is averred that the death of a pregnant student in the

present case posed serious questions of violation of human rights.

The commission July 24 had sought for report regarding monetary compensation and current status of the case from Gajapati DM and SP. The NHRC observed, "Pursuant to the directions of the commission, a report was submitted stating that the post-mortem of the deceased was conducted and no foetus was found in the uterus."

"The victim girl was not found to be pregnant. The viscera of the deceased have been sent to SFSL, Rasulgarh and the investigation of the case is still pending."

Requisite report has not been submitted by the Gajapati DM despite direction of the commission.

In the interest of justice, one opportunity is granted and the Gajapati DM is directed to submit a report regarding the payment of monetary compensation to next of kin of the deceased victim, the NHRC stated.

The commission directed the Gajapati SP to submit the current status report of the investigation within four weeks, failing which it would be constrained to issue coercive process U/sec. 13 PHR Act, 1993."

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Regional Office, Maurya Lok Complex, Block-A, 2nd Floor
Dakbungalow Road, Patna-800001
Tel: 0612-2225421, 2220760 E-mail: rmpat@cewacor.nic.in

No: CWCRO/Patna/Buss/HANDLING-CCI/ODISHA/RAYAGADA/2023-24 Dated: 12.10.2023
No: CWCRO/Patna/Buss/TRANSPORTATION-CCI/ODISHA/RAYAGADA/2023-24 Dated: 12.10.2023

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Two separate E-Tenders are invited from the interested parties for appointment of Regular Handling Contractor for handling of FP Cotton Bales & allied service etc. at CW-Rayagada & appointment of Regular Transport contractor for transportation of FP Cotton Bales at CW-Rayagada in the state of Odisha under Patna Region. The Tender will be available online for sale w.e.f. 12.10.2023 to 01.11.2023 up to 23:59 hrs. The details may be seen and downloaded from CWCs website www.cewacor.nic.in and www.cwceprocure.com. This may also be seen at www.tenderhome.com. Further update, if any shall be notified on website only

Regional Manager

केंद्रीय आयुर्वेदीय विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद्
आयुष मन्त्रालय, भारत सरकार
जवाहर लाल नेहरू भारतीय चिकित्सा एवं होम्योपैथी अनुसंधान भवन
61-65, सारथानिक क्षेत्र, सम्मूह 'डी' ब्लॉक, जनकपुरी, नई दिल्ली - 110058

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AYURVEDIC SCIENCES
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ग्राम: आयुष, ग्राम: "AYUSH"
Fax: 28520748, EPBX: 28525852, 28520501,
28522524, 28525831, 28525862, 28525883, 28525897
Window Advt. No. 06/2023

Applications are invited for one post of Accountant in pay Level-7 on deputation basis in CCRAS in the prescribed format within 30 days from the date of appearing the advertisement in the employment news. The other details and the prescribed application form may be downloaded from the Council's website: www.ccras.nic.in.

Administrative Officer (Rectt.)
CBC-17216/12/0025/2324 CCRAS, New Delhi

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR
Phone:0680-2404096, Email:eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in
Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.Online Tender/18/SERWD-II/2023-24
No.O-1282: Memo No.6861/RWD-IIGB, Date:12.10.23

1 Name of the Work	:: Signage Works
2 Estimated Cost	:: Rs. 34.66 Lakh as per Annexure
3 Period of Completion	:: 15 (Fifteen) day as per Annexure
4 Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	:: 17.10.23 at 11.00 AM to 25.10.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.
5 Last Date/ Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	:: 25.10.23 upto 3.00 P.M.
6 Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:: Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgpe/app
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
R.W.Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur
OIPR-25073/11/0018/2324

Higher always higher! Let us never be satisfied with what is accomplished.

THE MOTHER



BJP's Babu Problem

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may love his babus but the increasing involvement of former babus in politics is causing tensions among the BJP cadres. This trend has gained momentum in recent times. While former civil servants have taken significant roles within the PMO and government, and even in the BJP, it's now beginning to grate on the party workers.

Recently, BJP workers in Rajasthan complained about Chandra Mohan Babu, a 1980-batch IAS officer who has joined the BJP and is seeking a party ticket for the upcoming assembly elections. The discontent apparently runs deep, with some party workers even launching a campaign to discourage the party leadership from denying tickets to loyal party workers, while giving tickets to former babus who have not actively contributed to the party.

While obviously not all former babus will get BJP tickets, their increasing presence in organisational roles within the party is causing unease among the party cadres, according to sources. Cases like Chandra Mohan Babu's candidacy in Rajasthan and the influx of more than 20 former babus into the BJP in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh underscore these concerns.

However, the trend of former bureaucrats entering politics and assuming key roles within a political party is unlikely to lose momentum and is likely to continue influencing national politics in the coming years.

Vigilance probe shadow on IRFC CMD shortlist

The Railway Ministry is set to conduct interviews to fill the vacant position of chairman and managing director (CMD) at the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC). The post has been vacant for a year since the removal of the previous CMD Amitabh Banerjee in October last year after he was named due to a corruption case.

Among the shortlisted candidates, sources have informed DKB, is Shelley Verma, who had served as the director of finance at the PSU and is temporarily the CMD. However, her inclusion in the shortlist has raised concerns since during Banerjee's tenure she allegedly gave approval for the procurement of gold and silver medallions worth lakhs to allegedly gift to "dignitaries," violating Central Vigilance Commission's rules against giving costly gifts.

While a Vigilance inquiry into allegations of financial misappropriation and questionable expenses during Banerjee's tenure implicated several IRFC officials, including Banerjee, Shelley was not named in the CBI case. However, her involvement in approving questionable purchases during Banerjee's tenure has raised questions about her suitability for the CMD role, some observe.

To assume the position for a full term, the Vigilance Directorate of the Railways would need to grant her clearance. How this controversy will impact the selection process for the leadership of the IRFC remains to be seen. Hopefully, it won't be a long wait.

Govt debars 8 IPS officers from deputation

The decision to debar eight IPS officers from Central deputation and foreign assignments is an attempt by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send a strong signal that the government is committed to maintaining discipline and accountability within the civil services. It also underscores the importance of officers adhering to their assigned duties and responsibilities.

The IPS officers debarred failed to join their last assignments. They include Modak Rajesh Dinesh Rao, Dr Meenakshi Katyayan and LV Antony Dev Kumar (from UP cadre), Ragasudha R, Atul Vikas Kulkarni and Gorakh Suresh Bhamare (from Maharashtra cadre), and Rajesh Duggal and Rajender Kumar Meena (from Haryana cadre). It is hoped that debarment serves as a preventive measure by discouraging officers from avoiding their designated roles in the future.

Sources have informed DKB that the debarred officers could face significant career setbacks, which can affect their professional growth and opportunities for diverse experiences.

Hopefully, the move makes it amply clear to all babus that non-compliance with postings can have serious consequences.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you. WALT WHITMAN

Be strong, but not rude; Be kind, but not weak; Be bold, but not bully; Be humble, but not timid; Be proud, but not arrogant. ZIG ZIGLAR

You must be shapeless, formless, like water. When you pour water in a cup, it becomes the cup. When you pour water in a bottle, it becomes the bottle. When you pour water in a teapot, it becomes the teapot. Water can drip and it can crash. Become like water, my friend. BRUCE LEE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1926: Winnie-the-Pooh makes his literary debut. The popular children's book character was created by British author AA Milne and first appeared in a collection of short stories called Winnie-the-Pooh. Winnie, a teddy bear, lives in Ashdown Forest, Sussex, England. The book followed his adventures in the forest with his friends Piglet, Owl, Rabbit, and Eeyore.

1947: American test pilot Chuck Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier. The American Air Force test pilot flew the Bell X-1, an experiment aircraft at Mach 1.07 at an altitude of 45,000 ft. In doing so, he became the first person to break the sound barrier.

1994: Two Israelis and a Palestinian share the Nobel Peace prize. The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres shared the Nobel Peace prize, which is annually awarded by the Norwegian Nobel Committee based in Oslo, with the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasser Arafat. The Award was given out to the two parties for their efforts and work on the Oslo Accords, a series of agreements between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel. The Accords created the Palestinian Authority and made it the official governing body to interact with Israel on issues that affect the lives of Palestinians in Israel.

LOL

VISIT THE BARBER

A man and a little boy entered a barbershop together. After the man received the full treatment - shave, shampoo, manicure, haircut, - he placed the boy in the chair. "I'm going to buy a green tie to wear for the parade," he said. "I'll be back in a few minutes."

When the boy's haircut was completed and the man still hadn't returned, the barber said, "Looks like your daddy's forgotten all about you." "That wasn't my daddy," said the boy. "He just walked up, took me by the hand and said, 'Come on, son, we're gonna get a free haircut!'"



Vappala Balachandran

MENACHEM BEGIN AND HIS SUCCESSOR YITZHAK SHAMIR CREATED 'VILLAGE LEAGUES' THAT WERE THOUGHT TO BE HELPFUL TO CHECK THE SECULAR AND LEFTIST PLO OF YASSER ARAFAT

How does terrorism originate? For the last 15 years or so I have been giving yearly lectures on terrorism to students of journalism at a reputed training institute in Mumbai. The most difficult part of the subject is to explain paradoxes in its history which often defy logic. For example, President Ronald Reagan had told Americans in a radio address on May 31, 1986, that effective anti-terrorist action was "thwarted by the claim that - as the quip goes - 'One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.'" He added that freedom fighters did not need to terrorise a population into submission. What he said was true of India which won freedom under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership without violence.

If Reagan was correct, why did the US consider Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin as an acceptable and strategic partner despite an American Library of Congress paper "Menachem Begin at the National Press club, March 23, 1978" had recorded that during the pre-independence days Begin was responsible for several terrorist attacks: on two British police stations; the blowing up of the British military headquarters in King David Hotel; the execution of two British sergeants to retaliate for the hanging of three Jewish resistance fighters and the massacre in the Arab village of Deir Yassin that left more than 250 civilians dead?"

And yet, a year before Reagan's address, William Safire, well known New York Times columnist had criticised the Reagan administration on October 11, 1985, for not standing by Israel, when the latter attacked a PLO boat within the territorial waters of Cyprus when it had intelligence that it was meant for terrorist activities on Israel. Safire had criticised Reagan for "allowing" the UN Security Council "to condemn its ally and call for reparations."

On February 24, 2001, UPI correspondent Richard Sale had

FOCUS ISRAEL

FRANKENSTEIN MOMENT



Successive Israeli governments had unknowingly promoted these fundamentalists, who later became 'Hamas'

claimed that Tel Aviv "gave direct and indirect financial aid to Hamas over a period of years" in the late 1970s. He quoted Tony Cordesman, Middle East analyst for the Center for Strategic & International Studies that Israel "aided Hamas directly - the Israelis wanted to use it as a counterbalance to the PLO."

This was confirmed on 1 January 2009 by Daniel Barenboim, famous Israeli pianist and conductor, who wrote an article "The Illusion of Victory" in The Guardian: "We must not forget that before Hamas was elected by the Palestinians, it was encouraged by Israel as a tactic to weaken Yasser Arafat. Israel's recent history leads me to believe that if Hamas is bombed out of existence, another group will most certainly take its place, that would be more radical, more violent and more full of hatred towards Israel." On October 9, 2023, The Times of Israel reported that "Hamas conducted a years-long campaign to fool Israel into thinking the group did not desire armed conflict and could be placated with economic incentives to maintain relative calm."

However, this did not start recently. I had written in 2009, quoting the late Ami Isseroff, known as the "Socialist Zionist," that successive Israeli governments had unknowingly promoted these fundamentalists, who later became "Hamas."

There was evidence that the Menachem Begin government had "approved" Sheikh Ahmad Yasin's application in 1973 to recognise his organisation "al-Mujama," even when it was known that it was an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood. Yasin was heading its Gaza chapter.

In fact, Begin and his successor Yitzhak Shamir created "village leagues" that were thought to be helpful to check the secular and leftist PLO of Yasser Arafat. They allowed Yasin to publish a newspaper, collect funds not only from Israelis but also from orthodox Islamic regimes and helped converting the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) as their base. IUG flourished as the only higher education facility on the Gaza strip with official Israeli help and due to Anwar Sadat's ban on Palestinian students seeking admission in Egyptian colleges.

By the 1980s the IUG had become the largest university in occupied territories with 4,500 students. Isseroff had even said that Mujama cadres were allowed to keep their cache of weapons to intimidate secular students. The Telegraph (UK) said on 23 March 2004 that deliberate Israeli neglect of Yasin's bold political activities "nurtured a movement that came to epitomise all that Israel meant by the word 'terrorism.'"

In 1983, Yasin formed two secret paramilitary units: one for

the surveillance and punishment of drug dealers, prostitutes, and collaborators with Israel. The other consisted of commando groups that carried out attacks on Israeli targets. This was revealed only after Yasin was killed by a direct Israeli strike on 22 March 2004. After the recent hostilities started, the Israeli air force went to the other extreme by destroying the Ahmed Yasin Mosque in Gaza on 9 October 2023. "Middle East Eye" reported that at least 10 mosques were demolished in the recent bombing. This, in turn, is bound to inflame religious feelings all over.

Former Shin Beth (Internal intelligence) Chief Ami Ayalon, while speaking to the French newspaper Le Figaro recently blamed the politicians for not listening to the security chiefs to realise "the great division of the country around the crisis caused by the justice reform." Significantly he also added: "The Israeli government has gone out of its way to ensure that Fatah and the Palestinian Authority are no longer partners, giving power to Hamas." By boycotting the legitimate Palestinian government in the West Bank "We have tolerated the unacceptable, allowing Hamas to arm themselves on our doorstep since 2006."

He advocated ground operations to wipe out the "Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades" (the armed wing of Hamas) after telling Palestinians that "our war is not against them." However, he had no proposal on how to avoid innocent Palestinian civilian deaths in that process. There is no better way to end this column than by quoting the concluding part of Barenboim's 2009 article: "I wish for a return of King Solomon's wisdom to Israel's decision makers that they might use it to understand that Palestinians and Israelis have equal human rights."

The writer is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

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SPECTRUM FOOD

Hunger crisis must not be normalised

From the 1960s until the mid-2010s, hunger was on the decline around the world. But, despite record food production, the trend is reversing, with around 828 million people affected by hunger globally in 2021 - an increase of 46 million from 2020 and 150 million from 2019.

The problem is not confined to low-income countries. Large numbers of people in wealthier countries like the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Brazil are unable to meet their basic nutritional needs. In the UK, the world's sixth-largest economy, roughly one in seven people experienced food poverty in September 2022, with more than 2,000 food banks operating across the country; there were fewer than 100 a decade or so ago. In Brazil, poverty and food insecurity had fallen to their lowest levels by early 2010s. But much of this progress has been reversed in recent years, owing to a recession that began in 2014 and deepened in 2015. The economic crisis coincided with, and was amplified by, a period of political turmoil, resulting in the impeachment of former President Dilma Rousseff in 2016.

When former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro took office in 2019, his government made no effort to reduce hunger or poverty, and the pandemic soon exacerbated both. By 2022, an estimated 125 million Brazilians - more than half of the population - faced some degree of food insecurity, with 33 million living in hunger. Black and brown communities, women-led households, and low-income families with young children are disproportionately affected.

As in Brazil, hunger in South Africa, where I grew up, is rooted in historical legacies, and food insecurity persists despite the constitution's explicit recognition of people's right to adequate nutrition. Nearly 45% of the population experienced moderate or extreme food insecurity between 2018 and 2020 - twice as many as in Brazil during that period. We produce more than enough food to feed the world's population. So, what is going wrong, and how can it be fixed?

The first problem is that governments remain unwilling to act. In the UK, there is a lack of political will to address deepening inequalities, and the country's inadequate welfare system has forced food banks and charities to

pick up the slack. That will change only when rising levels of hunger start to cost politicians votes.

The second problem is a familiar one worldwide: victim blaming, like the UK politicians who claim that people use food banks because they cannot cook or manage their household budget. This is as inaccurate as it is unproductive: structural disparities and power imbalances, not individual choices, are driving food insecurity, hitting small-scale farmers, marginalised groups, and women the hardest.

To overcome the underlying systemic hunger and poverty, the people most vulnerable to food insecurity must be at the center of efforts to create more equitable food systems that improve both their access to nutrition and their livelihoods. That means supporting community-led initiatives that are designed with marginalised groups' needs in mind. It will also be critical to develop local and national policies that target historical inequities and to ensure that those suffering from hunger are included in decision-making at all levels.

The UK city of Brighton and Hove offers a good example of

how community groups and government officials can work together to address hunger and poverty. By using a "whole-system" approach, whereby different departments of the local government (including health, planning, and transportation) collaborated with school kitchens and community organisations, the city was able to improve access to healthy food and reduce childhood-obesity rates. Moreover, successive food and food-poverty strategies since 2006 have enabled stakeholders to identify relevant issues and adapt programmes as needed.

Researchers, activists, and charities must work with local, national, and global leaders to correct the structural shortcomings in the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food. In a world that produces enough food for everyone, we should never accept hunger as an immutable fact of life. No one should worry about where their next meal is coming from, or if it's coming at all.

The writer is a research fellow at Institute of Development Studies.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Stephen Devereux

IN A WORLD THAT PRODUCES ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE, WE SHOULD NEVER ACCEPT HUNGER AS AN IMMUTABLE FACT OF LIFE

Beyond retribution

Sir, This refers to "War escalates," Orissa Post, Oct 13. The Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip are caught between a devil and deep sea. The 2.3 million or so citizens are facing the worst humanitarian crisis in a long time even in their perennially troubled land that is now controlled by the terrorist group Hamas, which carried out a ruthless attack on Israel. The call for humanitarian corridors for the people of Gaza to exit their land, which may soon face an invasion by Israel as it aims to rain retribution on Hamas and deal a crushing blow on it with devastating force, is just. Israel must consider this proposal with utmost seriousness even as it prepares for its tanks and ground forces to roll into Gaza. But, in indiscriminate bombing of Gaza from air, land and sea without the customary warning to aid civilians to flee targeted buildings, Israel has hit homes, hospitals and schools. Israel cannot afford to fight a war on more than one front after having just been woken up from its Prime Minister's preoccupation with taking on the judiciary at home by circumscribing its powers in the hope of staving off conviction in his corruption trial. There is a much larger question of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and a potential occupation of Gaza again. Can Netanyahu's Israel think beyond the obvious need for retribution and plan how to "wage" long term peace?

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bangalore

Mastermind dead Great scientists

Sir, The killing of Shahid Latif by unidentified gunmen outside a mosque in Sialkot draws the curtains on India's most wanted terrorist. Latif played a pivotal role in orchestrating the Pathankot attack. Seven IAF personnel were martyred when four Jaish terrorists sneaked into the air-base on January 2, 2016.

NJ Ravi Chandar, BANGALORE

Sir, Verghese Kurien and MS Swaminathan are two great Indian social scientists. Indian history will remember them for the White Revolution and Green Revolution respectively. Their ideas made India self-sufficient in milk and food grains. These revolutions got full support from the government to achieve their objectives. Both the scientists deserve Bharat Ratna posthumously.

Nabnit Panigrahi, RAYAGADA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



'Delimitation plan to punish southern states'



AGENCIES

Chennai, Oct 13: Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has alleged a 'bigger conspiracy' was being hatched to punish the south Indian states for their good performance through the impending delimitation exercise and expressed hope that political parties fighting for state rights will resist the move.

In his address at "The Southern Rising Summit" held by ABP Network here, the state Youth Welfare and Sports Development minister said south Indian states implemented the population control programme effectively in the 1970s.

"A bigger conspiracy is being hatched to punish the southern states for their good performance, through the impending Delimitation exercise of Lok Sabha Constituencies," he said. "The south Indian states implemented the (population control) programme effectively. Their population growth rate slowed, in comparison to states that did not implement the programme well, whose population continued to grow at a higher rate. This effectively reduced the population share of the south Indian states. Today, this is being used against us, the south Indian states," he alleged.

The Constitution mandates that each state must receive seats in proportion to its population, and constituencies should be of roughly equal size to the population.

The Union government 'pushed' states to reduce population in the 1970s, this principle was kept in abeyance through a Constitutional amendment. The amendment to the Constitution passed by the Parliament in 1976 froze the number of seats in the Lok Sabha till 2000, he said.

“We are just two years away from the deadline. So, how will this delimitation affect us? It is clear that all five states - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - will lose their seat share in Lok Sabha. If delimitation is done without changing the total number of seats in Lok Sabha, Tamil Nadu will lose 8 seats, from the current 39 to 31”

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN | TAMIL NADU MINISTER

In 2001, when this issue again came up, the states that were likely to lose seats protested. Due to this protest, the then NDA government piloted another Constitutional amendment that extended the freeze for another 25 years- till 2026, he added.

"We are just two years away from the deadline. So, how will this delimitation affect us? It is clear that all five states - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - will lose their seat share in Lok Sabha. If delimitation is done without changing the total number of seats in Lok Sabha, Tamil Nadu will lose 8 seats, from the current 39 to 31," he said.

"This is a clear attempt to silence the voice of southern states," he alleged.

TN Chief Minister MK Stalin has called delimitation a "sword hanging over our head. We should be mindful of the conspiracy that is being hatched to take away our rights, and act accordingly."

TN's flagship programme to conserve state animal

LOCALLY KNOWN AS 'VARAI AADU,' THE NILGIRI TAHR IS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES ENDEMIC TO THE WESTERN GHATS KNOWN FOR THEIR GRAVITY DEFYING SKILLS IN CLIMBING STEEP CLIFF

AGENCIES

Chennai, Oct 13: The Tamil Nadu government Thursday launched the Nilgiri Tahr project, an ambitious flagship programme to conserve the state animal and develop a better understanding of the endangered species.

Chief Minister M K Stalin launched the project at a function held at the Secretariat here by unveiling a plaque and distributing

books to school students to create awareness on the animal. Locally known as 'Varai Aadu,' the Nilgiri Tahr is an endangered species endemic to the Western Ghats known for their gravity defying skills in climbing steep cliff. These mountain goats are aptly called 'Mountain Monarch.'

"There are multiple references to Nilgiri Tahr in the Sangam Tamil literature written over 2,000 years ago. Two of the five great epics of the Sangam period, Silappatikaram and Sivakasindamani, include descriptions of the Nilgiri Tahr and its habitat," an official release here said.

The Nilgiri Tahr finds mention in books such as Natrinai, Aingurunooru, Paripadal, Pathitruppathu and Patinapalai from Pathinen Melkanakku Noolgal. The play, Courtallar Kuravanji, written by Trikoodarasappa Kavirayar in 1600-1700 A.D, describes Nilgiri Tahr in a song "Kurathi

Cong promise for free school edu makes BJP uneasy

DURING A PUBLIC RALLY, PRIYANKA GANDHI PROMISED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD BRING 'FREE EDUCATION' POLICY, IF VOTED TO POWER IN MADHYA PRADESH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 13: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's announcement of 'free education' policy (proposal) and 'scholarship' for school children in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh seems to have created uneasiness in the ruling BJP.

The BJP held a series of press conferences Friday to counter the Congress' proposal for scholar-

ship. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan alleged that state Madhya Pradesh Congress Chief Kamal Nath made Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to make a fake announcement regarding the free education policy.

Addressing a press conference at his residence, CM Chouhan said, "Gandhi family has cheated people of this country, but they (Rahul and Priyanka) are being cheated by Kamal Nath. They are being forced to make fake promises," Shivraj said. However, he did not take questions from the media persons during the press conference.

Second press conference was addressed by the state Home Minister Narottam Mishra at the party's newly established media center (BJP has established a new media centre outside the party's state quarter for Assembly 2023 and Lok Sabha election in 2024).

Mishra also made the same re-



mark and termed Congress' scholarship scheme a 'bundle of lies'.

During her public rally in tribal dominated Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh Thursday, Priyanka Gandhi

employees, she said, "Congress government would provide not only free education from Classes 1 to 12, but also allowance of Rs 500 per month to students from Classes 1 to 8, that of Rs 1,000 per month to those in Classes 9 and 10 and Rs 1,500 to those in Classes 11 and 12 under the 'Padho-Padhao' (learn and teach) scheme."

Sources said the Congress' promises for 'free education' policy and scholarship for school children have created an uneasiness in the BJP. Notably, in the past few months, the BJP government led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has implemented several schemes, including Ladli Behna Yojana.

The Congress has announced to provide LPG cylinder at Rs 500 and it was one of the 11 points promised in the Congress' bachanpatra (election manifesto). To counter the same, CM Chouhan announced to provide LPG cylinder at Rs 450.

Controversy over NIA raids on PFI in poll-bound MP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 13: Former chief minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh's remark on the raids against PFI by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Bhopal has sparked political controversy in poll bound Madhya Pradesh.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Thursday hit out at Digvijaya Singh accusing him

of 'glorifying' the banned terror outfit. Chouhan, who was addressing a poll rally in Bhopal's Huzur assembly constituency, said, "Digvijaya Singh has always questioned action against terror organisations."

"Digvijaya Singh is crying for action against the banned terror outfit, which shows the real nature of the Congress. He (Digvijaya) is one who called Osama ji and wanted proof of

surgical strike against Pakistan-based terrorists," the Chief Minister said while addressing the poll rally for his loyalist Rameshwar Sharma.

However, veteran Congress leader Digvijaya Singh clarified that he has not questioned the NIA's raid on PFI. He said, "My answer to the question asked by some media organisations is being wrongly quoted which I have not said. I have never supported PFI, an organisation that incites communalism. I have stood against the person/organisation spreading communalism in the name of religion." Notably, NIA has raided multiple locations in Bhopal in connection with 2022 case. Responding to it Wednesday, Digvijaya had said that he has no problem with raids against the PFI.

"But it appears that raids in 97 per cent of cases have turned out to be false," he had said during an interaction with a media person in Ujjain Wednesday.

Buzz in MP over Scindia contesting Assembly polls



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 13: Political circles in Madhya Pradesh are abuzz with speculation as to whether Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who jumped ship to the BJP from the Congress in March 2020, will contest the Assembly elections scheduled November 17.

The buzz grew stronger after the BJP fielded several heavyweights in its second list for the Assembly polls, including three Union ministers -- Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste -- along with the party's national General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya. With this, the BJP has opened the race for the Chief Minister's post, if the party retains power in Madhya Pradesh.

The possibility over Scindia's candidature for the Assembly elections gained further momentum after his aunt and state minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia announced that she would not contest the November 17 polls.

Her decision gave rise to the buzz that she might have vacated the Shivpuri Assembly seat for her nephew. Importantly, the BJP has not declared its candidate for Shivpuri yet.

According to political observers, given that Scindia's supporters always wanted to project him as the next Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, there is a

strong possibility that he would contest the elections.

"If the BJP retains power, all the heavyweights who win the elections will push themselves for the CM's post. If Scindia doesn't contest the elections, he would be out of that race. Therefore, Scindia might contest the polls," a political observer said.

The political observers also feel that the contest between the BJP and the Congress will be very close and the saffron party will try to win all its strong seats and therefore it would field the strongest candidates.

"Tomar has already been fielded despite having extra responsibility for the elections. So the BJP might not give special privilege to Scindia, who also hails from the same region. Secondly, with the combination of Scindia and Tomar, the BJP will try to win maximum seats in the Gwalior-Chambal region," a political observer said.

Fielding Scindia as a candidate might also be BJP's plan to bring him in front to counter the strategy of the opposition led by two veteran Congress leaders - Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh.

More importantly, Scindia's candidature will also give rise to a political rivalry between Raja Saheb' (Digvijaya Singh) and 'Maharaja Saheb' (Scindia).

Digvijaya Singh has already assigned his son Jaivardhan Singh to look after Gwalior-Chambal's strategy. He has also brought many Scindia loyalists back into the Congress.

The BJP has so far declared 136 candidates for the 230 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, which will go to the polls November 17. The counting of votes will be taken up December 3, along with Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram.

TN to fight for release of 14K cusecs Cauvery water



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 13: The Tamil Nadu government will strongly fight for the release of 14,000 cusecs of Cauvery river water by Karnataka to the state, Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan said Friday amidst the travails of farmers in the delta districts in saving standing paddy crops.

Farmers dependent only on the water from the Mettur dam have taken up Kuruvaai crop (short-term) cultivation in the delta districts and in certain pockets in Thanjavur district, anticipating steady discharge of Cauvery water from neighbouring Karnataka have taken up the Samba (long-duration) paddy crop.

However, their hopes of realising a good yield appears bleak owing to the water level in the Mettur reservoir nearing dead storage.

Besides agriculture, water from the dam caters to the drinking water requirement in the districts.

Tamil Nadu will present its

case at Friday's meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and strongly contend for the release of 14,000 cusecs of water to save the standing crops in the delta districts, Duraimurugan told reporters here.

Wednesday the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee ordered Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs water to Tamil Nadu from October 16 to 31, he said.

To a question, the Minister ruled out the scope of releasing water from Mettur dam. "There is hardly 10 TMC water in the reservoir. So, we can't release water. Though the catchment areas are receiving rain we have to wait and see if the situation would improve," he added.

The sudden rain in the catchment areas of Thoppaiyaru and Palar triggered a meager rise in the Mettur dam water level. Though the inflows increased to 18,974 cusecs on Thursday evening from 2,528 cusecs on the previous day, the inflows however, decreased to about 12,606 cusecs today, a Public Works Department official said.

Government of Odisha No. O-1281
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
 Email: eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643
 Bid Identification No. Online-SEJSG-12 of 2023-24
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR BUILDING WORK IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the Work : Building Works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Total No. of Work : 05 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 67.43 Lakh to 67.54 Lakh
- Period of Completion : 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
- Period and Time of availability : Dt. 19.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 02.11.2023 upto 05.00 P.M. for bidding
- Date and Time of bid opening : Dt. 04.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
 (2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
 Sd./ Superintending Engineer
 R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
 OIPR-25104/11/0013/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, P.R.&D.W. DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MECHANICAL RWS&S DIVISION, SAMBALPUR
 e-mail address: eemrwsbp@rediffmail.com
Second Corrigendum to Tender Call Notice No. SE/RWSS/MSBP-1/2023-24 Dt.03.10.2023
 No. O-1280: It is hereby amended the availability of Bid/Receipt of Bid/Opening of Bid as per details below and other terms and condition of Detail Tender Call Notice are remain unchanged.

- Date & time of availability of bids of documents in the portal : From Dt. 25.10.2023 to Dt. 08.11.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt. 08.11.2023
- Date and Place of Opening Bid : Dt. 09.11.2023 in the O/o. the undersigned
- Name of the Officer Inviting Bids : Superintending Engineer, Mechanical RWS&S Division, Sambalpur

Further details as well as any corrigendum can be seen only from e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
 Sd./ Superintending Engineer
 Mechanical RWSS Division, Sambalpur
 OIPR-25136/11/0003/2324



Members of 10 political parties clash with police personnel after they intercepted their march to Raj Bhawan in Imphal. They were marching to Raj Bhawan to submit a memorandum to Manipur Governor in connection with the ongoing crisis



Local residents waded through a flooded road in Bago, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) northeast of Yangon, Myanmar. Flooding triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Myanmar's southern areas has displaced more than 10,000 people and disrupted traffic on the rail lines that connect the country's biggest cities



Telangana's Anti-Riot Police personnel stand guard near Charminar in Hyderabad as part of precautionary measures in wake of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami feeds an elephant during his visit to the Jim Corbett National Park, in Nainital district



Delhi Police and security personnel attempt to stop AAP workers from crossing barricades during their protest over the arrest of party leader Sanjay Singh by the Enforcement Directorate in New Delhi



Members of Jamaat-E-Islami Hind participate in a protest rally to show solidarity with Palestine in Kolkata



A farm worker burns stubble after harvesting of paddy crop at a village near Patiala



ASHA workers shout slogans as they stage a protest demanding Diwali bonus in Thane district, Maharashtra PTI PHOTOS

national

of the day quote

The Congress, which had passed a resolution in support of Palestine regarding the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, should make coalition governments in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Indians/Bengalis are leaving battle-torn Israel and I have asked my Chief Secretary and Delhi Resident Commissioner to extend all possible government assistance, free of cost, to our distressed returnees

19,553 women were reported missing from Maharashtra between January 1 and May 31 this year. The government is not serious about the law and order situation in the state

SHORT TAKES

Three dead, ten missing in Bengal

Asansol (WB): At least three people were killed and 10 others were feared trapped after a coal mine collapsed during illegal extraction in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district, officials said Friday. Police suspect that the incident took place when coal was being illegally extracted from Narayankuri colliery of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) in Egra gram panchayat in Raniganj police station area, around 18 km from Asansol.

Man opens fire inside train

Dhanbad (Jharkhand): A 41-year-old man allegedly opened fire inside the Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express over an argument with a coach attendant for a seat, a railway official said Friday. There was no report of any casualty in the incident. The accused, a retired Army personnel, has been arrested following the act that took place around 9.45 pm on Thursday inside the B-7 coach between Dhanbad and Gomoh stations under the Dhanbad division of East Central Railway (ECR), he said.

Zomato, McDonald's fined ₹1 lakh

New Delhi: Online food ordering and delivery platform Zomato Friday said a penalty of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed on it and restaurant partner McDonald's by the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum, Jodhpur, for alleged wrongful delivery of non-vegetarian food in place of a vegetarian food order. The company is in the process of filing an appeal against the order, Zomato said in a regulatory filing.

HC rejects NewsClick founder's plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday refused to interfere with the arrest and subsequent police remand of NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and portal's human resources department head Amit Chakravarty in a case lodged under anti-terror law UAPA. Purkayastha and Chakravarty had contended that the grounds of arrest were not supplied to them when they were apprehended and the trial court order of remand was passed in the absence of their lawyers. Dismissing the petitions, Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said there was no "procedural infirmity" or violation of legal or constitutional provisions in relation to the arrest and the remand order is sustainable in law.



Congress is pumping crores of rupees into Telangana to purchase votes in the upcoming Assembly polls
K T RAMA RAO | BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

SC DISMISSES PLEA

The Supreme Court Friday dismissed a PIL challenging Darwin's theory of evolution and Einstein's theory of special relativity that expresses the equivalence of mass and energy. A bench comprising Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia said there cannot be a writ petition under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution to challenge scientific beliefs



Indians rescued from Israel recount horror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: Traumatized by what they had experienced in the last few days, the first batch of over 200 Indians were glad to be home from Israel Friday with the sound of air raid sirens, rocket fire and screams still ringing loud in their ears. Israel witnessed an unprecedented attack by Hamas in its southern parts on Saturday morning. The war has till now claimed over 2,800 lives on both sides. "We woke up to sounds of air raid sirens. We stay in central Israel and I don't know what shape this conflict will take," said Shashwat Singh soon after landing at Delhi airport along with his wife. The post-doctoral researcher in agriculture, who has been staying in Israel since 2019, said the sound of those sirens and the nightmarish experience of the past few days still haunt him.



Indian nationals evacuated from Israel under Operation Ajay arrive at Indira Gandhi International airport, in New Delhi, Friday

The step to bring back Indians is a "praiseworthy step", Singh said soon after the flight landed. "We hope peace will be restored and we will return to work... The Indian government got in touch with us via email. We are thankful to Prime Minister Modi and the Indian Embassy in Israel."

Another flight carrying 200 Indian passengers from Tel Aviv are expected to arrive here on Saturday, sources said. India launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return of those who wish to come back home as a series of brazen attacks on Israeli towns by Hamas militants over the weekend triggered fresh tension in the region.

India has launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return of those who wish to come back home as a series of brazen attacks on Israeli towns by Hamas militants over the weekend triggered fresh tension in the region

Many students who returned home recalled the fateful night of Saturday and how they had to rush to shelters multiple times in the wake of rocket attacks by Hamas

reached Delhi on the special flight.

"We could not know what happened. On Saturday, some rockets were launched. But, we were safe in shelters... The good thing is that the Israeli government has made shelters everywhere, so we were safe," he said.

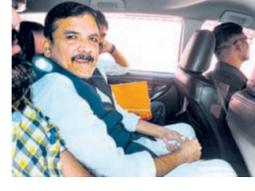
Several women students also recounted the grim situation they faced when the attacks happened. "It was a panic situation. We are not citizens there, we are just students. So, for us whenever the sirens go on, it's a panic situation for us," Jaipur native Mini Sharma said.

Asked when she received the information about the rescue flight, she replied, "Just a day before." "We packed our bags yesterday morning after receiving a message from the Indian Embassy. They were very helpful. We were able to get in touch with them round the clock," Sharma said.

Sanjay Singh sent to judicial custody till October 27

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: A Delhi court Friday sent AAP leader Sanjay Singh, arrested in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, to judicial custody till October 27.



Special Judge M K Nagpal ordered Singh to be sent to jail after the probe agency produced him before the court on expiry of his Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody. During the brief hearing, the judge also directed Singh not to give any speech about unrelated matters inside the court. The judge issued the direction after Singh claimed before the court that the ED didn't work on his complaint against Adani. Singh was referring to industrialist Gautam Adani, who is considered close to the ruling establishment at the Centre with which Singh's AAP has been locked in a running feud.

"No unrelated matter. If you've to give speech about Adani and Modi, I'll ask for your production through video conferencing from now onwards," the judge said. The Rajya Sabha member claimed before the court that the ED did not ask him relevant questions during his custodial interrogation.

"All they asked is why did I take money from mother, why I sent Rs 10,000 to my wife's account. ED has become entertainment department, lies after lies. I gave them complaint against Adani but they did nothing," Singh told the judge.

I-T dept recovers over ₹42 crore cash during raids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 13: The Income Tax Department has recovered more than Rs 42 crore in cash, stashed in a residential premise here, on Friday as part of its tax evasion searches against some Karnataka-based contractors and persons linked to them, official sources said.

The searches triggered a political slugfest between Karnataka's ruling Congress and the BJP ahead of assembly polls in five states. Official sources said the searches are underway and the department has deployed cash counting machines and additional manpower to ascertain the final amount of cash recoveries.

Officials said a large part of the cash was seized from a residential premise in the capital city of Karnataka that had no occupant and the money was kept stashed in cardboard boxes. The searches are continuing and till now more than Rs 42 crore in cash has been recovered.

The department is also investigating if this money, which appeared undeclared, was supposed to be pumped into neighbouring Telangana where assembly polls will be held next month, the sources said.

BJP leader and former deputy chief minister C N Ashwath Narayan targeted the Congress government in the state over the recovery, alleging that the money was collected from contractors as commission to fund the upcoming elections in five states.

"This proves the 'ATM government' allegations (against Congress govt) with evidence.... This is the small size consignment of the collection by the 'ATM government' that has been caught. Many such things are there. This is collected money. This is just a sample," he said and urged other contractors to speak out about the money they had allegedly paid.

BJP leader and MLC N Ravi Kumar, speaking to reporters, claimed that the cash recovered from the contractor's property has a value of Rs 42 crore and that the currency notes are of Rs 500 denomination and were stored in 23 boxes.



Workers lay geocells for the construction of a road in Hyderabad

PTI PHOTO

CBI arrests 'mastermind' from Pune

Phijam Hemanjit (20) and Hijam Linthoingambi, a girl aged 17 years, had gone missing July 6. Photos purportedly showing their bodies surfaced September 25, leading to violent protests, mainly by students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The CBI has arrested from Pune a 22-year-old man suspected to be the mastermind behind the case of two missing Manipuri students who were believed to have been killed, officials said Friday.

The CBI which had started an extensive operation to nab the culprits using informers and technical surveillance had come to know about the alleged involvement of Paolunmang who is believed to be the mastermind behind the incident that set into motion a fresh round of protests in the state.

The special investigation team which was on the lookout for him came to know about his location in Pune in Maharashtra from where he was taken into

MANIPUR STUDENTS' DEATH



custody. The team immediately flew him to Guwahati to be produced before a designated court which sent him to the CBI custody till October 16 where he will be questioned on the entire incident.

The CBI is also looking for mortal remains of the two students to confirm if they have been actually killed after they went missing, they said.

Phijam Hemanjit (20) and Hijam Linthoingambi, a girl aged 17 years, had gone missing on July 6. Photos purportedly showing their bodies surfaced on September 25, leading to violent protests, mainly by students.

"The government will support the CBI in its investigation and all those involved in the killing of the two youths will be arrested," Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said.

The CBI had arrested two men, Paominlun Haokip and Smalsawm Haokip, and two women, Lhingneichong Baitekuki and Tinneihling Henthang, on October 1.

Based on the complaints of the victims' parents, the two cases related to the missing students were earlier registered with the Imphal Police and Lamphel Police on July 8 and July 19, respectively.

Conflicts don't benefit anyone: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: Terrorism anywhere in the world and any form is against humanity and conflicts do not benefit anyone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, and asserted that "this is time for peace and brotherhood" as a divided world cannot provide solutions to big global challenges.

Addressing the inaugural session of the ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit (P20) here, Modi called for ending the crisis in global trust and moving forward with a human-centric approach.

"Everyone is aware of what is happening in various parts of the world. The world is grappling with conflicts and confrontations; such a world full of conflicts and confrontations is not in anyone's interest. A divided world cannot provide solutions to the big challenges before humanity

"This is the time for peace, brotherhood, this is the time for moving forward together, this is the time for everyone's development and welfare," he said.

While the Prime Minister did not mention any specific conflict or issue, his remarks come



Everyone is aware of what is happening in various parts of the world. The world is grappling with conflicts and confrontations. Such a world full of conflicts and confrontations is not in anyone's interest. A divided world cannot provide solutions to the big challenges before humanity
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

amid a raging war between Israel and Hamas.

"As you know India has been facing the issue of cross-border terrorism for decades. Terrorists have killed thousands of innocents in India. Near the new Parliament building, you will find the old Parliament building. About 20 years ago, terrorists had targeted our Parliament. You will be startled to know that Parliament was in session at that time," he said.

SC seeks response from Centre, NMC over live surgery broadcast

A BENCH HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE D Y CHANDRACHUD ISSUED NOTICES TO THE CENTRE AND OTHERS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION (NMC), SEEKING THEIR REPLIES ON THE PETITION FILED BY SOME DELHI RESIDENTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court Friday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea raising legal and ethical questions over live broadcast of surgical procedures, with the petitioners likening it to Virat Kohli batting and commenting at the same time.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud issued notices to the Centre and others, including the National Medical Commission (NMC), seeking their replies on the petition filed by some Delhi residents.



The bench, also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, noted that the petitioners have sought a direction to the

NMC to appoint a committee to regularly monitor broadcast of live surgeries and for framing guidelines about it.

The bench said it will leave the issue to be considered by the NMC. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioners, said surgeries are being performed live with several people watching and asking doctors conducting the procedure questions.

"This is like Virat Kohli batting and also giving commentary," he told the bench, adding live broadcast of surgical procedures posed a huge risk to patients under the knife. He referred to a news report about the death of a patient whose surgery was being broadcast live, and said in some cases,

people belonging to lower economic strata are induced to go for it.

The petitioners claimed advertisements and sponsorships were the main motivations for conducting such procedures. Sankaranarayanan said such broadcast also raises serious ethical concern about informed consent since patients are seldom told that the surgeon's attention may be divided between the surgery and the audience to whom it is being broadcast live.

After hearing the submissions, the apex court issued notice on the petition and posted it for hearing after three weeks.

international



For many years, the one-sided line of the Americans led the situation further and further into a dead end
VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

NASA LAUNCHES PSYCHE METAL ASTEROID MISSION

NASA Friday launched a spacecraft from Florida on its way to Psyche, the largest of the several metal-rich asteroids known in our solar system and believed by scientists to be the remnant core of an ancient protoplanet, offering clues about Earth's formation. The Psyche probe, folded inside the cargo bay of a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, blasted off under partly cloudy skies from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral on a planned journey 2.2 billion miles (3.5 billion km) through space

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

PRAYERS & PROTESTS



UN aid chief says 'noose tightening' around Gaza
A Reuters journalist has been killed while working in (S) Lebanon
Israel says gunmen infiltrating from Lebanon
US, Israel discuss safe zones in Gaza

Iraqis hold a mass rally supporting the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, in Baghdad, Iraq

PAIN ON BOTH SIDES

In Baghdad Friday, tens of thousands of Iraqis rallied in central Tahrir Square, waving Palestinian flags and burning the Israeli flag while chanting anti-US and anti-Israeli slogans. State-organised rallies were held across Iran - whose government is Hamas's main backer and one of Israel's principal foes - in support of the militant group and against the Israeli bombardment of Gaza, state TV reported. State media described the Iranian rallies as "screams of a common pain...The pain of the Zionist regime's (Israel) trampling on humanity". In Indonesia, Islamic cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, the suspected mastermind of the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, joined dozens of people in a march against Israel in the Javanese city of Solo. In the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, Muslim activists chanted slogans as they protested against Israel's actions after Friday prayers at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Members

of Japan's Muslim community staged a protest near the Israeli embassy in Tokyo. Participants held signs and chanted slogans such as "Israel, terrorist" and "Free Palestine". In Sri Lanka, protesters held up signs saying, "Palestine you will never walk alone". Protesters also took to the streets in India's Kashmir region although Friday prayers at the main mosque in the regional capital Srinagar were cancelled to avoid unrest. They held placards that read "Ya Allah protect our brothers and sisters in Gaza and Palestine". Pro-Palestinian rallies were also

planned in Rome, Munich, Istanbul, Belgrade and other cities. In Warsaw, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich, was scheduled to lead a multi-confessional prayer for peace. Members of France's Jewish community were to gather at the largest synagogue in Paris for the Sabbath Friday afternoon. In the United States, law enforcement agencies have taken measures to safeguard Jewish and Muslim communities ahead of the pro-Palestinian protests. In the Netherlands, Jewish schools have been closed for Friday due to safety reasons, while in London two Jewish schools also shut due to security concerns.

Countries urged Israel to hold off on plans for an all-out assault on northern Gaza, where more than a million civilians largely defied its order to evacuate before it goes after Hamas militants who slaughtered Israelis a week ago

Netanyahu meets Austin

TEL AVIV: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told Israeli leaders that "we have your back" as he reaffirmed US support in the first week of their war against the militant Hamas group. He voiced little public criticism of their stunning demand that some 1 million civilians evacuate northern Gaza. Austin, the second high-level US official sent by President Joe Biden to visit Israel in two days, was seeing firsthand some of the weapons and security assistance that Washington rapidly delivered to Israel after it was attacked. He stressed that "this is a time for resolve and not revenge, for purpose and not panic and for security and not surrender." Before the press conference, Austin met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reassuring the prime, "As the president said, we have your back." He added, "We do stand with you, Mr. Prime Minister."

The first Friday prayer

JAKARTA: In Muslim communities across the world, worshippers gathered at mosques for their first Friday prayers since Hamas militants attacked Israel, igniting the latest Israel-Palestinian war. In the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, a cleric at the pro-Taliban Red Mosque pleaded with God to send special help to the Palestinians. The mosque has links to the Pakistani Taliban and is known for backing calls to help the Afghan Taliban across the border. Some 1,000 Muslims rallied in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, after Friday prayers to show solidarity with the Palestinians. Chanting "Free Palestine" and "Crush the Zionists", they burned two effigies draped with Israeli flags. Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, 98, was among those attending the event. Islamic leaders in Indonesia appealed to all mosques in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation to pray for peace and safety for the Palestinian people. The chairperson of the Indonesian Mosque Council had urged all mosques to perform the Qunut Nazilahto prayer, one made for protection, to ask for God's help so that "the conflict in the Gaza Strip would end quickly". More than 200 people also rallied in front of the National Monument in Indonesia's capital Friday, waving banners expressing solidarity with the Palestinians.



Supporters of Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr gather for mass Friday prayer



Iranian worshippers burn a US flag during their pro-Palestinian rally before the Friday prayers in Tehran, Iran

Tens of thousands of protesters demonstrated in countries in the Middle East and beyond Friday in support of Palestinians and condemnation of Israel as it intensified its strikes on Gaza in retaliation for the Hamas assaults on Israel.

Jerusalem's walled Old City is Islam's third holiest site after Mecca and Medina, and the most sacred to Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount.

The assault by Hamas - designated a terrorist organisation by the United States, European Union and other governments - on Israeli communities last weekend killed at least 1,300 people. Most were civilians, including women and children.

Israel has since been hammering densely urbanised Gaza with air strikes and artillery fire and more than 1,500 Palestinians have been killed. A ground invasion of the besieged enclave appears to be imminent.

There has been strong support and sympathy for Israel from Western governments and many citizens over the Hamas attacks, but the Israeli response has also prompted anger, particularly in much of the Arab and Muslim world.

Jewish communities in France and elsewhere also planned to hold rallies in solidarity with Israel after the cross-border Hamas assault from Gaza, the deadliest killing spree against civilians in Israeli history.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem was a focus of attention and a likely flashpoint on Friday, the Muslim holy day.

Hamas, which rules Gaza, urged Palestinians to rise up in protest against Israel's bombardment of the blockaded coastal enclave, calling on them to march on the mosque and to confront Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank. The compound in East



Iraqis burn Israeli flags during a mass rally in support of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, in Baghdad, Iraq



Muslims protest against Israel's military operations in Gaza and to support the Palestinian people, in front of Baitul Mukarram mosque in Dhaka, Bangladesh

KNIFE ATTACK IN FRANCE SCHOOL Teacher killed, terror attack suspected

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arras, Oct 13: A man of Chechen origin who was under surveillance by the French security services over suspected radicalisation stabbed a teacher to death at his former high school and critically wounded two other people in northern France Friday, authorities said. The attack was being investigated as potential terrorism amid soaring global tensions over the war between Israel and Hamas. It also happened almost three years after another teacher, Samuel Paty was beheaded by a radicalised Chechen near a Paris area school.

French anti-terror prosecutors were leading the investigation into the stabbings at the Gambetta-Carnot school, which enrolls students ages 11-18 and is located in the city of Arras, some 115 miles (185 kilometres) north of Paris. A colleague and a fellow teacher identified the dead educator as Dominique Bernard, a French language teacher at the school.

President Emmanuel Macron, who visited the school hours after the attack, said the victim "stepped in and probably saved many lives." Macron also said that police thwarted an "attempted attack" in another



Riot police patrol an area near a school where the teacher was attacked

French region after the teacher's fatal stabbing, but he did not provide details.

The suspected assailant in the violence at the school was arrested. Sliman Hamzi, a police officer who was one of the first on the scene said the suspected attacker, a former student at the school, shouted "Allahu akbar," or "God is great" in Arabic.

Macron then went to see students from the school in an adjacent building. School attacks are rare in France, and the government asked authorities to heighten vigilance at all schools across the country.

Julie Duhamel, an official with the Unsa teachers' union in the Pas-de-Calais region that includes Arras, told Franceinfo that teachers had noted the suspect's radicalisation "a few years ago."

N Korea threatens nuclear strike

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Oct 13: North Korea lashed out Friday at the arrival of a US aircraft carrier battle group in South Korea, calling it a provocation and again raising the spectre of using nuclear weapons to defend itself.

Emboldened by its advancing nuclear arsenal, North Korea has increasingly issued threats to use such weapons preemptively. But the North is still outgunned by US and South Korean forces, and experts say it is unlikely to use its nukes first, though it will continue to upgrade those arms without returning to diplomacy for the time being.

The North's latest nuclear threat came a day after the USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group arrived at South Korea's southeastern port of Busan, following US-South Korean-Japanese naval exercise in international waters earlier this week. South Korean defence officials said the carrier is to be docked at Busan for five days as part of an agreement to increase the temporary deployments of powerful US military assets in response to the North's growing nuclear programme.

On Friday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency called the aircraft carrier's arrival "an undisguised military provocation" that proves a US plan to attack North Korea is

US AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN S KOREA



being realised. It threatened to respond in line with its escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorises the preemptive use of nuclear weapons.

North Korea's "most powerful and rapid first strike will be given to the extended deterrence" means, used by the US to hallow its followers, and the bases of evil in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity", KCNA added.

North Korea has argued it was forced to develop nuclear weapons to cope with what it calls the US and South Korean plots to invade. It has often responded furiously to the deployment of US strategic assets such as aircraft carriers, long-range bombers and nuclear-powered submarines, as well as US joint training exercises with South Korean forces.

Many experts say North Korea heightens tensions with its rivals to provide a pretext for expand-

ing its nuclear arsenal and then uses the arms as leverage to wrest greater outside concessions. Since last year, North Korea has conducted more than 100 missile tests in the name of responding to the expanded US-South Korean military drills. Washington and Seoul say their drills are defensive in nature.

Last year, North Korea adopted a law that stipulates a broad range of situations in which it can use nuclear weapons, including when it determines that its leadership faces imminent attack by hostile forces or when it needs to prevent an unspecified catastrophic crisis to its people and government.

The US and South Korean governments have repeatedly warned that any attempt by North Korea to use nuclear weapons would result in the end of the North's government led by Kim Jong Un.

SNIPPETS

Israeli embassy staffer 'stabbed' in Beijing

Beijing: 50-year-old Israeli man who works at the Israeli Embassy in Beijing was stabbed Friday in front of a supermarket, Chinese police and the Israeli government said. Beijing police said they had arrested a suspect, a 53-year-old foreign man. They described the victim as a family member of an Israeli diplomat. No motive was given for the attack. "The employee was transferred to hospital and he is in a stable condition," an Israeli government statement said, without giving additional details. The stabbing occurred as Muslims across the world took to the streets in large protests after Friday prayers over Israel's intense bombing campaign in Gaza, following the unprecedented and deadly incursion by the militant group Hamas into southern Israel last Saturday.

Suicide bombing at Shiite mosque kills 7

Kabul: A suicide bomber blew himself up among worshippers attending Friday prayers at a Shiite mosque in northern Afghanistan, killing at least seven people and wounding 15 others, a police spokesman said. The attack happened in the city of Pol-e-Khormi, the capital of Baghlan province, police spokesman Sher Ahmad Borhani said in a statement. Security officials were working to determine how the attacker reached the area to strike at the Imam Zaman mosque. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but blame is likely to fall on the Islamic State group, which targeted Afghanistan's minority Shiites in past large-scale attacks. The Taliban footage from the mosque showed debris strewn over a red-carpeted floor, scattered personal items and bodies covered with shrouds.

Navalny lawyers detained by Russian police

Tallinn: Russian authorities Friday detained three lawyers representing imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny after searching their homes, the politician's allies said. The move was an attempt to "completely isolate Navalny," his ally Ivan Zhdanov said on social media. Navalny, 47, has been behind bars since January 2021, serving a 19-year prison sentence but has been able to get messages out regularly and keep up with the news. The raids targeting Vadim Kobzev, Igor Sergunin and Alexei Liptser are part of a criminal case on charges of participating in an extremist group, Zhdanov said. All three were detained after the search, apparently as suspects in the case, Navalny's team said on Telegram. Independent Russian media also reported a raid at a law firm that employs another of Navalny's lawyers, Olga Mikhailova. According to reports, she is currently not in Russia.

business

of the day quote

This is going to result in one of the largest investments we have ever done in Q3 and Q4 combined, in the history of our company in India

ARNAB ROY | SOUTH-WEST ASIA VP (MARKETING), COCA-COLA

We have now embarked on a journey that seeks to combine innovation, sustainability and a commitment to revitalising the agricultural sector

JINNAH RAFIQ AHMED | MD, KOTHARI INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

Residential prices have grown at a healthy clip along with strong demand since the beginning of 2022. Even while rates rose, consumer confidence remained buoyant leading to growing sales volumes

SHISHIR BAJAJ | CMD, KNIGHT FRANK

SHORT TAKES

Zee-Sony merger

New Delhi: The NCLAT Friday adjourned the hearing to October 31 on pleas filed by IDBI Bank and Axis Finance against the merger of Zee Entertainment Enterprise with Culver Max Entertainment, formerly Sony Pictures Networks India. The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) did not issue notice over the petitions filed by the private lender and the non-banking financial company (NBFC). However, it said that Zee Entertainment Enterprise Ltd (ZEEL) may file a response to both petitions, if needed. Both have challenged the August 10, 2023, order of the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to approve the merger.

HDFC Life net rises

Mumbai: Second-largest private sector life insurer HDFC Life Friday reported a 15 per cent year-on-year growth in net income to Rs 377 crore for the September 2023 quarter, as it sold more policies during the period. While its total premium grew 12 per cent to Rs 26,613 crore, new business premium rose 11 per cent to Rs 12,970 crore against a 21 per cent de-growth for the industry. Of the total premium, individual premium rose 11 per cent to Rs 4,478 crore. The HDFC Bank group company said its overall annualised premium equivalent (APE) rose 7 per cent to Rs 3,045 crore, while the total top-line grew 10 per cent, helping it retain its market share flat at 10.3 per cent.

Trade gap narrows

With imports declining in the last 10 months, narrowing trade deficit further, govt hopes that the country's exports would register positive growth in the remaining six-months of the fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: Exports contracted by 2.6 per cent to \$34.47 billion in September even as the country's merchandise trade deficit narrows to \$19.37 billion during the month under review, according to the government data released Friday.

Easing commodity prices helped in cutting down the country's import bill by 15 per cent to \$53.84 billion in September; the 10th consecutive month of decline.

Briefing media on the trade data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the September figures are reflecting that "green shoots" are visible at exports front despite global challenges.

The weekly exports trend during the current month is showing a positive movement, he added.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has forecasted that the global trade will grow only by 0.8 per cent in 2023.

Despite this, Barthwal said that India's exports are doing "well" and in fact entering new markets also like Turkey for office equipment; and Finland, Malta and Philippines for drug formulations.

When asked about the reasons for dip in imports, he said the country's import substitution policy is working well and global commodity prices including crude oil have also come down.

The government has revised its August exports figure to \$38.45 billion from \$34.48 billion, while imports numbers were updated to \$60.1 billion from \$58.64 billion.

Due to this revision, the exports in August recorded a growth of 3.88 per cent. According to the data released by the government on September 15, it had showed a decline of



The contraction (in exports) which was there in double digits during April, May, June and July, is now in single digits. There is an optimism which we will see in the coming months also

SUNIL BARTH WAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

6.86 per cent.

When asked about this high upward revision of about \$4 billion in August, the secretary said sometimes the shipments go out but those numbers do not get recorded for some reasons, and; sometimes customs withhold some consignments for scrutiny, so that data also not get released.

Trade in commodities

Further in September, exports of 12 out of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth and that included iron ore; cotton yarn/fabrics; meat, dairy and poultry products; pharma; engineering; and marine products.

Sectors which recorded negative growth included petroleum products, textiles, electronic

goods, chemicals, gems and jewellery, leather, tea and coffee.

At imports front, 20 out of 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in September and that included silver; fertilisers; transport equipment; coal, coke; vegetable oil; pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; crude oil; chemicals; and machine tools.

Oil imports in September dropped by 20.32 per cent to \$14 billion. During the first half of this fiscal, the imports declined by 22.81 per cent to \$82.3 billion.

On the other hand, gold imports in September rose by 7 per cent to \$4.11 billion. During the first half of this fiscal, the imports grew by 9.8 per cent to \$22.2 billion.

Further as per the data, services exports in September are estimated at \$29.37 billion compared to \$29.2 billion a year ago. Imports stood at \$14.91 billion against \$16.27 billion.

The estimated value of services exported in April-September 2023 was \$164.89 billion compared to \$156 billion in April-September 2022.

Tata Motors set to sell 9.9% stake in tech arm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: Tata Motors Friday said it has inked a pact to sell around 10 per cent stake in its subsidiary Tata Technologies to TPG Rise Climate for Rs 1,613.7 crore.

The company has entered into share purchase agreements to sell a 9.9 per cent stake in Tata Technologies Ltd (TTL), the Mumbai-based auto major said in a statement.

TPG Rise Climate is the lead investor for this transaction, which ascribes an equity valuation of Rs 16,300 crore for TTL. "This transaction furthers Tata Motor's de-leveraging agenda and is expected to close in the next two weeks on completion of customary closing procedures," the automaker said.

TPSODL joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission

Berhampur: TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement programme. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) and farmers through various initiatives. One of the noteworthy endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organisation has mobilised approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them with essential resources. TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal of the initiative is not only to empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertiliser requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint. Amit Garg, CEO of TPSODL, expressed, "TPSODL stands shoulder to shoulder with farmers and women's self-help groups in championing millet cultivation. Also, as we celebrate the International Year of Millets, TPSODL aims to extend further its support in its operational area in the coming days. Together, we are sowing the seeds of empowerment, and sustainability."

Bhubaneswar: Eicher Trucks & Buses, a business unit of VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV), has been making remarkable strides in the Indian truck industry by revolutionising its service ecosystem and playing a leading role in delivering Uptime for its truck and bus customers - a crucial factor to ensure higher utilisation of vehicles in today's time-bound business requirements. Eicher Trucks & Buses is the first CV manufacturer in India to recognise the increasing importance of maximising fleet Uptime and addressing customer needs promptly, leading to the establishment of the Uptime Centre in 2020. The ground breaking initiative connects Eicher's entire range of BS-VI trucks and buses to a state-of-the-art Uptime Centre in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh. With the aim to be with the customer at all times, Eicher has invested substantially to address the industry's long-standing challenges and has pioneered next-gen service solutions like remote and predictive diagnostics through its 24x7 Uptime Centre. Through a range of modern, connected and reliable products backed by holistic Uptime services, the company is now able to deliver more than 98% Uptime in all major transport segments in all parts of India. The need for developing this ecosystem rose due to the growing demand for reliable and efficient commercial vehicles in the market in the wake of improving national highway network, tax reforms like GST, introduction of globally contemporary BS VI emission standards and the government's focus to modernise logistics through the Gati Shakti and National Logistics Programme. These factors resulted in increasing demand for efficient vehicle utilisation and maintenance to improve productivity in the long haul, construction and mining segments making Uptime the top priority for customers.

AIR INDIA EXPRESS TO EXPAND FLEET

Air India Express, which is in the process of merging AIX Connect with itself, plans to induct 50 new B737 MAX planes in the next 15 months as the Tata Group bolsters its aviation business. Besides, the combined entity of Air India Express, also the country's first international budget carrier, and AIX Connect, formerly known as AirAsia India, will be launching its new brand October 18



OVER 5-MONTH LOW

Forex kitty dips for fifth week

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 13: India's foreign exchange reserves declined for a fifth straight week and stood at \$584.74 billion as of Oct. 6, the lowest in more than five months, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed Friday.

That was a decrease of \$2.17 billion from the previous week. Reserves had fallen by a total of nearly \$12 billion in the prior four weeks.

The central bank intervenes in the spot and forwards markets to prevent runaway moves in the rupee.

The RBI's stranglehold on the rupee via its persistent forex market intervention has kept volatility in the Indian unit low over the last few sessions.

Apart from the central bank move, changes in foreign currency assets - expressed in dollar terms - also include the effects of appreciation or depreciation of other currencies held in the RBI's reserves.

Foreign exchange reserves include India's Reserve Tranche position in the International Monetary Fund.

For the week the forex reserves data pertains, the rupee had fallen 0.1% against the dollar and traded in the 83.1650-83.2650 range.

The rupee ended at 83.2625 Friday, down for a third consecutive week.



WEAK GLOBAL CUES

Equities continue downward trend



SENSEX, NIFTY FALL FOR 2ND DAY; IT, BANKING SHARES WEIGH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 13: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the second straight session Friday following selling in banking, financial and select IT shares amid a weak trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 125.65 points or 0.19 per cent to close at 66,282.74 as 16 of its constituents fell and 14 advanced. The index opened lower and fell further by around 513 points to the day's low of 65,895.41 in morning deals.

However, a rebound in auto shares helped Sensex trim losses and touch a high of 66,478.90 in the pre-close session before settling lower.

The broader Nifty of NSE fell by 42.95 points or 0.22 per cent to close at 19,751.05, with 27 of its components ending in the red and 23 in the green.

Axis Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, sliding 2.33 per

cent, followed by Infosys, SBI, Wipro, HDFC Bank, JSW Steel, and Tata Steel. On the other hand, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, Nestle India and Maruti were the gainers.

In the broader market, BSE Midcap declined by 17.11 points or 0.05 per cent to 32,305.62 and SmallCap by 13.67 points or 0.04 per cent to 38,184.83.

"Mixed trends on the sectoral front kept the participants busy wherein auto and realty posted decent gains while pressure continued in banking and IT," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Sectorally, BSE Bankex dropped by 0.75 per cent, IT by 0.66 per cent, commodities by 0.46 per cent and financial services by 0.49 per cent.

Among gainers, BSE auto advanced by 0.87 per cent, realty by 0.41 per cent, Consumer Discretionary by 0.35 per cent and FMCG by 0.25 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers Thursday as they sold shares worth Rs 1,862.57 crore, according to data available with BSE.

UNABATED SURGE Palm oil imports a threat to local refiners

INDIA'S PALM OIL IMPORTS RISE 29% IN NOV-SEPT OF 2022-23 OIL YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: India's palm oil imports jumped 29.21 per cent to 90.80 lakh tonne in the first eleven months of the ongoing 2022-23 oil year, compared to the year-ago period, with RBD Palmolen shipments rising fast, posing a serious threat to the domestic refiners, industry body SEA said Friday.

India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, imported 70.28 lakh tonne of palm oil products during the same period in the previous oil year.

Meanwhile, the country's total vegetable oil imports rose 20 per cent to 156.73 lakh tonne during the November-September period of the 2022-23 oil year, from 130.13 lakh tonne in the year-ago period.

In September, however, the country's vegetable oil imports witnessed a 5 per cent decline, dropping to 15.52 lakh tonne from 16.32 lakh tonne in the same



Despite ample domestic availability, a sharp drop in domestic edible oil prices has pushed demand

period the previous year.

"During November 2022 and September 2023, the import of palm products increased sharply due to price parity. The share of palm oil increased to 59 per cent," the Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said in a statement.

However, crude palm oil imports got a little setback against soybeans and other oils, totalling 7.05 lakh tonne in September this year, down from 8.24 lakh tonne in the previous month, it added.

The palm oil basket includes RBD Palmolein, Crude Palm Oil (CPO), Crude Olein, and Crude Palm Kernel Oil (CPKO).

The SEA also noted that per capita consumption has increased with falling domestic edible oil prices in recent months.

"The import of RBD Palmolein has surged, constituting over 25 per cent of total palm imports. This surge has severely impacted the refining industry, which is grappling with massive overcapacity," it added.

Palmolein) imports reached 20.53 lakh tonne during the November-September period of the 2022-23 oil year; up from 17.12 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. This is seriously affecting the workings of the domestic palm oil refining industry, according to the SEA.

In the case of soft oils, the SEA said inbound shipment of sunflower and soybean oils sharply increased in the last six months. The overall import during the first eleven months of the current oil year stood at 63.87 lakh tonnes, compared to 56.35 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, the SEA said.

As of September 1, there was a stock of 37.35 lakh tonne of vegetable oils at various ports and in pipelines.

India imports palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia and a small quantity of crude soft oil, including soyabean, from Argentina. Sunflower oil is imported from Ukraine and Russia.

Startups witness significant drop in deal activity in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Indian startup sector saw a significant drop in deal activity in 2023 (year-to-date) compared to the same period in 2022, a report showed Friday.

Overall, there was a 39 per cent decrease in the number of deals and a 68 per cent decrease in their total values, according to Grant Thornton Bharat's 'Q3 Deal Tracker Report.'

This decline was particularly pronounced in the mergers and acquisitions (M&A)

landscape, where values plummeted by 83 per cent this year. This steep drop can be attributed to the absence of some of the massive billion-dollar deals witnessed in the YTD period 2022, according to the report.

In the private equity (PE) sector, there was a 40 per cent reduction in the number of deals and a 28 per cent decrease in their values compared to YTD 2022.

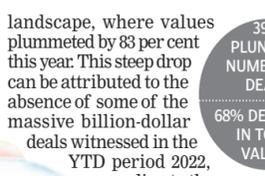
The third quarter (July-September period) this year witnessed a

deal volume of 302 deals with values amounting to \$13.4 billion in the country.

In Q3, the startup sector, along with e-commerce and IT & ITES, led the way, accounting for 64 per cent of total deals.

"With growth-oriented policies, reduced inflation, and increased infrastructure spending, India's domestic growth is set to fuel deal activities, particularly in traditional sectors (pharmaceuticals and healthcare) and the ever-accelerating digital transformation landscape (e-commerce and IT & ITES)," said Shanthi Vijetha, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat.

The report said that India's economic prospects for 2023-24 remain upbeat, supported by growth-oriented policies, subdued inflation, and heightened infrastructure investments.



'WAR MINUS THE SHOOTING'

India look to make it 8 on the trot while Pakistan seek to end their losing streak in ODI World Cups



If we talk about ticking the boxes, then we will see no other team can match India, not even Pakistan. Judging purely by performance, India are the better side

WAQAR YOUNIS



SAKYASEN MITTRA, OP

He may be behind the bars in some prison in Pakistan. However, despite being a hardcore politician now, Imran Khan's mind, even if fleetingly, will hover Saturday around the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad when India take on Pakistan in what has been billed as 'the clash' of the 2023 ODI World Cup. Since coming into politics, Imran has time and again stated 'cricket doesn't exist in my life'. But then for the man who has construed numerous Pakistani wins against India, there will certainly be the urge to know what is happening at the Motera (stadium's former

name), more so because it is 7-0 for India in ODI World Cups. No doubt, everything else will cease to exist those 6-7 hours for the people, not only in India and Pakistan, but for cricket fans spread across the world. India and Pakistan's rivalry in sports is well-orchestrated. However, with Pakistan failing to challenge India either in hockey or in javelin throw, cricket is the only recourse left for their fans. Both India and Pakistan go into Saturday's game with more or less all the boxes ticked. Both sides have won both their World Cup games in impressive manner; the top batters of both sides are in good form; the pacemen have been doing the job admirably for both. The question

then is who starts favourites in this humdinger of a clash?

Like it or lump it there can be no favourites in a match of this proportion irrespective of form or the surroundings. Pakistan will certainly be on the back-foot slightly because their spinners are a tad bit out of form than their Indian counterparts. Left-arm twaker Mohammad Nawaz and leg-spinner Shadab Khan have done nothing much in the two games they have played to inspire confidence. On the other hand, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin have demonstrated that they can restrict the flow of runs and also take wickets in the middle overs.

But then shouldn't anything worry the Indians? Yes there are a couple of issues to worry about. First is the

form of Mohammad Rizwan and some of the other Pakistani batters, save skipper Babar Azam. But then who knows, Babar may just fire in this game. He has the repertoire of shots to take the game to bowlers of any opposition. India may just be the catalyst he is waiting for.

Rizwan is another man India will have to look out for as he can single-hand-

edly demolish any opposition. He is to Pakistan what Virat Kohli is to India. He has put his body in the line for Pakistan, a man who plays with his heart on his sleeve and an India game will be the perfect platform for him to turn into a hero like he did against Sri Lanka.

The good news for India is that Shubman Gill has been training strenuously for the last couple of days. He is certainly a better prospect than Ishan Kishan at the top of the order. Virat and KL Rahul's form with the willow has also given comfort to the fans and the team management. So the question lies where lie India's worries?

Well the first is the number eight slot, for which India need to choose correctly between Ashwin and Shardul Thakur. If the game is played on the pitch made of red clay, then Ashwin would certainly be the better choice as it would dry up quickly. India will also have to make the choice between the Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami.

An India-Pakistan game is never one skillset, but of mindset, of absorbing pressure. India will be under pressure to maintain their all-time record (7-0 to be precise)

against Pakistan in the ODI World Cup. Pakistan, on the other hand, will not just have to fight against 11 opposition players on the field, they will have to face the constant sledging of more than a lakh in the galleries. It would be tough, very tough indeed.

Covering the 1996 World Cup, noted American writer Mike Marqusee had named his book *War Minus the Shooting* after watching the

India-Pakistan game. Well he couldn't be far from the truth. An India-Pakistan cricket match is always a war where form doesn't matter, but emotion does. Saturday will not be an exception. Aggression for some time will be the key word on the peaceful banks of the Sabaramati. It will be another instance of *War Minus the Shooting*.



To many in India and also in Pakistan winning the game is more important than winning the World Cup, but the feeling is probably more dominant among Indian fans

SUNIL GAVASKAR



ODI WORLD CUP GAMES

YEAR	VENUE	MARGIN
1992	Sydney	India won by 43 runs
1996	Bangalore	India won by 39 runs
1999	Manchester	India won by 47 runs
2003	Centurion	India won by 29 runs
2011	Mohali	India won by 29 runs
2015	Adelaide	India won by 76 runs
2019	Manchester	India won by 89 runs (D/L method)

Williamson, Mitchell power Kiwis to victory

AGENCIES

Chennai, Oct 13: Kane Williamson (78, retd hurt, 107, 8x4, 1x6) marked his return to international cricket with an elegant half century while Daryl Mitchell (89 n o, 67b, 6x4, 4x6) hammered the opposition bowlers as New Zealand crushed Bangladesh by eight wickets in a match of the ICC World Cup here Friday. This was the third successive win for the Kiwis in as many games and they achieved the target with plenty of deliveries to spare.

Playing in his first match of the ongoing showpiece after finally recovering fully from the knee injury he had sustained during the IPL in April, Williamson showed his class with aplomb never looking in any trouble. At the other end, Mitchell looked in a hurry to finish the game. The two put on 108 runs before Williamson took a knock on his thumb and retired hurt. However, he assured he will play the next game.

Restricted to 245 for nine after being asked to bat first, Bangladesh bowlers had no answer to the Kiwi response but they did a few things wrong, including their skipper and biggest weapon with the ball Shakib al Hasan (1/54) completing his quota of overs instead of keeping them for the end overs.



Kane Williamson (right) and Daryl Mitchell took New Zealand over the line easily against Bangladesh

Difficult to predict a winner



SIR RICHARD HADLEE

We are in for a cracking contest Saturday, when the two teams, ranked number one and two, heading into the World Cup go up against each other in Ahmedabad. India, who came into the tournament as the No. 1 side, are playing very well, while former winners Pakistan are very comfortably placed too. Having won their two previous matches, they both will carry a great deal of confidence but will be aware that there is a lot on the line for both countries.

It goes without saying that this key game will be a tremendous challenge for the protagonists. India have all their bases covered and possess the strongest all-round team for the conditions and the competition. With all the skills at his disposal, Jasprit Bumrah is the premier fast bowler right now. He has pace, sharp inswing plus the outswinger, and is the most lethal

paceman in the competition. He has been an amazing performer and because of his unusual technique, batsmen have to be very wary of him.

Against Australia, India were put under pressure when they lost three wickets for two runs, an unusual situation for them. I don't think we will see that again! But Rohit Sharma, the super player that he is, recovered tremendously with a sparkling 131 against Afghanistan, Virat Kohli has been solid with two half centuries and KL Rahul is in tremendous form. India look good with

the batting and the bowling, and their spinners are also doing a great job.

Pakistan appear well-balanced, with a terrific pace attack and Mohammad Rizwan in true form. It's difficult to pick who will win; the teams will go hard at each other and look for two more points. The favourites are probably India, who have never lost to Pakistan in a 50-over World Cup encounter.

At this stage of the competition, where every game is important, teams must play their best possible XI for the conditions and not experiment or give players game-time just for the sake of it. The aim must be to win, win well and improve the net run rate as much as they can because I believe it will be very important when teams are chasing semifinal spots.

Chivach Sports Management

Messi junks injury fears

AGENCIES

Buenos Aires, Oct 13: World Champions Argentina made it three wins out of three while Brazil were held to a rare draw by Venezuela in the South American World Cup qualifying football tournament in matches played Thursday.

It was hard-earned 1-0 win for Argentina with the goal from Nicolas Otamendi in the third minute of the game played here. More importantly however, Lionel Messi allayed the injury fears by coming off the bench in the second half. He was unlucky not to score hitting the woodwork twice.

Messi's fight for full fitness inevitably dominated the build-up to Argentina's attempt to maintain their 100 per cent record and the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner started on the bench with Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez leading the attack. But it was veteran defender Otamendi who provided the moment of attacking inspiration, meeting a Rodrigo De Paul corner with a brilliant volley at the back post.

Messi replaced Alvarez in the 53rd minute as Scaloni looked to break down a disciplined and well-organised Paraguay side but the woodwork foiled their talisman. An inswinging corner from the right by Messi almost snuck in, but struck the post and then, after winning a free-kick on the edge of the box, Messi curled his shot against the same post.

Brazil have never lost to Venezuela in a competitive fixture and have only once before, in 2009, failed to beat the Vinotinto in World Cup qualifying, but they were left frustrated after Eduardo Bello's brilliant late leveller.

Brazil took the lead when Neymar had a shot pushed wide in the 49th minute and from the resulting corner, taken by the striker, Arsenal defender Gabriel rose at the near post to angle home a fine header. With five minutes left, the home crowd in Cuiba were left stunned when Jefferson Savarino whipped in a cross and Bello leapt acrobatically to blast a spectacular overhead kick past Ederson.

Chess team pull out

Chennai: The Indian team have pulled out of the World Cadet Chess Championships scheduled to start at Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt from Saturday in the wake of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, fearing it could jeopardise the safety of the players and officials. A total of 39 players from India were supposed to compete in the tournament, the venue of which is less than 400kms from the Israel border. The competition will be for players in the under-12, 10 and eight more categories from October 14 to 23. The All India Chess Federation (AICF) has also requested the world body FIDE to postpone the tournament, keeping in mind the tense situation in Gaza.

Cook calls it a day

London: Former England captain Alastair Cook announced Friday his retirement from all forms of cricket, drawing the curtains on a glorious professional career spanning two decades. Cook retired from Test cricket in 2018 but continued to play on for five more years for his county side, Essex. He played 161 Tests, 59 of those as captain, and scored an England record 12,472 runs. "It is not easy to say goodbye. Cricket has been so much more than my job. It has allowed me to experience places I never dreamed I would go, be a part of teams that have achieved things I would never have thought possible," Cook said.

Dimitrov, Rublev advance in Shanghai

Shanghai: Grigor Dimitrov backed up his upset of Carlos Alcaraz in style Friday at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament where the Bulgarian downed Nicolas Jarry 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 to reach the semifinals for the first time at the Chinese ATP Masters 1000 event. The 18th-seeded Dimitrov delivered a rock-solid display in the face of a big-serving barrage from Jarry to advance to the last four here for the first time in seven attempts. He made just three unforced errors in his 99-minute match, frequently showcasing his high-quality movement around the court and delighting the crowd inside Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena with some breathtaking hand skills. He will meet Andrey Rublev who beat Ugo Humbert 6-2, 6-3 quite comfortably.

Raw deal for compound archery

IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD REJECTS PROPOSAL TO ADD EVENT TO LA28 PROGRAMME

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 13: India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami and Ojas Pravin Deotale will not be able to participate in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028 after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) rejected a proposal to include compound archery in the Olympics programme. World Archery had proposed the inclusion of compound event along with recurve, which is currently part of the Olympic programme.

However, the IOC Executive Board rejected the proposal during its meeting here Friday as this will entail archery getting more athlete quotas and thus impact the overall budget of the Games. This is a setback for India, a dominant force in compound archery as Aditi and Ojas recently won the men's and women's



titles in the World Championships held earlier this year. India had swept all the five gold medals on offer in compound archery during the recently concluded 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

The IOC had received 15 proposals from International Federations (IFs) for the inclusion of new disciplines in the Los Angeles Olympic Games but rejected all but one -- the inclusion of beach sprint rowing as it replaces lightweight double sculls (men 2x and women 2x) events.

"Following a holistic review of all existing and new disciplines

CRICKET TO FEATURE IN 2028 OLYMPICS

Mumbai: Cricket is set to feature in the 2028 Olympics as the IOC's Executive Board approved Friday the proposal of Los Angeles Games organisers to include the sport in the programme. Apart from cricket, which will be played in T20 format, four other sports -- baseball, softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash also got the nod of the IOC board which met here.

proposed by the respective IFs with sports on the LA28 programme, only one change has been made to the discipline programme compared to Paris 2024, with beach sprint rowing, included on the Olympic programme for the first time. It will replace the lightweight double sculls (men 2x and women 2x) events," IOC president Thomas Bach said Friday.