



WAVE OF OPTIMISM

Mouni Roy says it's an exciting time to be an actor where makers can visualise performers in different roles

LEISURE P2



CASE DROPPED

Sri Lanka's anti-graft commission drops case against Gotabaya Rajapaksa in which over ₹17 million was discovered

INTERNATIONAL P10



VIRAT SEALS INDIA WIN

Virat Kohli's 48th ODI ton helps India secure a comfortable 7-wicket victory over B'desh in the ongoing World Cup

SPORTS P12

'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' in 2 more dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday launched 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha', an initiative of the state government to boost rural infrastructure and promote Jagannath culture, for Cuttack and Kendrapara with a combined allocation of ₹311 crore for the two districts.

The state government sanctioned 5,351 projects worth ₹186.50 crore for 373 gram panchayats under eight constituencies— Badamba, Choudwar-Cuttack, Banki, Athagarh, Niali, Cuttack Sadar, Salipur and Mahanga – of Cuttack district.

Similarly, ₹124.50 crore was sanctioned for execution of 3,353 projects in 249 gram panchayats under five constituencies – Mahakalpada, Kendrapara, Patkura, Rajnagar and Aul – of Kendrapara.



COMMUTING BLUES: Unprecedented rush at Baramunda bus stand in Bhubaneswar Thursday evening as private buses go off roads from Friday

PHOTO: MANORANJAN MISHRA

Fillip to heritage

ODISHA CABINET APPROVES 16 PROPOSALS ALSO AIMED AT BOOSTING EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND AGRARIAN INCOME AVENUES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Creation of three new directorates for the promotion and preservation of Odisha's cultural, archaeological and literary heritage is among the 16 proposals approved by the state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Thursday.

The Cabinet approved proposals of Odia Language, Literature and Culture department for the establishment of the Directorate of Museum, Directorate of Public Libraries and Directorate of Archaeology.

"While Directorate of Museum will help in the field of preservation and publicity of the cultural heritage and artistic artefacts, the Directorate of Public Libraries will facilitate smooth management of public libraries in Odisha," Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu said.

About Directorate of Archaeology, Sahu said it would go a long way in procuring and preserving the archaeological heritage of Odisha. The Cabinet also approved creation of new posts for the three directorates. The Cabinet made a provision

CABINET NOD

- Implementation of agriculture programme including Mukhyamantri Maka Mission
- Inclusion of 'Mundari' language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution
- Establishment of a world-class educational campus of NMIMS University in Jatni

of ₹481.94 crore for the crop diversification scheme for five years. The scheme - Mukhyamantri Maka Mission - will be implemented in a 'more scientific and progressive way' which now envisages ease of doing for enhancement of area, production, and productivity of pulses, oilseeds, fibre crops (cotton and jute) and maize.

The government decided to enhance corpus fund for procurement and prepositioning of fertilisers from ₹90 crore to ₹150 crore.

Inclusion of 'Mundari' language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution has also received Cabinet approval.

The Cabinet approved the proposal for a pact with Shri Vile

Parle Kelavani Mandal (SVKM) for establishment of a world-class educational campus of NMIMS University in Bhubaneswar. The government will provide 40-acre land to SVKM in Jatni for the purpose.

The Cabinet has decided to sanction leasing of government 4.64 acre land to 116 labour tenements in Kedaeswar under Tangi-Choudwar tehsil of Cuttack in favour of eligible occupants out of 228 labour tenements constructed in 1961 and allotted to industrial workers in Choudwar.

Moreover, the Odisha Cabinet has decided to confer raiyati rights to the sub-tenants/under-raiayats/successor-in-interest who are in possession of land recorded as 'Sikkim' by approving the proposed Bill for amendment in the Odisha Land Reforms Act, 1960. About three lakh farmers in 18 districts will be benefited from the move.

The state approved tenders of ₹1,867 crore for execution of irrigation projects in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Nabarangpur, Angul, and Dhenkanal. Among others, proposals of R&DM and C&T departments were approved.

Death for minor's rape, murder

Rourkela: A special court under POCSO Act in Sundargarh Thursday awarded capital punishment to a 44-year-old man after convicting him for the abduction, rape and murder of a four-year-old girl in 2016. Additional district judge-cum-presiding officer of special POCSO court Mahendra Kumar Sutradhar pronounced the capital punishment after examining 35 witnesses. The judge also asked the District Legal Services Authority to pay ₹10 lakh compensation to the girl's widowed mother. Sanjeeb Kerketta had killed the girl after kidnapping and raping her at an under-construction building in Dengbadi area of Sundargarh. The girl was abducted around 10pm October 21, 2016 and her body was found at an under-construction house in the locality October 25, 2016.

1st injectable male contraceptive

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has completed the clinical trials of the world's first injectable male contraceptive which showed that it is safe and highly efficacious without any serious side effects. The findings of the phase-III clinical trial, which involved 303 candidates aged 25-40 years, were published in the international open access Andrology journal last month. The open-labelled and non-randomised, multi-centre hospital-based phase-III clinical trials were carried out at five different centres (New Delhi, Udhampur, Ludhiana, Jaipur and Kharagpur) and coordinated by the ICMR, New Delhi. Permission to conduct phase-III clinical trial was granted by the DCGI and approved by the institutional ethical committees of the respective centres. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



She is reporting about India and not Israel. Every honest reporter is reporting like this these days

State to get 1st narco test centre at Capital Hospital

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Odisha will soon have its first narco analysis test centre at Capital Hospital here, the facility's director Laxmidhar Sahoo said after a meeting with State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) officials, Thursday.

"The narco analysis centre will be available in the state at the Capital Hospital. The Health and Family Welfare department has already procured equipment required for the purpose," Sahoo told reporters here.

Narco analysis test is usually done in crime cases. Under it, the accused undergoes scientific interrogation. A drug like sodium amytal is used on the suspect for the determination of facts about the crime, an expert said.

The facility will be set up at the Operation Theatre (OT) of Capital Hospital where all the narco tests will be done. Psychiatrists and anaesthetists of the hospital are currently undergoing training for the same.

During the investigation of minister Naba Das' murder case, we felt the need for a narco test centre in our state. Without it, we were forced to take the accused, Gopal Das, to Pune for the test. Establishing a narco test centre in Odisha is a very good move by the state government

MURALIDHAR NAYAK | FORENSIC EXPERT

According to forensic expert Muralidhar Nayak, Odisha depends on other states for the narco analysis test.

"During the investigation of minister Naba Das' murder case, we felt the need for a narco test centre in our state. Without it, we were forced to take the accused, Gopal Das, to Pune for the test. Establishing a narco test centre in Odisha is a very good move by the state government," he said.

Setting up a narco analysis test centre in Odisha will certainly be a milestone in crime investigation. It will be helpful not only for Odisha, but also for other neighbouring states, he said.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	65629.24	↓ 247.78
NIFTY	19624.70	↓ 46.40
DOLLAR	83.24	↓ ₹0.04
EURO	87.90	↓ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹59,921	↓ ₹152
SILVER	₹ 71,380	↓ ₹515

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	32.2°C	32.6°C
MIN	24.8°C	24.5°C
Humidity	83%	76%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rainfall very likely

Kerala link of Israel police

AGENCIES

Kannur (Kerala), Oct 19: Political parties and their leaders in Kerala may have different opinions about the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas over Gaza, but a group of people in a non-descript town in the northern part of God's own country have been diligently 'working' for Israel before and after the deadly attack targeting civilians in that country by Hamas October 7.

Hundreds of tailors from a local apparel unit in Kannur have been working tirelessly to get the uniform shirts ready for the Israel police force for the past eight years. The politically volatile Kannur is also known for its glorious tradition of handloom making and textile export.

The tailors and employees



at Maryan Apparel Private Limited in the district are behind the elegant light blue, long-sleeve uniform shirts of the Israel police force.

Not just the double-pocket shirts, but the unit also designs and attaches the trademark emblems to its sleeves.

Thomas Olickal, a Kerala businessman based in Mumbai, is the owner of the apparel unit, which cur-

rently employs over 1,500 trained staff. Thomas, hailing from Thodupuzha in Idukki district, said the Israel police contacted the company even after the war began and placed additional orders for more uniforms.

He said they placed an order for a new product from this year and the first shipment would be made by December. "They have ordered for the cargo pants and shirt uniform set for their police training. Fabric production is going on and we are planning to start stitching by November-end or the beginning of December," he

said. "We have been supplying one lakh uniform shirts annually to the Israel police for the past eight years. It is really a matter of pride for us that we are supplying uniform shirts for a top-class police force like that of Israel," Olickal told a Malayalam news channel.

Launched at the state-run Kinfra Park in Kannur in 2006, the company specialises in the uniforms of army men, police personnel, security officers and health service workers from various countries across the globe. It also supplies school uniforms, dresses for supermarket staff, doctors' coats, coveralls, corporate wear and so on. The apparel unit was set up in Kannur with the objective of providing employment to local people who had become jobless due to the decline of the traditional beedi sector there.

Thomas said the Israel police had approached his company after coming to know they were specialising in uniform making.

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leisure



PALTROW LASHES OUT AT CULTURE OF JUDGMENT AROUND 'NEPO KIDS'

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow has not taken too kindly to the 'nepo kid' tag and has bashed people for giving her this moniker, saying there is nothing wrong in someone following in their parent's footsteps.

KHLOE WANTS SISTERS TO PLAY MATCHMAKER

Popular media personality Khloe Kardashian now wants her sisters to play matchmaker for her, so that she can find herself a good partner as she doesn't trust her own taste in men.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will pay attention to the voice of your inner self today. This will help you implement all your plans perfectly. You will not only be jovial, but you will also not let disappointments cow you down. Ganesh says not only today, but you can summon this quality whenever you like.

TAURUS
The competitive streak in you might relent today as you look for a lifestyle that is more relaxed and laid-back. The rat race is tiring and you will feel the urge to get away, far from the maddening crowd and the never-ending routine. Matters pertaining to your home may also occupy some of your time today, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Along with your house, family and business matters, you will also be busy with your social obligations today. You will be afforded the co-operation of those around you. New ways of thinking will flourish within you. Make full use of the opportunities you get today, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh says that this will be a unique and auspicious day for you. You will get clue and hints of this from morning itself. A religious ceremony in the house, and thereby invitation to guests is indicated. The chance of shifting to a new house is indicated.

LEO
Few and rare are the days when creativity takes flight. After all, even Picasso couldn't make a masterpiece every day. So make the most of this auspicious day, urges Ganesh, during which your imagination peaks and touches new heights.

VIRGO
Today is a mixed bag of values and pragmatism, says Ganesh, and if there were to be a competition for the most humanitarian person, you would be likely to win hands down. You would do well to make plans to increase your productivity. Ganesh advises you to look at the big picture, which should not be so difficult for you as you already have a broad perspective.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will wish to spend more time with your beloved instead of your friends. This is a good day to express your innermost feelings and get varied opportunities. This is a good time to propose to your beloved and give them a happy surprise. Ganesh showers you with his blessings always.

SCORPIO
It seems, the book, 'How to win friends and influence people' has left a great impact on your mind, bringing about a lot of change in your practical life too. As you switch to a new business venture, your efforts will be appreciated. In short, you are a personality that every one would take a note of.

SAGITTARIUS
The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. A small party at home may see a group of friends and relatives dine together. This may find you in a chatty mood. Ganesh says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN
Unless you be calm and patient, your tendency to act impulsively will get you into hot water, warns Ganesh. Your image on the minds of your colleagues and bosses will remain intact, though. You will keep on climbing up the ladder and come closer to success, but don't get too excited if everything is turning out as per the plan. Keep your focus on your target, so that you don't miss a step on the ladder.

AQUARIUS
It is time to make addition in your possessions. Book your dream house or buy a vehicle, as today is a favourable day to do so. You, however, need to consider your financial resources before deciding anything because it will take a major chunk out of your savings, warns Ganesh.

PISCES
You will have frequent mood swings today but you will still manage to fix a work related goal. Your mood will be better if you focus on work. You might feel stressed about some personal matter, but Ganesh says it is not a matter to worry.



JR. NTR IN ACADEMY'S CLASS OF ACTORS

Hyderabad: Actor Jr. NTR has become a distinguished member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the institution behind the Prestigious Oscars Awards. This news was revealed on the Academy's official Instagram page, where they posted photos of all the members who were recently included in the jury team. They captioned the post saying, "Meet the Academy's new class of actors".

Jr. NTR's addition to the team is a testament to his hard work over the years and his recent performance in the movie RRR, which courted him immense and worldwide recognition for his portrayal of Bheem.

The caption states, "The Academy is delighted to welcome N.T.Rama Rao Jr., alongside other notable Hollywood actor's: Huy Quan, Marsha Stephanie Blake, Kerry Condon, and Rosa Salazar to the Actors Branch."

Jr. NTR's induction into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is a well-deserved honour. The actor has consistently delivered outstanding performances throughout his career, and his role in RRR has only cemented his prowess. His portrayal of Bheem is nuanced, powerful, and emotionally resonant. On the work front, Jr. NTR will be seen in War 2 as his Bollywood debut. AGENCIES

'It's an interesting time to be an actor'

Mumbai: Indian actress Mouni Roy credits the film Brahmastra for changing the course of her career. Mouni believes that her hard work over the past 16 years has finally started to pay off.

Elaborating further, Mouni added that it is an exciting time to be an actor where makers can visualise you in different roles. According to her, great parts are being written and she really feels fortunate to be offered those parts and to be able to play them on screen.

Mouni also went on to say that it is not just one project, but her dedicated work from the past 16 years that has started to bore fruit for her in her career. According to her, she has never stopped and it has taught her everything she needs to learn in her journey. She also believes that when you keep working, somebody will see you somewhere, think of you in a certain character or role.

On the work front, Mouni revealed that she has some very interesting line-up of projects in her kitty. However, she cannot talk about them before they are officially announced by the makers. AGENCIES



Fatima doesn't know how to get stardom

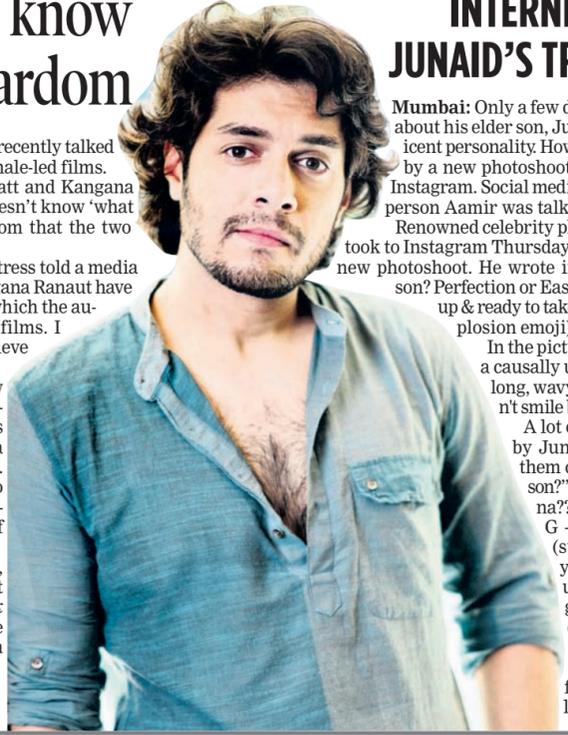
Mumbai: Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh recently talked about the 'commercial viability' of female-led films.

Referring to the success of Alia Bhatt and Kangana Ranaut, the Dangal actress said she doesn't know 'what it takes to achieve' the kind of stardom that the two enjoy.

Praising her colleagues, the Ludo actress told a media portal, "Actors like Alia Bhatt and Kangana Ranaut have commercial viability because of which the audience goes and watches their films. I don't know what it takes to achieve that stardom."

She said, "It's very rare now these Khans are still able to sustain that (stardom), otherwise, it's still box office to box office for a lot of actors, even at that stage. There are very few actors who can still pull that audience irrespective of money."

On the work front, Fatima was last seen in Dhak Dhak and will be next seen in Sam Bahadur. AGENCIES



INTERNET AMAZED OVER JUNAID'S TRANSFORMATION

Mumbai: Only a few days ago, Aamir Khan had talked about his elder son, Junaid Khan, and how he has a reticent personality. However, now, the internet is amazed by a new photoshoot of Junaid that has surfaced on Instagram. Social media users can't believe it's the same person Aamir was talking about.

Renowned celebrity photographer Avinash Gowariker took to Instagram Thursday to share a picture from Junaid's new photoshoot. He wrote in the caption, "Like father like son? Perfection or EasySwag?? #JunaidKhan all grown up & ready to take on the Cameras & the Lights (explosion emoji) #AamirKhan."

In the picture, Junaid can be seen posing in a casually unbuttoned blue kurta. He sports long, wavy hair with light stubble. He doesn't smile but looks intently into the camera.

A lot of internet users were surprised by Junaid's transformation. Many of them commented, "He's Aamir Khan's son?" Another wrote, "Aamir Khan's son na?? So cool he is looking." "Avinash G -- tremendous photog, seriously, (surprise emoji) Turned a geeky young man into a hottie," a third user commented. "He's gone from geeky to cool in no time (fire emoji)," wrote a user. Another even called him the "Indian Henry Cavill," referring to the actor who famously played Superman in the last few DCEU films. AGENCIES

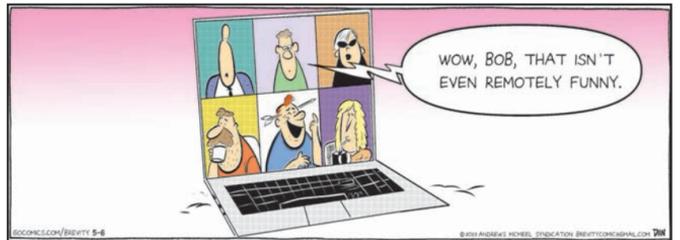
PEANUTS



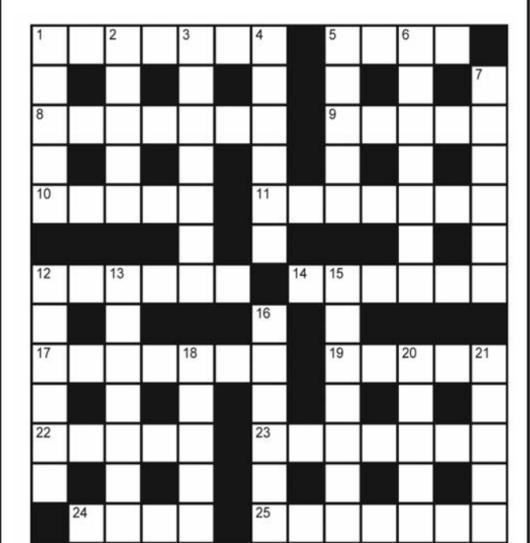
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



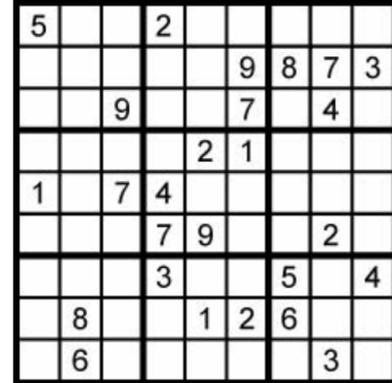
FUN post CROSSWORD



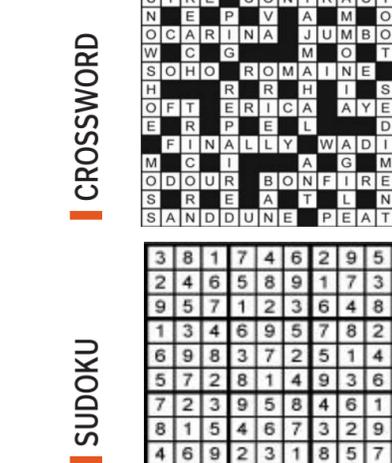
- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Contaminated
 - 5 Playing card marks
 - 8 Put out of commission
 - 9 Clamour
 - 10 Glove material
 - 11 Level
 - 12 Sky-lighted courtyard
 - 14 Sock pattern
 - 17 True nature of anything
 - 19 Red flag, perhaps
 - 22 Baggy
 - 23 Everyone has one
 - 24 Buck the system
 - 25 Fantasm
- Down**
- 1 Ocean motions
 - 2 Hand out
 - 3 Panorama
 - 4 Engine type
 - 5 After sucker or rabbit
 - 6 Colourful fabric
 - 7 Spirited get-together?
 - 12 Ring of colour
 - 13 Make like new
 - 15 Become aware
 - 16 Long necked wading birds
 - 18 Indigent
 - 20 Take up space
 - 21 High-strung

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

4 held for firing at Pipli toll plaza

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Four miscreants who opened fire at Pipli toll plaza following an altercation with the staffers early Thursday morning were apprehended in a dramatic chase, police said.

The miscreants have been identified as Ramakanta Routray, 25, Shubhakanta Routray, 27, Ganguly Mullick, 25, and Rupak Baral, 24.

According to the police, the four were among seven persons who were travelling in a Hyundai Aura to Puri from Bhubaneswar in the wee hours Thursday. The vehicle stopped at the toll plaza where the occupants went into an argument with the collection staff, ostensibly over the toll amount.

Police said the vehicle driver finally paid the toll. However, suddenly, some passengers stepped out of the vehicle. One of them allegedly pulled out a gun and fired a couple of rounds in air, and one shot at the ground, before fleeing the spot.

A police official privy to the investigation said that the miscreants then took the road to-



wards Konark instead of Puri. Meanwhile, after receiving information, several police teams started chasing the culprit vehicle.

The miscreants then took a diversion on a village road near Gop that connects Puri. They lost their way and abandoned the vehicle at a village.

However, the villagers overpowered three of them and handed them over to police, while another occupant was caught by residents of an adjoining village. He too was handed over to police.

The police have reportedly seized the vehicle and the firearm, while a hunt is on to nab the other accused.

Will take Odisha to new heights with Naveen govt: Raghubar Das

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jamshedpur/Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Newly-appointed Odisha Governor Raghubar Das Thursday asserted that he will take the eastern state to new heights in coordination with Naveen Patnaik government.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadra for nominating him for the constitutional post, the former Jharkhand Chief Minister said he would discharge the responsibility bestowed upon him.

"The Odisha CM is working for the welfare of the people. I will try to take the state to new heights in coordination with the government," he said in his maiden interaction with reporters at his Jamshedpur residence after being appointed as the Governor. "Maybe because of blessings of Lord Jagannath, I have got this opportunity to serve the people of Odisha. Both Jharkhand and Odisha have cultural similarities and are mineral-rich states," he said.

Patnaik and Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan congratulated Das on being appointed as



Maybe because of blessings of Lord Jagannath, I have got this opportunity to serve the people of Odisha. Both Jharkhand and Odisha have cultural similarities and are mineral-rich states

RAGHUBAR DAS | NEWLY-APPOINTED ODISHA GOVERNOR

the Governor of the state.

"... Looking forward to working with him towards the state's development and people's welfare. Wish him a successful tenure," Patnaik posted on X, formerly Twitter.

Congratulating Das on his new appointment, Pradhan posted on X, "His experience and administrative capabilities will be beneficial for the prosperity and well-being of people of Odisha. I wish him a successful tenure in fulfilling aspirations and serving Odisha."

Das will replace Professor Ganeshi Lal, whose tenure ended in May this year.

Das, the first non-tribal Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019, was born May 3, 1955 at

Bhalubasa in Jamshedpur. His father worked as a labourer.

He had completed his schooling from Bhalubasa Harijan High School and earned a degree in law after graduating in science.

His political career began with the student movement of 1976-77 and he was jailed during emergency. He became a member of the Janata Party in 1977 but later joined the BJP.

In 2004, he was appointed as the BJP state president of newly formed Jharkhand. He became a minister of the state for the first time in Babulal Marandi government and again in the subsequent two governments led by Arjun Munda. He was the deputy chief minister in the Shibu Soren government in 2009.

Appoint officers for POSH Act implementation: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Supreme Court Thursday directed the Principal Secretaries of the Ministry of Women and Child Development of all states to ensure appointment of an officer in every district within four weeks to oversee effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act.

The POSH Act is a legislation enacted by the Centre in 2013 to address the issue of sexual

harassment faced by women at the workplace.

A bench of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta also directed the Women and Child Development departments of every state to consider identifying a 'nodal person' within the department to oversee and aid in coordination as contemplated under the POSH Act.

This person would also be able to coordinate with the Centre on matters related to this Act and its implementation, it said.



MATTER OF FAITH

Young girls from servitors' families perform 'Gouri Puja' near Markanda Pushkarini in Puri, Thursday

MAHANADI DISPUTE Odisha to produce 1st witness Nov 28

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Oct 19: Odisha will produce its first witness for recording of statement and cross-examination at the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal November 28. Manoj Panda, former director of Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, will be Odisha's first witness in the tribunal. He will be cross-examined on the aspect of socio-economic development in the Mahanadi basin in Odisha.

The Mahanadi tribunal Thursday took on record the list of witnesses submitted by Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, and gave a week's time to Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand to submit the list of their witnesses. The tribunal will commence the procedure of witness examination from the next date of hearing. Since Odisha is the complainant, the tribunal will first record the statement and cross-examine the witnesses of Odisha and then begin cross-examination of the witnesses of other states.

Significantly, Odisha has submitted a list of nine witnesses for cross-examination. Former member of CWC Er ME Haque will depose for assessment of water availability in Mahanadi basin. Former CWC Chairman Rajesh Kumar to depose for planning and Regulation in Chhattisgarh for ensuring water at the interstate border.

Security tightened as City gears up for Puja



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Troublemakers better take note as the Commissionerate Police has decided to throw a thick blanket of security in City thoroughfares by deploying 31 platoons of police force during the Durga Puja from October 20 to 25.

According to the twin city Commissionerate Police, 31 platoons of police including 12 additional deputy commissioners of police (DCPs), 23 assistant commissioners of police (ACPs), 41 inspectors, 151 assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), 119 traffic constables, 70 APR constables and 207 OAPF constables will be deployed to keep tabs on mischief mongers.

The police further said that control rooms have been set up at six places in the city and striking force will intervene wherever required.

Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarsi said, "There will be strict blocking and checking during the Durga Puja along with traffic re-

The Temple city will see 185 puja pandals including the majestics at Nayapalli, Saheed Nagar, Rasulgarh, Bomikhal, Baramunda, Jharapada and Old Station Bazaar

strictions. Heavy vehicles will not be allowed to ply on main roads in the City."

Bhubaneswar DCP will monitor the entire security arrangement round-the-clock, he added, while appealing to residents to ensure safety at their houses while stepping out on the occasion of the festival.

According to sources, the Temple city will see as many as 185 puja pandals including the prominent ones like Nayapalli, Saheed Nagar, Rasulgarh, Bomikhal, Baramunda, Jharapada and Old Station Bazar.

The puja will start from Shasthi

(October 20) and continue till (Dussehra) October 24.

Various puja committees have fully geared up to kick-start the auspicious event. Like every year, most of the pandals are now either ready or are being decked up for festivities. It is riot of lights and colours all the way from the pandals to the city thoroughfares which follow different themes.

While puja pandals in Cuttack are mostly known for their silver tableaux, the pandals designs in Bhubaneswar pull huge crowds.

Every puja pandal has tried to create something different using their unique ideas and arts in full capacity. Taiwan Buddha temple in Rasulgarh, Mani Mahal in Nayapalli, Hastinapur Palace in Bomikhal, White Palace in Saheed Nagar, Golden Palace in Jharapada, Thailand Buddha Temple in Baramunda and Kolkata city monuments in Old Town would be the main attractions.

Apart from erecting spectacular pandals, the puja committees have arranged various cultural events and entertainment programmes to further amp up the festive mood.

Naba Kishore Behera, a core member of Nayapalli Puja Committee, said, "On Shasthi, there will be Kalash Yatra and in the evening there will be bhajan mahotsav by Sushant Das. This apart, there will be organising Rameela programme and 'Khichuri bhog' on Mahashtami."

Rasulgarh Durga Puja Committee secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said that they have arranged melody programme everyday from Shasthi till Dashami.

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Paver blocks harming City's environment

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Environmentalists have come down heavily on the decision to cover roadsides and empty spaces in the state Capital, and other cities, with flat and small paver blocks to level the areas with an objective that rain water would pass through the gaps between blocks to recharge ground water. The project is presently underway in Bhubaneswar by the Works department.

Calling the decision 'unilateral', noted environmentalist and Secretary of Orissa Environmental Society Jaya Krushna Panigrahi said Thursday that the environmental impacts should have been discussed thoroughly before



putting the plans into action. He urged authorities to immediately stop laying paver blocks in the City.

Panigrahi said urban areas are faced with serious environmental challenges at present, which are taking gigantic proportions in the context of global warming and climate change. "The amount of groundwater we extract should be recharged. Otherwise, availability of water will be a serious problem in near future," he said.

As the cities are con-

cretized increasingly, entry of rainwater into soil gets obstructed and the concept of water entering through the gaps among blocks is an unrealistic imagination, he added.

In the various 'Units' of the Capital City, conservancy lanes behind quarters are also cleared off plants for paver blocks.

"Greenery is thus declining. Even grasses are disappearing and soils invisible. In summer, huge amount of concrete structures absorb heat and increase the urban temperature. Natural ambience is thus disappearing from cities, which becomes the cause of many health problems," said Sundara Narayana Patro, president of Orissa Environmental Society.

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STF busts 'mule' bank account racket; 3 held



operandi of the racket, the STF official said the main accused had employed around 10-15 people for a monthly emolument of Rs 15,000 each to open bank accounts.

"These people usually visit interior areas of the districts, targeting mainly poor villagers and tribals, and lure them to open bank accounts. Villagers were generally offered Rs 2,000 per account for giving their documents and opening bank accounts."

"The gang then sells these bank accounts along with the linked mobile numbers at a rate of Rs 15,000-20,000 per account to cyber criminals based in Kolkata and other parts of India," the STF official said.

They were using social media platforms to sell the 'mule' bank accounts, he said.

A money mule refers to someone who transfers illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else for a short-term profit. Criminals often recruit money mules to help launder proceeds derived from illegal activities.

The task force also found that the swindlers abandon the bank accounts once the total transactions reach an amount of Rs 1 lakh.

rented house at Rasulgarh here.

Later, the team also nabbed Jahangir and the mastermind Jamiruddin who were planning to leave for Kolkata.

The STF sleuths have seized various incriminating materials such as mobile phones, pre-activated SIM cards, bank pass-books, Aadhar cards from the possession of the accused persons.

A case has been registered by the STF under various sections of the IPC and the IT Act.

The accused persons were operating mainly in the tri-junction area, especially in the districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj in Odisha, Purba and Paschim Medinipur in West Bengal and East and West Singhbhum and Saraikela in Jharkhand, the official said.

Explaining the modus



FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT: Students take part in pot painting and plantation contest organised by Environment Conservation Society 'SwitchON Foundation' and Regional Science Centre in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

'MINING SECTOR GROWTH KEY TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVPT'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena emphasised the role of the mining sector in the socio-economic development of the state in the mining and construction equipment summit held by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Thursday.

Addressing the audience, Jena highlighted the various incen-



tives offered in the Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR). By citing the upward growth in mining revenues from Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 49,000 crore, he hoped the state to become a 100-million-ton steel-making state by the end of the decade.

In a special address via virtual mode, Secretary of Road Transport and Highways for the Government of India, Anurag Jain requested the stakeholders of the business community to slash down logistical prices.

Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary of Industry highlighted the political stability and skilled workforce in the state, making it top choice for investors. He informed the state's position as

2nd in the country in attracting record investment worth of Rs 20.1 lakh crore in FY 23 and 3rd in attracting bank-assisted investment proposals in the same period of time.

Stressing on the need for sustainable options Steel & Mines Additional Chief Secretary DK Singh suggested to the mining stakeholders to use the efficient infrastructure promoting eco-friendly mining.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Rayagada. I have changed my name from IPPILI SUSHMA to IPPILI PRABHAVATHI for purposes.

I, Kumari Amita Jena, W/O-Japan Kumar Swain, resident of Plot No. 687 433, KalingaAshokCity, Nakhaurpatana, Dhauli, Bhubaneswar -751002, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 1713/2023 dated 18/10/2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Amita Jena for all future purposes.

LOST

I, Mr. Sukanta Kumar Parida, S/o - Trinatha Parida, residing At/PO./P.S. - Bentapur, Katakpada, Dist. - Puri, stated that on 12.10.2023 while I was busy some worked at Brahmagiri Sub-Register. My original link sale deed No.- 11481107270 executed between seller Mr. Arjun Pattnaik and buyer Mr. Sukanta Kumar Parida on 24.10.2011 and original link ROR No.- 102/274 was lost Sub-Register. If anybody found above document please contact with our advocate. Adv. - Deepak Kumar Sahoo, Contact No.- 99370 58785.

Notice is hereby given from Sri Jayanarayan Mohapatra that at present, I have lost the original ROR No. 521/2866 which was kept in my handbag while going to Court from my residence at Puri on dt 15.10.2023 and despite my best efforts, failed to trace the same. Therefore, if anybody has found the same, please contact with my Mobile Number: 9438320540

Traffic restrictions for immersions in Cuttack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 19: With a view to prevent unnecessary traffic snarls in Cuttack city during the immersion of Goddess Durga idols, the Commissionerate Police Thursday issued a set of guidelines for citizens.

Emergency services such as fire brigade, ambulance, and police vehicles have been excluded from the order. The restrictions will be in place from 7 am October 25 till 7 am October 27.

Restrictions will be in place for vehicles moving towards Ranihat clock tower from CDA market complex, Post Office chaak and Bombay Hotel chaak of college square. Instead, the residents are directed to opt the route through Mahanadi Ring Road from CDA market complex to Jobra Chaak via Bombay hotel.

Similarly, vehicles will not be allowed to ply from Malgoddow road to College chaak through

Pilgrim road. For which, they will have to make way through OMP square and College square before

reaching Malgoddow.

Vehicles will also not be allowed to move from Mochi Sahi chaak to Clock Tower chaak via Ranihat High School. In substitute, they will have to consider taking a left turn at Mochi Sahi chaak to go to Clock Tower chaak via Dr. Tejeswar Rao chaak.

Immersion processions heading towards Ranihat chaak from Bajrakabati Road should consider Buxibazar or Managalabag through Kesharpur bridge. In that case, the processions passing towards Mangalabag chaak will not be permitted from Kathagola chaak.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS STATED BY COMMISSIONERATE POLICE INCLUDE:

- » No vehicle shall be allowed to travel towards Howrah Motor chhak from Matamath chhak and Vigilance Gada.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go towards Mani Sahoo chhak and Mastan Dargha chhak (Tanishq) from Ginnar Hotel chhak.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go towards Buxibazar chhak from Bepari sahi Durga Ghar chhak and Samaj office chhak.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go towards Pravat cinema from Meria Bazar bridge.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go towards Laxmi brass Band or Kar Palace.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go from Hatipokhari chhak to Jail Road chhak.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go from Ravenshaw
- » Girls High School to Padhari library and Gouri Shankar Park. Similarly, vehicles are not allowed to go towards Gouri Shankar Park and Utkalika chhak from Dharma Sala chhak.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go from High Court chhak to Choudhury Bazaar via Balubazar chhak.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go towards Purna Sahoo chhak from Municipality old gate.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go towards Purna Sahoo chhak from Nandi Sahi.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go Kathajodi Ring road from Tala Telenga Hanuman Temple via Nursigha Nath Mattha.
- » No vehicle shall be allowed to go towards Purna Sahoo chhak from Nandi Sahi via Apananka Hotel chhak.

Govt, ports sign MoU for maritime growth



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: State government Thursday signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Paradip Port and the other ports of Odisha on sidelines of the Global Maritime India Summit, 2023 in Mumbai to enhance growth and employment generation in the maritime sector.

The MoU was signed between Paradip Port Authority, Dredging Corporation of India Limited and Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation after authorities from the state highlighted the opportunities available in the state during a 'special session with Odisha' at GMIS.

Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu joined the summit along with department special secretary Sanjay Kumar Mishra, PL Haranadh, chairman of Paradip Port Authority, Devendra Thakar, CEO of Dhamra Port, Dillip

Kumar Nayak, Chief Marine Engineer, principal of School of Maritime Studies at Centurion University, Manoranjan Singh, faculty, course in charge at school of maritime studies, Centurion University, Odisha, V Janardhana Rao, Chief Operating Officer, Gopalpur Ports Limited among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha managing director Bhubendra Singh Poonia said, "Odisha is one of the fastest growing economies in India, consistently growing at 11.5 per cent above the national average. With its strategic location for coastal shipping, Odisha is uniquely suitable for the maritime sector to bolster industrial growth and development in Eastern India. We are happy to promote and showcase Odisha as the new land of opportunities." "Partnerships like these are crucial for the progress and for providing employment opportunities through skill development. The MoU signed today is a significant step towards leveraging the state's geographical and natural resource advantage, making Odisha the Industrial Hub of the East," an official said.

AI-powered voice analysis tool could detect Type 2 diabetes

RESEARCHERS AT KLIKK LABS IN THE UNITED STATES UTILISED SIX TO TEN SECONDS OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S VOICE, COUPLED WITH BASIC HEALTH INFORMATION SUCH AS AGE, GENDER, HEIGHT, AND WEIGHT, TO DEVELOP AN AI MODEL CAPABLE OF DISCERNING TYPE 2 DIABETES PRESENCE

Determining whether a person is diabetic could be as easy as having them speak a few sentences into their smartphone, according to a groundbreaking study that combines voice technology with artificial intelligence in a major step forward in diabetes detection.

Scientists from Klick Labs in the US used six to 10 seconds of people's voice, along with basic health data, including age, sex,

height, and weight, to create an AI model that can distinguish whether that individual has Type 2 diabetes. The model, detailed in the journal Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Digital Health, has 89 per cent accuracy for women and 86 per cent for men.

For the study, researchers asked 267 people (diagnosed as either non- or Type 2 diabetic) to record a phrase into their smartphone six times daily for two

weeks. From more than 18,000 recordings, scientists analysed 14 acoustic features for differences between non-diabetic and Type 2 diabetic individuals.

"Our research highlights significant vocal variations between individuals with and without Type 2 diabetes and could transform how the medical community screens for diabetes," said Jaycee Kaufman, first author of the paper and research scientist at Klick Labs.

"Current methods of detection can require a lot of time, travel, and cost. Voice technology has the potential to remove these barriers entirely."

The team looked at a number of vocal features, like changes in pitch and intensity that can't be perceived by the human ear:



Using signal processing, scientists were able to detect changes in the voice caused by Type 2 diabetes. Surprisingly, those vocal changes manifested in different ways for males and females, Kaufman said. Almost one in two, or 240 mil-

lion adults living with diabetes worldwide are unaware they have the condition and nearly 90 per cent of diabetic cases are Type 2 diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation. The most frequently used di-

agnostic tests for prediabetes and Type 2 diabetes include the glycated haemoglobin (A1C), along with the fasting blood glucose (FBG) test and the OGTT.

Yan Fossat, vice president of Klick Labs and principal investigator of this study, said the new non-intrusive and accessible approach offers the potential to screen vast numbers of people and help identify the large percentage of undiagnosed people with Type 2 diabetes.

"Our research underscores the tremendous potential of voice technology in identifying Type 2 diabetes and other health conditions," Fossat said.

"Voice technology could revolutionise healthcare practices as an accessible and affordable digital screening tool." IANS

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Accident victims suffer sans trauma care centre



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 19: Patients in need of emergency care fail to get timely treatment in the absence of a trauma care centre in the entire Keonjhar district. Despite the fact that the mineral-rich district brings hundreds of crores to the state exchequer, there is not even a properly functioning Intensive Care Unit (ICU) either at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) or the sub-divisional hospitals in the district. An ICU has been established at the DHH but it is yet to become functional due to lack of manpower.

As a result, the district is witnessing accident related deaths almost on a daily basis while many injured victims are becoming permanently disabled due to lack of timely treatment. Unavailability of timely treatment after road accidents in the district has sparked sharp resentment among the patients and their kin.

Sources said that people critically injured due to road accidents, factory mishaps, falling from the top of buildings, gun shots and fires are provided emergency care and treatment

- Mineral-rich Keonjhar district witnesses frequent road mishaps due to plying of hundreds of iron ore and mineral laden trucks as well as other vehicles from various mines
- Accident related deaths occur almost on a daily basis while many injured victims become permanently disabled due to lack of timely treatment
- Critically injured patients are usually referred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack 200 km away. Many of them often succumb to their injuries en-route to Cuttack

through trauma care centres.

The mineral-rich district witnesses frequent road mishaps due to plying of hundreds of iron ore and mineral laden trucks as well as other vehicles from various mines. Similarly, the national highway passing through the district also witnesses frequent road mishaps due to plying of thousands of vehicles.

The drivers of the vehicles and passengers travelling in them die or get critically wounded in the road mishaps occurring on the highways. In

such situations, the critically injured need to be rescued in time and rushed to the hospital within the 'golden hour' to be saved through emergency treatment. However, sans a trauma care centre in the district, critically injured patients are referred to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack which is about 200 km from this district headquarters town. Many of them often succumb to their injuries en-route to Cuttack.

Residents claimed that the district administration is carrying out renovations and beautification works of park, ponds by spending crores from the funds available from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OM-BADC) but has never spared a thought to establish a trauma care centre by spending the same funds.

Ashok Das, former president of Keonjhar Bar Association demanded establishment of a trauma care centre to check accident related deaths as the accident victims fail to get proper treatment in the DHH. This is because the DHH always remains overcrowded due to visit of patients from neighbouring Mayurbhanj, Deogarh districts as well as neighbouring Jharkhand to avail healthcare services, he said. When contacted, the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr KC Prusty said the state government has plans for establishment of trauma care centres in Keonjhar district. These trauma care centres will be established in the DHH as well as in the sub-divisional hospitals at Anandapur and Champua and in Barbil community health centre (CHC).



ONE-OF-A-KIND: A Durga puja pandal inspired from ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 moon mission constructed by Budharaja-Fatak Sarvajanin Durga Puja Committee in Sambalpur being decorated, Thursday

Youth dies in cylinder blast; parents critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Oct 19: A youth was killed while his elderly parents sustained critical injuries after a cooking gas cylinder exploded at Purunagaon village in Balasore district, Thursday.

The deceased youth was identified as Bhagabat Behera. His critically injured parents were identified as Harihar Behera and Sukanti Behera in the village.

The mishap occurred at Purunagaon village under the Nilagiri police station limits when the domestic LPG cylinder blew up, and the elderly couple

along with their adult son sustained serious burn injuries.

Bhagabat sustained critical injuries while trying to save his mother from the flames that spread inside the house after the blast. They were first rushed to the Nilagiri hospital and later referred to the district headquarters hospital in Balasore where Bhagabat succumbed to his injuries.

During the blast, old fire-crackers kept in the house also exploded. The explosion was so severe that their thatched house and an adjoining shop also blew up. In the aftermath of the blast,



the thatched roof was found stuck on a tree while the door of the house was found lying 20 feet from the house. Locals said the couple and their adult son were living in the house and sold grocery, stationery and other items like petrol in a shop.

The fire brigade personnel reached the spot and doused the blaze, the officer added. They were surprised to find more than a quintal of firecracker remnants. Questions are doing the rounds whether the family was manufacturing illegal fire-crackers or selling after procuring those from outside.

The issue assumes significance as the festival of light is around the corner. Locals have demanded before the police to remain cautious and take steps to save people's lives as sale and manufacturing of crackers will pick up ahead of Dipavali.

Kendrapara Cong intensifies protest for medical college

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 19: Reiterating the demands to set up a government medical college in the coastal district, hundreds of party workers from Kendrapara Congress staged protest at the Collector's office here, Wednesday. The protesters also called for establishment of a Community Health Centre (CHC) on the municipal region of Kendrapara district.

The agitators claimed that around 60,000 people in the municipal region have been deprived of basic healthcare ever since the government hospital was shifted out of the district. It also added that around one lakh people residing in Derabish block of the district are impacted by the decision.

The demands gained momentum after the opposition Congress staged a stir for 18

days from September 5 to 22 over this issue.

The Kendrapara Medical Working Committee February 15 presented a memorandum to the Governor, apprising the health minister and department secretary on the issue.

Soon after, the state government took cognizance of the matter and directed Kendrapara Collector and Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) to provide necessary health services in the urban PHC. However, 87 days have passed since the order and things are still at bay, Congress partymen said.

Kendrapara unit of the Congress has initiated movements namely 'Mati Pain Pati Kholo' (be vocal for your roots) and 'Mati Pain Madi Chala' (March for the soil) and presented memorandums to set up a medical college in Kendrapara.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



FM varsity signs MoU with Balasore Alloys

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 19: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between Fakir Mohan University and Balasore Alloys Limited to provide continuous support to students of various departments for dissertation studies and internships under the supervision of Pankaj Kumar Padhi, professor, department of Chemistry.

The event was organised at the varsity's PG Council Conference Hall. Professor Sabyasachi Patnaik, chairman, PG Council welcomed the signing of the MoU and expressed the hope that it would help the students in the field of industrial employment in the coming days.

The meeting was attended by Poonam Wangnoo, Vice President, Balasore Alloys Ltd. The main objective of the MoU is to empower students for placement in the industry and encourage the faculty and staff of both organisations to conduct research activities in the academic interface with the indus-



tries. Vice-Chancellor of the university Santosh Kumar Tripathi advised the students to take advantage of the MoU to make their field studies and application of practical oriented knowledge more effective.

In addition, the COF of the university Manas Kumar Patro advised the students to work on self-enabling with taking advantage of the employment opportunities based on the provisions of this MoU. Executive Director of Balasore Alloy Ltd. C Suresh Babu along with teachers of Environmental Science, Chemistry and other departments were present. The students present expressed their hope on this MoU.

Miscreants loot ₹51 lakh from petrol pump

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 19: Armed miscreants allegedly robbed ₹5 lakh from a petrol pump at Phulajhara under Nayakote police limits and Banspal block in Keonjhar district, late Wednesday night.

Reports said the miscreants fired five rounds of bullets and robbed the Swapneswar petrol pump at Phulajhara of ₹5 lakh. On being informed, police rushed to the spot with a scientific team and launched an investigation. Two empty and three live bullets were seized from the spot while the iron chest was recovered from a ground near the petrol pump. The Sadar SDPO and a forensic expert also reached the spot and took stock of the robbery, Thursday.

Eyewitnesses said four armed miscreants raided the petrol pump late Wednesday night and threatened the employees by brandishing guns. Later, they fired five rounds of bullets and decamped with ₹5 lakh kept in an iron chest inside the petrol pump. They also looted the iron chest along with the hard disk of the CCTVs installed in the petrol pumps. When contacted, police IIC Devaki Nayak said that a manhunt has been launched to nab the miscreants.

RIT partners with Apollo Hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 19: Rourkela Ispat Trust (RIT) and Apollo Hospitals have formally announced the launching of a partnership for operation of the state-of-the-art Ispat Post Graduate Institute and Super Specialty Hospital (IPG & SSH) in a function held at the hospital auditorium October 18.

The function was graced by Atanu Bhowmick, Director In Charge, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) with the additional charge of Bokaro Steel Plant & Chairman, RIT Governing Board, Shubhankar Mohapatra, IAS, ADM, Rourkela & Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Dr Rohini Sridhar, Senior Vice President (Medical Services-Apollo Hospitals Group), Dr R Krishna Kumar, Senior Vice Presidents (Finance & Accounts-Apollo Hospitals Group), Dr Dharni Ranjan Satpathy, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer, Sundargarh and Col (Retd) Dr Sajal Sen, Chief Operating Officer, Apollo Hospitals managing IPGI & SSH.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhowmick said, "Since its very inception, Rourkela Steel Plant



has been committed towards the health of its stakeholders. Ispat General Hospital was set up by RSP in the year 1959, which is also the year of tapping of the first hot metal in RSP. Since then RSP has been relentlessly providing quality health services to the people of this region. However, keeping in view the growing health care needs of the people and the lack of super specialty facilities in this region, the IPG & SSH was set up with state of the art facilities. I am sure that, with a renowned institute like the Apollo Hospitals known for pioneering modern healthcare and providing the best-in-class treatment to patients, managing the hospital, it will be a boon for the entire region.

Through this public private partnership, the western Odisha region will benefit from various state and Central government schemes.

Gahirmatha officials arrest 23 fishermen

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 19: The Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary personnel have arrested 23 fishermen on the charges of catching fish illegally by trespassing into its area.

The forest personnel seized two fishing vehicles, 18 quintals of fish catch and other fish-catching equipment from the possessions of arrested fishermen, Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary ranger Pradosh Moharana said Thursday.

The forest personnel were conducting sea surveillance at the sanctuary ahead of turtle season

Wednesday when they noticed two fishing vessels had trespassed into the sanctuary.

They intercepted the fishing trawlers and arrested 23 fishermen from the two trawlers for illegally catching fish trespassing into the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

Fishing has been almost banned within the sanctuary round the year to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.

The fishermen were booked under various sections of the Wildlife Protection Act and were produced before the JMFC court of Rajnagar which remanded them to jail custody.

Educationist dead

Bellaguntha: Eminent social worker and educationist Panu Nayak passed away at his residence in Gobara area under this block in Ganjam district, Wednesday night. Nayak was the founder and president of the governing body of Anchalika Science College at Kshatriyabarapur. He was instrumental in establishment of the college in 1984 by involving the local people and by collecting one rupee and one brick from the residents of nearby villages. People from various walks of life visited his residence and condoled his death. Principal Bishnu Prasad Pattnaik and staffers paid their tributes to the departed soul after his body was brought to the college.

Crorepati AE held

Angul: A government engineer posted in Angul district was arrested Thursday in a corruption case, officials said. Five buildings, 26 plots of land, and deposits of over ₹64 lakh were found in searches at 11 properties linked to him, they said. The accused was posted as a junior engineer of Samagra Sikhya Abhiyan at Pallahara in Angul, they said. The searches were conducted by personnel of the Vigilance department Wednesday in Bhubaneswar, Angul and Puri districts, officials said. Among the other items found were gold jewellery weighing 832 gram and ₹3.33 lakh in cash.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

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FOCUS CULTURE

RECLAIMING VIVEKANANDA



Vivekananda had an intuitive understanding of the dangers of dogma and organised religion. It is ironic then, perhaps, that many on the left accuse him of creating Hinduism as an organised religion

many on the left accuse him of creating Hinduism as an organised religion. Krishnan devotes a chapter to untangling the similarities and differences between Vivekananda and Ambedkar's understanding of Hinduism and its relation to social equality. Space does not permit to elaborate on the intricacies of this debate. Nevertheless, Vivekananda's advocacy of freedom, critique of social conventions and ritualism has its origins in many of the Upanishads. The Vajrasuchi Upanishad, for instance, critiques the existence of the caste system by attacking its hereditary transmission and critiquing social division.

What is particularly surprising is Vivekananda's advocacy of women's rights. Vivekananda's evolving views on women have been noted in Ruth Harris' recent book "Guru to the World." Two decades after Vivekananda's death, even the relatively liberal Tagore was questioning the ability of women to "intellectually probe the mystery of existence" or organise power. It is remarkable then that Vivekananda considered women to be equal in "statesmanship" and "governing countries" with men. Vivekananda argues that women will decide their destiny much better than men can. The problems that women face are a consequence of the fact that "men undertook to shape the destiny of women." It is only women, after getting educated, who can best decide what reforms are necessary for their betterment. This vision was quite radical given the times and circumstances that Vivekananda resided in. Krishnan's exhaustively researched and timely tome convincingly shows that Vivekananda is indeed the arch-enemy of the Sangh Parivar, whose message is extremely relevant to our contemporary times.

The writer is an author and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs. Views are personal.

Vivekananda's attitude towards organised religion, rituals and particularly the holy cow. Treating it as a disdainful cultural norm, Vivekananda argued that "a man cannot be a good Hindu who does not eat beef" based on his reading of the ancient scriptures. Cattle slaughter, in fact, is recommended as a social ritual in the Vedic texts. The archaeologist BB Lal, who was awarded Padma Vibhushan by this government, has shown the preponderance of beef consumption through excavations in Hastinapur and Indus Valley sites. Similarly, Vivekananda cited instances of Rama and Krishna consuming meat and wine in ancient texts. Surprising perhaps for a monk, Vivekananda argues that Hindu scriptural texts should be looked at critically, not dogmatically. As long as human beings "cover before supernatural beings," priests will continue to exercise tyranny over them. It was the Brahmins, for Vivekananda, who bought the country on the "verge of ruin." Surprising perhaps for a monk, Vivekananda was an avid smoker and did not pay much heed to vegetarianism. In fact, he writes that Hindus produced "religious geniuses and intellectual giants" as long as they used to consume meat but the moment they turned to

"Babaji's vegetarianism," not one "great, original man" arose. He advised Indians to eat "large quantities of fish and meat." Vivekananda's makes a crucial difference between mythology and historical reality. The historicity of Rama and Krishna are not important for him. It is the spiritual truths contained in these texts that ought to be paid attention to. Those spiritual truths must be examined critically through their predecessors in the Upanishads and the Vedas. Superstitions, wherever it may exist, must be shunned. Vivekananda argues that Hindu spiritual truths would not be affected one bit even if all temples were destroyed. Perceptively, he understood that social norms sanctified by religion were the consequences of economic conditions. Instead, the individual must strive towards "mukti" or freedom. Social rules that are "injurious" to freedom must be destroyed "speedily." Vivekananda's philosophy of freedom is derived directly from Advaita Vedanta. Krishnan convincingly shows that this is not trivial to Vivekananda's message but is indeed integral. Vivekananda had an intuitive understanding of the dangers of dogma and organised religion. It is ironic then, perhaps, that

Swami Vivekananda has always loomed large over the socio-political landscape of India. Many of us grew up listening about anecdotes from his short but magnificent life. Yet, his ideas are almost never talked about in our public discourse. Instead, the monk-philosopher is reduced to be one of the first preachers of Hinduism to the modern West. His success at Chicago's World's Parliament of Religions did cement his popularity. Nevertheless, the details of his philosophy are still largely, though not entirely, confined to academic or spiritual discourse. In "Vivekananda: the Philosopher of Freedom," the author Govind Krishnan V. adequately captures the rich and intricate arguments that characterise Vivekananda's philosophy. Over the years, the Sangh Parivar has made a deliberate, organised and careful effort to claim Vivekananda as their icon. At first glance, such a view seems almost uncontroversial. Vivekananda was, quite visibly, a monk in saffron who emphasised on the importance of service. The second and most influential Sarsanghchalak MS Golwalkar abandoned RSS for a while to become a disciple of Swami Akhandananda, a contemporary of Vivekananda and the president of Ramkrishna Mission. It shouldn't be surprising, thus, to see progressive intellectuals like Jyotirmaya Sharma make the case of Vivekananda being the ideological predecessor to Hindu nationalism. A similar argument is made by Meera Nanda, who argues that Vivekananda artificially constructed modern Hinduism as we see it in contemporary times. Krishnan persuasively shows that such arguments have no basis in reality. It can only be seen as one more case of the left needlessly problematising crucial historical figures and giving them away on a platter to Hindu nationalists. The most obvious but not often-mentioned difference is



Anwesh Satpathy

SURPRISING PERHAPS FOR A MONK, VIVEKANANDA ARGUES THAT HINDU SCRIPTURAL TEXTS SHOULD BE LOOKED AT CRITICALLY, NOT DOGMATICALLY



Dickens Kamugisha

Holding the world's biggest polluters accountable is both morally justifiable and economically sensible

Let Them Drink Oil

As a long-time advocate for human and environmental rights, I am terrified by the unprecedented frequency of extreme weather events. With each passing day, it becomes increasingly evident that we are in the midst of an escalating climate emergency. Disasters that past generations would have viewed as biblical or apocalyptic have become our new normal.

This includes the devastating floods and severe droughts that claimed hundreds of lives and displaced millions of people in Uganda and across the Horn of Africa, and the recent floods that wiped out entire cities in Libya. These events were not mere acts of nature. We have known for more than half a century that burning fossil fuels increases the planet's temperatures and that climate change would have catastrophic consequences. We persisted in burning them anyway.

But the striking image of a recent climate protest in southern France, in which climate activists painted a giant slogan condemning French oil giant TotalEnergies in the dry bed of the Agly River, is a stark reminder that some bear more responsibility for our current predicament than others – namely, the handful of rich countries that account for most of the world's global greenhouse-gas emissions.

But the real culprits are the fossil-fuel companies that have plundered Earth's resources and hooked our societies on their products. After all, oil companies knew about the environmental implications of their activities since the 1970s, but opted to conceal these findings and churn out disinformation about climate change. The record-breaking temperatures and unprecedented calamities we are seeing all over the world are a consequence of those choices.

To halt global warming, we must reduce and eventually eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels. As both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Energy Agency have stressed, the only way to do so is to end all fossil-fuel exploration immediately and without exception.

Ultimately, it is clear that the longer we wait to reduce emissions, the greater our collective suffering will be. But fossil-fuel companies have a different perspective. In a recent regulatory filing, ExxonMobil asserted that "it is highly unlikely that society would accept the degradation in global standard of living required" to achieve net-zero emissions. Despite being well-informed about the calamitous effects of their operations, these companies have ignored their own climate scientists to protect their vast profits – \$56 billion in 2022 for ExxonMobil, whose CEO pocketed \$36 million. TotalEnergies, whose Tilenga project in Uganda wreaked havoc on local communities and flooded farmlands with contaminated water, earned \$36 billion last year.

This is why the phrase accompanying the French river painting – "If there's no water, let them drink oil!" – is a powerful rallying cry. Oil companies' extravagant and reckless behaviour over the past few decades evokes parallels with France's Ancien Régime. Just as the aristocracy resisted change in the lead-up to the 1789 French Revolution, the fossil-fuel industry is unwilling to relinquish their power and influence, regardless of how their actions affect everyone else.

Contrary to the industry's claims, the net-zero transition will not lead to a cascading decline in living standards. Crucially, no one is calling for an abrupt halt to all fossil-fuel use. Climate models have shown that the best solution is to ban new exploration and shift to a more efficient system that uses only a fraction of the existing reserves while we build the infrastructure needed to maintain current living standards through clean energy.

The green transition is not a compromise; it is a promise. As numerous studies have shown, renewables and energy efficiency can power our homes, offices, cities, and industries, including for the billions of people in developing countries. This shift will create millions of new jobs, improve the quality of our air and water, and help mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Moreover, it will enable vulnerable countries and communities to adapt and build resilience against the growing threat of extreme weather events.

To be sure, financing this energy transition is a daunting challenge that will require a combination of strategies and mechanisms. Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Motley's Bridgetown Initiative, for example, advocates urgent reform of the global financial architecture. Similarly, the recent Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi concluded with a joint call for a global carbon tax.

Another promising idea, promoted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and several prominent economists and activists, is to cover the costs of climate-driven damages and the green transition by taxing fossil-fuel companies' windfall profits. As world leaders prepare for November's COP28 in the UAE, this proposal merits serious consideration. Holding the world's biggest polluters accountable is both morally justifiable and economically sensible.

Amid today's myriad political and economic shocks, the climate protest in the Agly River understandably received very little attention. But I hope that this powerful image will resonate with others as it has with me. After all, this planet is our only home. Given the existential threat posed by climate change, we have no choice but to fight for its survival.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer of the Africa Institute for Energy Governance. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- It is difficult to find happiness within oneself, but it is impossible to find it anywhere else. **ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER**
- The body is your temple. Keep it pure and clean for the soul to reside in. **BKS IYENGAR**
- You don't have to be brilliant, only a little bit wiser than the other guys, on average, for a long, long time. **CHARLIE MUNGER**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1962:** War breaks out between India and China. The month-long border dispute began after the Chinese launched a two-pronged attack on the border between the two countries. During the duration of hostilities, China and India did not officially declare war on each other nor cut off any diplomatic ties. The conflict ended with China taking control of Aksai Chin and both countries accepting a de facto border along what is now known as Line of Actual Control.
- 1973:** Sydney Opera House opens its doors. The iconic building, which was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, was designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon. Construction on the performing arts center began in March 1959 and cost over \$100 million. 2011: Libyan de facto leader Muammar al-Qaddafi was killed by rebel forces following a revolt that received international military assistance.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

War in a divided world

The Israel-Hamas war is escalating every hour causing pathetic loss of lives, property and resources. The bombing of a hospital that wiped out 500 or so lives has shaken the conscience of the world. Both sides are blaming each other for this catastrophe. Be that as it may, there are threats by other countries like Iran to jump into the fray through Hezbollah unless Israel stops bombing. A few calls for ceasefire are also made but not heeded by either of the warring parties. Political debates and protest demonstrations in favour of both Israel and Palestine are staged across the world. Heated arguments on social media are raging on up and down our country.

What is missing in such discussions so far is the impact of Israel-Palestine war on Indian politics mainly the national elections next year, should the war continue in some form or the other until then? The situation has become complex this time around as both Israel and Hamas are perceived to be both victims and perpetrators at the same time. Hence the reactions from countries – world powers, allies, friends, and onlookers have to be carefully thought out and assessed.

In any conflict or war, there have been mainly two kinds of reactions as the world has been divided into two camps since World War-II. Arguably, the power equation has changed after the disintegration of Soviet Union in 1992. Some would say it has been a "unipolar" world since then. Even if it has been largely the case, China emerging as the second largest economy has begun to flex its muscles, in a quest for world supremacy. The world seems to be increasingly divided into two blocs; one led by the US and the other by China, Russia tacking on behind the latter. Yet another group especially of the former Non-Alignment bloc pushes for a multilateral order with a new strategy of multi-alignment. They bid for reviving the Global South as another axis of world politics. I have argued more often than not that the idea is untenable, not endorsed by history. Reiterating the voice of Global South on the world table is understandable and advisable. But creating a third force in the form of Global South is a far cry when the politics is driven by the measure of security.

Having put the countries into three blocs although two of them

– one China-led another largely India-led – are inchoate formations, let us look at their reactions to the Israel-Hamas war: America and its allies have clearly sided with Israel in the face of the terrorist attacks by Hamas. They support Palestinian civilians on humanitarian grounds. The EU has not stopped aid to Palestine. China and Russia refused to condemn Hamas' terrorism while asking for a peaceful settlement of the two-nation solution. Other countries of Global South have made neutral statements calling against civilian casualties and for ceasefire.

How has India responded? India's prompt reactions came from the Prime Minister himself in his tweets as he declared New Delhi's support for Israel against Hamas' terrorism. It was quite different from the neutral postures India has been taking in Ukrainian war. It is rightly so at least on two counts. First, India is consistently and steadfastly opposed to terrorism as a means to resolution of differences or conflicts. Second, Israel is a reliable friend, more than any country at present. It has also been historically proved on two critical occasions, 1962 war with China

and Kargil war with Pakistan in 1999. However, New Delhi soon nuanced its response by reiterating its long-standing position on Palestine becoming an independent and sovereign state.

Normatively, foreign policy of any country is run on consensus. But in democracies, there is room for diverse perspectives. Opposition parties in India mainly the Communist and Congress seem to have sided with Palestine. That has been the stand of Congress for long time, the Communist go for any event that is against the US and its allies and supports Chinese position. Congress support for Palestine has been attributed to the so-called vote bank politics, seeking the Muslim votes. That may not be entirely true.

The Congress seems to have misplaced its reactions. It should have supported Israel when it faced terrorist attacks. Indians would not condone terrorism as they have been its victim for years on end. We should be focussing on the cause of the war not just the consequences. In any case, the bloodshed must stop.

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



DK Giri

WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON THE CAUSE OF THE WAR NOT JUST THE CONSEQUENCES

Flying Dutchmen

Sir, The "Flying Dutchmen" have stopped the Proteas in their track. In the Netherlands, a country where football and hockey are the most popular sports, cricket has received a shot in the arm following their shock win against the Proteas in the ongoing ODI World Cup. The Temba Bavuma-led side was considered the team to beat after they had almost bulldozed their rivals in the tournament including the Australians. At Dharamsala, the Dutchmen wouldn't put a step wrong as their skipper Scott Edwards led from the front to score a blistering 78. Spinners did their job, and the fielding was spot-on. The team played with a plan as the players were seen discussing the pros and cons of an incoming batsman through notes pulled out from the captain's pocket, aided by the think-tank from the dugout. The Netherlands should go places with this historic triumph.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Shoddy probe

Sir, The accused in the sensational Nithari killings case in Noida were acquitted by the Allahabad High Court. Is this the result of the CBI's indifference or a victory of justice? CBI could not present irrefutable evidence in this case in the High Court. The accused – Surinder Koli and his employer Moninder Singh Pandher – were arrested for the Nithari serial murders of 2005-2006 and both were sentenced to death by the trial court. Both had challenged the death sentence in the High Court and now the court has not only abolished the death sentence but has also acquitted them. There is resentment among the victims and their lawyer has also raised questions on the CBI. To uphold the sentence of the lower court, the CBI should have presented irrefutable evidence in the High Court, but the scope for doubt in the arguments and evidence was so much that the accused found a way to escape. The acquittal of the Nithari accused has strengthened the belief that since the victims are poor, justice is not done to them. Most of the victims belonged to labour class families from Bengal and Bihar.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

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

Sharp rise in sex crimes in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 19: Sexual crime against minor children is rising in Bihar with the state police registering 160 cases every month since August this year.

Elaborating the cases registered under the POCSO Act, ADGP, HQ, Jitendra Singh Gangwar said that 1,283 cases registered in Bihar till August 31. He also said that charge sheets were filed in 1,132 cases and compensation given to 490 victims.

The cases keep continuing against minors, especially girl children in September and October as well. On September 30, a 14-year-old girl was gang raped by 6 persons in a village on the outskirts of Patna. The victim went out to relieve herself and a youth kidnapped her and called 5 of his friends.

They had taken to an agricultural field, where they consumed liquor and sexually assaulted here one by one in a drunken state. The victim, after the sexual brutalization, went unconscious, and the accused fled from the place leaving her abandoned.

On August 28, police in Bhagalpur arrested 6 persons on the charge of gangraping a Class 7 girl for three days. As per the statement of the victim, she went to meet her friend but the accused kidnapped her midway. They took her to a room and held cap-



August 28, police in Bhagalpur arrested 6 persons on the charge of gangraping a Class 7 girl for three days

August 25, a minor girl was raped and murdered in Bihar's Samastipur district

tive for two days even as they raped her one by one. After committing the crime, they changed the location and brutalised her as well. On August 25, a minor teenage girl was raped and murdered in Bihar's Samastipur district. The girl was lured by a youth, sexually assaulted and forcibly fed poison. The victim was found unconscious at the scene in her own village which comes under Mufassil police station.

The family members of the victim admitted her in Sadar hospital Samastipur where doctors referred to the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) for better treatment. She succumbed during the treatment on August 28.

The cases in 2023 till August were

higher in comparison to 2022 when police registered 149 cases, on an average under the POCSO Act. Police registered a total of 1,794 cases in 38 of Bihar's 45 police districts. ADGP Gangwar however also claimed that the state police filed the charge sheets against the accused in 1,552 cases and compensation was given to 889 victims.

The cases under the POCSO Act in 2021 were 125, on an average, per month, Gangwar said that a total of 1,508 cases registered in the different police stations of the state and charge sheets were filed in 1,213 cases. Compensation was given to 995 victims. The cases of human trafficking and child labourers are also spiking this year. Bihar Police registered 22 cases on an average every month till September this year. The ADGP said that a total of 198 cases of human trafficking were registered in Bihar in the last 9 months.

"We have rescued 215 male and 102 female victims during this period. The male victims are generally trafficked for the job of labourers and majority of them are minor boys while the females were trafficked for flesh trade and other activities like domestic help," Gangwar said.

In 2022, Bihar Police registered on average 17 FIRs per month, making a total of 207. Police rescued 507 males and 152 females from the clutches of human traffickers.

New device to detect viral, bacterial pathogens

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 19: Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have developed a low cost, portable device designed to detect DNA in wastewater and other water bodies to aid in the early detection of viral and bacterial pathogens.

The sensor is highly sensitive to any DNA present in a sample and was shown to be able to detect the presence of pathogens, such as E. coli bacteria and bacteriophage phi6 virus, in sewage and



water bodies.

It functions by detecting colour changes in samples created by the interaction of DNA with methylene blue (MB) dye. Intercalation is the process by which molecules, such as methylene blue, insert themselves in between bases of DNA. This causes a change in the property of the material

to absorb light of different wavelengths, thereby causing a change in its colour.

In a sample prepared for testing, this leads to a change in the colour of the sample.

The colourimetric sensor system is designed around an indigenously built circuit, called a phase-sensitive detection circuit, which detects this change in colour. The sensor consists of a sample holder connected to the

colourimetric sensor.

Once a sample is placed in the sample holder, the sensor picks up any colour change in the sample due to DNA, which is then converted to a voltage signal for measurement and recording.

The team has also developed a mobile application that can read this voltage signal via bluetooth and display the information on a smart-phone.

Maha introduces online transfers for RTO officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 19: In first such move, the Maharashtra government has adopted an online system to transfer Transport Department officials, including motor vehicle inspectors (MVIs) and assistant motor vehicle inspectors (AMVIs), in a bid to curb malpractices during such exercises, officials said.

As many as 480 motor vehicle inspectors and assistant motor vehicle inspectors of the department were transferred using the online

system, they said. At Sahyadri Guest House in south Mumbai, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who holds the transport portfolio, prepared computerized lists of 166 MVIs and 314 AMVIs who were due for transfers and just pressed a key on the online system to complete the process and give them new postings.

For the first time in the transport department's history, the Maharashtra government has adopted an online system for transfers of MVIs and AMVIs to bring transparency in the

process and curb corruption, the officials said.

As per a release from the Chief Minister Office, Shinde has taken a decision of effecting online transfers of MVIs and AMVIs starting from this year. He has directed authorities to carry out RTO (Regional Transport Office) transfers with complete transparency and without any human interventions using the online system,

said the release.

Pollution rising in Mumbai: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 19: Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad has claimed the city's air quality index has surpassed the danger level in the last few days due to which people are suffering from respiratory problems, and asked the Maharashtra government to implement the previous MVA regime's climate action plan.

She also demanded an audit of expenses of all projects in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and criticised the manifold increase in their costs. "The state government should at least take into account views of the opposition parties in matters of public interest,"

“The government should not endanger Mumbai's health for petty politics and should seriously consider implementing the plan. Children and senior citizens are also suffering due to the existing situation. There is a dire need for the government and the corporation to take concrete measures”

VARSHA GAIKWAD | MUMBAI CONGRESS CHIEF

Gaikwad said in a statement.

She demanded that the government implement the Mumbai Climate Action Plan prepared during the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) regime. "A few years ago, Delhi had the worst air quality level, but Mumbai has overtaken Delhi too. The heat and humidity has also increased due to smog. This is affecting the

health of Mumbai's and there has been an increase in respiratory diseases," she said.

According to a research by NEERI and IITB, over 71 per cent of Mumbai's air pollution is caused by dust blown from roads or construction, Gaikwad said, adding that the rest of the pollution is generated by factories, power plants, airports and garbage dumps.

ASI to take up restoration work of Maniyar math



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 19: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has decided to initiate conservation efforts at Maniyar math, an ancient structure belonging to the Gupta period, located in Rajgir in Bihar's Nalanda district.

Officials said an ASI will soon start conservation work at the site to give a fresh lease of life to the ancient structure. Located almost at the centre of the old city of Rajgir, Maniyar math is a mysterious place of worship believed to be dedicated to Naga Shilbhadrha and has also been a Buddhist stupa sometime in the past. The

cylindrical stupa now serves as a wishing well for the locals where they throw money and offerings to the Snake god and wish for their happy life.

"We will soon take up core conservation of the math. Our focus will be on ensuring that the originality of the structure remains intact", Goutami Bhattacharya, Superintendent Archaeologist (ASI, Patna circle) said. The ASI recently completed core conservation work at Mahadev temple in Rajgir, she added.

"The minor structures at Maniya Math, like altars, platforms shrines, etc, were constructed prob-

ably for religious and ritual purposes related to serpent worship. It is a cylindrical temple. It is said to be the temple of Maninag, the deity of the Rajghra. In the Pali texts, it has been called Manimaha Chaitya, while in the Mahabharata there is mention of the Maninag temple. From the art style of the images, this structure seems to be of the Gupta period", said Bhattacharya.

"We also completed core conservation work at Jarasandha's Baithaka, located in Rajgir, she said. According to archaeologists Magadh's great king Jarasandha's capital was Rajgir. According to the Mahabharata, this is where Bhima fought Jarasandha and Bhima ripped apart Jarasandha's body into two and threw it in two opposite directions to prevent it from rejoining and hence successfully killing Jarasandha in the process.

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NOTIFICATION NO.: IREL/OS/AA/2023
DATE OF NOTIFICATION: 11.10.2023
LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION: 04.11.2023

NOTIFICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF APPRENTICES FOR THE YEAR 2023-24 UNDER THE APPRENTICES ACT, 1961

IREL (India) Limited, OSCOM, Matikhalo, Chatrapur, District: Ganjam, Odisha, a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India engaged in mining, mineral separation and value addition of Atomic Minerals. The minerals and rare earth compounds produced by IREL (India) Limited are used in various industries as well as Strategic Sectors.

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Discipline: _____

4.0 Applications should be addressed to The Head of Department, HRM, IREL (India) Limited, OSCOM, A/P.O.: Matikhalo, District: Ganjam, Odisha-761 045. It should reach our office on or before the last date i.e. 04.11.2023. Also please visit our website <http://www.irel.co.in>, click on 'careers' option for downloading detailed notification & application format.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
ANGUL INVESTIGATION DIVISION, ANGUL
 Email id: seidangul@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice for Building Work in Odisha
Bid Identification No. Building Online AGL-01/2023-24 Dt. 18.10.23

No. 1511//
No. A-688: 1. Name of the Work: Building works. 2. Total No. of Work: 1 No. 3. Estimated Cost: Rs. 51.90 Lakhs Approx. 4. Class of Contractor: 'B' Class. 5. Period of Completion: 6 (Six) Calendar Months. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Angul Investigation Division, Angul	Building-Online-AGL-01/2023-24	20.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	04.11.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.	03.11.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.	06.11.2023 upto 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated separately

(1) For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
OIPR-32515/11/0001/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Angul Investigation Division, Angul

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA
 e-mail: rw_mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in

e-Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 16/RWD/BPD/2023-24

No. O-1333: 1. Name of the Work: Building Works. 2. Total No. of Works: 3 Nos. 3. Estimated Cost: Approx. Estimated Cost Rs. 19.76 lakhs to Rs. 37.14 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: 'D' & 'C' / 'C' & 'B'. 5. EMD: EMD @ 1% of Estimated Cost Put to Tender. 6. Period of Completion: 6 (Six) Calendar Months. 7. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender in the office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada	
		From	To		From	To
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Baripada	16 (Online)/RWD-BPD of 2023-24	Dt. 03.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 10.11.23 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 09.11.23 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 10.11.23 05.30 P.M.	

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-25057/11/0025/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. j-444:
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI: POTTANGI
DISTRICT- KORAPUT (ODISHA)

No. 2983/2023 **E-TENDER CALL NOTICE** **Date: 17.10.2023**
Bid Identification No. 03/2023-24

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (In Rs.)	Bid Security EMD in Rs.	Cost of Bid Documents (In Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of bid documents in the website for online bidding		Last date for online bidding	Date of Opening of Bids
							From	To		
1	Improvement of all weather road from RD road to Gandriguda	37.81,888/-	38,000/-	6,000/-	'C' & 'B'	04 (Four) Months	19.10.2023	03.11.2023	03.11.2023	04.11.2023
2	Const. of Vent-ed cause way submergible on the road from RD road to Jhan-karvalsa	42,12,556/-	43,000/-	6,000/-	'B' & 'A'	06 (Six) Months	19.10.2023	03.11.2023	03.11.2023	04.11.2023
3	Const. of CC road from RD road to Jhan-karvalsa	29,48,303/-	30,000/-	6,000/-	'C' & 'B'	03 (Three) months	19.10.2023	03.11.2023	03.11.2023	04.11.2023
4	Const. of CC road with paver block at Digugabdar Village	12,57,239/-	13,000/-	6,000/-	'D' & 'C'	03 (Three) Months	19.10.2023	03.11.2023	03.11.2023	04.11.2023
5	Demolition of Old NUPS building & Const. of New building at Telrai	14,73,684/-	14,800/-	6,000/-	'D' & 'C'	05 (Five) Months	19.10.2023	03.11.2023	03.11.2023	04.11.2023

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Pottangi
OIPR-19019/11/0007/2324

GOVT. OF ODISHA No. MM-231
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
ANGUL DIVISION, ANGUL
e-Procurement Notice ANGUL FOREST DIVISION
Bid Identification No.-05 of 2023-24
 e-mail ID- dfoangul@gmail.com

- Number of Works : 06 (Six) Number of Works
- Approximate estimated Cost : 7.26 to 17.53 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt. 18.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt. 02.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date of Opening Bid : Dt. 04.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid : Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division, Angul
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Angul Division, Angul
OIPR-08027/11/0013/2324

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A Gold Rated State PSU)
O/o. Sr. GENERAL MANAGER, RENGALI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, RENGALI
 P.O.: RENGALI DAM SITE, DIST.- ANGUL (ODISHA), INDIA, PIN- 759105
 TEL.: 06760-266031. E-mail: sgmel500@gmail.com
 CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963

TENDER CALL NOTICE No. - 30/2023-24
 No. CAD-2516: Sealed tenders are invited in two parts i.e. (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price Bid in separate sealed envelope from the registered agencies/contractor having valid licence & fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per the tender specification for the work as mentioned below.

Description of the Tender	Cost of Tender Paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	Estimated Amount/ EMD in shape of DD/ Banker's Cheque only (Refundable) in Rs.	Period of availability of tender at OHPCC website (Sale)	Last date & Time of receipt of Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Techno Commercial Bid
Annual Job Contract for operation and maintenance of water supply system of RHEP, Rengali for one year	Rs. 7080/- (Inclusive of GST @ 18%)	Rs. 15,23,419/- and EMD = Rs. 15,250/-	From Dt. 20.10.2023 to Dt. 01.11.2023 (Upto 03.00 P.M.)	From Dt. 01.11.2023 Upto 04.00 P.M.	From Dt. 01.11.2023 at 04.30 P.M.

For details and further correspondence/corrigendum, please visit our website www.ohpcitd.com.
OIPR-04022/11/0041/2324 Sd./- C & P Head, RHEP, Rengali

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
JHARSUGUDA FOREST DIVISION
 Email: dfo.jharsuguda@odisha.gov.in, Ph.: 06645-295040
BID IDENTIFICATION No. DFO-JSG-02/2023 (1F)/DATED
No. 315/1F (Accts.) Dated, Jharsuguda the 18 October, 2023

e-Procurement Notice

- Name of work : Construction of Civil Works under Jharsuguda Forest Division during the FY 2023-24
- Total No. of works : 06 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 10.13 to 16.94 (Excluding GST)
- Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
- Date of availability of bid documents in portal : 18.10.2023 to 31.10.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Upto 05.00 P.M. of 31.10.2023
- Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening : At 11.00 A.M. of 01.11.2023
- Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening : At 11.00 A.M. of 04.11.2023
- Class of Contractor : "C" & "D" Contractor
- Name and address of Office Inviting Bid : Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda Forest Division, Jharsuguda

(a) Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in/www.dfojharsuguda.org/www.jharsuguda.nic.in.
 (b) The addendum/corrigendum if any will be posted in the website only.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Jharsuguda Forest Division
OIPR-08054/11/0009/2324

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, GUDARI
DIST.: RAYAGADA

e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No.-GUD/NAC/03:2023-24
No. 1811 **Date: 18.10.23**
 No. C-1666:- **Type of Work:** for sanitation work such as Sweeping of roads, cleaning of drains & bush cutting in both sides of roads, Door to door collection of waste in a segregated manner (wet & Dry) in ward no -1 to 11 of Gudari NAC for 2023-2024. **2. Total no of works:** 1 (one) no of individual work. **3. Estimate cost:** Rs 1,95,700/- (per month). **4. Period of work:** 12 months. **5. Date and Time of Bid Document available in website:** 05.00 PM of 19.10.2023 to 06.00 P.M. of 08.11.2023. **6. The Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal:** up to 5.00 PM of 08.11.2023. **7. Date of opening Technical and Financial Bid:** 11.30 AM of 09.11.2023. **8. Name and Address of Officer Invited Bid:** Executive Officer, NAC Gudari. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-13184/11/0006/2324 Sd./- Executive Officer, NAC, Gudari

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A Gold Rated State PSU)
O/o. Sr. GENERAL MANAGER, RENGALI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
 P.O.: RENGALI DAM SITE, PIN- 759105, DISTRICT: ANGUL (ORISSA)
 TEL NO.: 06760-266031. E-mail: sgmel500@gmail.com
 No.: OHPCC/RHEP/CP/PUR-III-240-6920 Date: 19.10.2023

e-Procurement Notice
TENDER CALL NOTICE No. 31/2023-24
 No. CAD-2518:

Description of the Tender	Cost of Tender Paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD (Refundable)	Period of availability of tender at e-procurement website	Last date & Time of receipt of Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Techno Commercial Bid
Annual Sewerage and Sanitary Cleaning of Residential and Non-Residential Buildings under RHEP, Rengali	Rs. 7,080.00 (Rs. 6,000.00 + GST @ 18%)	Rs. 14,470/-	From Dt. 20.10.2023 to Dt. 01.11.2023 (Upto 05.00 P.M.)	Dt. 01.11.2023 Upto 04.00 P.M.	Dt. 02.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any shall only be published in the above website.
OIPR-04022/11/0039/2324 Sd./- C & P Head, RHEP, Rengali



Inntha ethnic people row a long boat carrying Buddha images to a monastery during the pagoda festival in Inlay Lake, southern Shan State, Myanmar



An artisan works on an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of the puja in Gurugram, Haryana



Madhya Pradesh police personnel during a rehearsal ahead of the Police Commemoration day, in Bhopal



French Navy personnel aboard the ship 'Languedoc', an Aquitaine class frigate commanded by Captain Christine Ribbe, during a goodwill visit to Mumbai



Farmers work in a paddy field near India-Pakistan border in RS Pura sector during harvesting season, on the outskirts of Jammu



Tourists at a snow covered area in Baderwah, Jammu and Kashmir



Muslims offer prayers during a demonstration in solidarity with people of Gaza, at Saidabad Eidgah, in Hyderabad, Telangana

national

of the day quote

The state government would reduce the Special Road Tax (SRT) and other taxes levied on tourist buses, tempo travellers and commercial tourist vehicles

I had filed an appeal before the court stating that the FIR is not right. During the Yediyurappa (BJP) government, because of political motives they had given sanction to CBI. They (CBI) have said (told court) that they have completed 90 per cent of the investigation, but till now I have not been called even once to inquire about my assets

I think it is that arrogance that has ensured that the Congress party, even in a Lok Sabha constituency called Amethi, in the past four-and-a-half years that I have been an MP from there, out of five Assembly constituencies has lost the security deposit in four

SHORT TAKES

HC dismisses Balaji's bail plea

Chennai: The Madras High Court Thursday dismissed the bail petition of DMK Minister V Senthil Balaji, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, saying he was likely to influence witnesses if enlarged on bail. Justice G Jayachandran dismissed the bail petition filed by Balaji.

NIA chargesheet against Bishnoi

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a charge sheet Thursday against gangster Lawrence Bishnoi in a case involving the seizure of around 39 kg heroin by the Gujarat Police, officials said. The agency filed the supplementary charge sheet in a special court under Indian Penal Code sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 465 (forgery) and 471 (fraud), besides provisions of the Information Technology Act, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, they said.

New RRTS trains to be known as 'Namoo Bharat'

New Delhi: Trains of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday, will be known as 'Namoo Bharat', Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced. The 17-km priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor is slated to be opened for passengers October 21.

Naga sadhu strangled

Ayodhya (UP): A 44-year-old Naga sadhu was allegedly strangled in the premises of Ayodhya's famous Hanumangarhi Temple, police said. The deceased has been identified as Ram Sahare Das (44), who was strangled late Wednesday evening.

AP HC adjourns Naidu's bail plea

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court Thursday adjourned the bail petition of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in the Skill Development Corporation scam case and transferred the hearing to a vacation bench. The Court told Naidu's lawyers that it was not inclined to grant him an interim bail in the case.

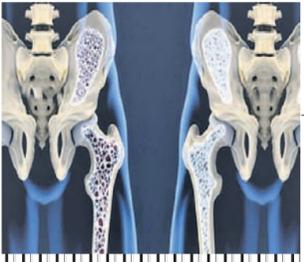


The Adani Group and its minions in the BJP attempted to discredit OCCRP as 'Soros-funded interests'. Now, it emerges that SEBI itself had approached OCCRP to get access to the documents proving that Adani was in fact indulging in round-tripping and money-laundering benami funds

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONG GENERAL SECY

MATTER OF CONCERN

India ranks number one in the total number of osteoporosis cases, said doctors on the eve of World Osteoporosis Day. There are 1.5 million osteoporosis cases identified in men due to lack of calcium, genetics and other factors



HAMAS-ISRAEL CONFLICT

PM speaks to Abbas

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday conveyed his condolences to President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas over the deaths of civilians at a hospital in Gaza and reiterated India's long-standing "principled position" on the Israel-Palestine issue.

In a phone conversation, Modi, at the same time, shared with Abbas India's "deep concern" over terrorism, violence and deteriorating security situation in the region.

He told the Palestine Authority president that New Delhi will continue to send humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people. "Spoke to the President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas. Conveyed my condolences at the loss of civilian lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza," Modi said on X.

"We will continue to send humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people. Shared our deep concern at the terrorism, violence and deteriorating security situation in the region," he said in a statement.

"Reiterated India's long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue," the Prime Minister added. Around 500 people were reported to have been killed Tuesday in the explosion



on the al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, triggering strong international condemnation.

Palestinian authorities blamed Israeli air strikes for the explosion at the hospital while Israel said it was caused by a misfired rocket launched from Gaza by militant group Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that Abbas received the phone call from Prime Minister Modi, during which the two leaders discussed the latest developments in Palestine and the importance of an immediate end of the Israeli aggression on Gaza.

It said Abbas emphasised the urgent need to halt "acts of aggression and the ongoing blockade in the Gaza Strip". The report said Abbas stressed the importance of delivering humanitarian aid, medical supplies, food, and ensuring access to water and electricity to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The Palestine president underlined that the policies, pro-

India calls for strict observance of int'l humanitarian law

New Delhi: Days after an explosion at a hospital in Gaza, India Thursday called for strict observance of the international humanitarian law as it expressed concern over the civilian casualties in the Israel-Hamas conflict. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, referring to Hamas's multi-pronged attack on Israeli cities October 7, said the international community must stand together in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

grams, and decisions of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) represent the legitimate and sole representation of the Palestinian people, the Wafa report said.

He reiterated that security and peace could only be achieved through the implementation of the two-state solution based on international legitimacy, it said.

The report said Modi, in turn, reaffirmed India's unwavering support for peace based on international law and expressed his solidarity with the Palestinian people during these trying times.

He emphasised the importance of returning to negotiations and dialogues to achieve a lasting peace in the region, it said. Modi Wednesday had expressed shock at the loss of lives in the attack on the Gaza hospital and that those involved in civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict should be held responsible.

OPERATION CHAKRA-2

CBI CONDUCTS SEARCHES AT 76 LOCATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The CBI has conducted searches at 76 locations across the country under Operation Chakra-2 after registering five separate cases of cyber-enabled financial fraud, including a ₹100-crore crypto scam, officials said Thursday.

One of the cases pertains to a racket siphoning off ₹100 crore of Indian citizens through a cryptocurrency fraud, they said. "This audacious scheme, under the guise of a fake crypto mining operation, targeted unsuspecting Indian citizens, resulting in a staggering loss of over ₹100 crore to Indian victims," the CBI spokesperson said.

The officials said that the case was registered based on "critical inputs" provided by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). They said two cases were registered on a complaint from Amazon and Microsoft that the accused ran call centres and posed as technical support of the companies to target foreign nationals.

The officials added that nine call centres were searched by the Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) under the operation.

"In these cases, the accused impersonated a global IT major and a multinational corporation with an online technology-driven trading platform. The accused... Operating across five states/UTs, systematically preyed on foreign nationals, masquerading as technical support representatives," the spokesperson said.

Ashok Gehlot insists on 'forgive & forget' formula



GEHLOT'S REMARKS CAME IN THE BACKDROP OF A POWER TUSSE WITH HIS FORMER DEPUTY SACHIN PILOT AHEAD OF THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 19: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Thursday said that he follows the principle of forgive and forget, and hence wants to leave the state's top post, but it is not leaving him.

Gehlot's remarks came in the backdrop of a power tussle with his former deputy Sachin Pilot ahead of the Assembly elections.

Addressing a Press conference here at the party headquarters, Gehlot said, "I want to leave the Chief Minister's post but it is not leaving me, and probably may not leave me in future too."

The Congress leader also said that there would be something in him that the party high command had chosen him to lead the state thrice. "Sonia Gandhi chose me for the chief ministerial candidate when she became the party chief for the first time. She chose me after looking at my performance. I was not the chief ministerial candidate but she selected me as the Chief Minister. When I lost the election and then I was again given the charge for the Chief Minister. And again when we lost in 2013 and won in 2018, I was chosen as the Chief Ministerial candidate," he said in a statement.

"I want to leave the Chief Minister's post but this post is not leaving me and it won't leave me," he asserted.

When asked about his differences with Pilot, Gehlot asserted that they are united. "I have said that we are united. When the people went with him (with Sachin Pilot in 2020) and yet their tickets are being cleared, what is more big example I can give. I have not opposed a single ticket. You can sense how much love we have for everyone," he said.

Gehlot also said that any decision taken by the leadership going forward would be acceptable to all. Gehlot's government had faced a rebellion led by Pilot and his loyalist MLAs in 2020 thus bringing the Congress government to the brink of collapse.

Pilot and his loyalists had camped together at a hotel on the outskirts of Jaipur and then at a Jaisalmer hotel.

NEWSCLICK ROW

SC issues notice to Delhi police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Supreme Court Wednesday sought response of the Delhi Police on pleas of NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and his HR head Amit Chakravarty against their arrest under anti-terror law UAPA.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Prashant Kumar Mishra issued notice to the Delhi Police and sought its response by October 30 after senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Devdatt Kamat, appearing for Purkayastha and Chakravarty, respectively, said they are in jail and the pleas be heard early.

On October 16, the top court agreed to list the matter urgently after Sibal mentioned it before the bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud. The CJI had asked Sibal to circulate the case papers and said he would take a call on urgent listing of the matter.

The Delhi High Court had October 13 dismissed their pleas against arrest and subsequent police remand in the case. Both were arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police October 3. They subsequently moved the high court challenging the arrest as well as the seven-day police custody, and sought immediate release as interim relief.



FESTIVE VIBES: An artiste gives final touches to a miniature idol of goddess Durga created with matchsticks, in Agartala, Tripura

Gowda sacks close aide who opposed JD(S)' alliance with BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 19: Janata Dal (Secular) patriarch H D Deve Gowda Thursday removed the party's Karnataka unit president and his close aide CM Ibrahim, days after the latter raised a banner of revolt against the party's decision to forge an alliance with the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Gowda dissolved the state working committee and ap-

pointed his son and former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy as its ad-hoc president.

Ibrahim reacted sharply to his sacking and warned of mounting a legal challenge against it, besides asserting he will reach out to the people.

Upset with the removal, he termed Gowda's decision as "Vinasha Kaale Vipareeta Buddhi" (As the doom approaches, one's intelligence

functions perversely). Addressing a press conference here, Gowda said, "Ibrahim has been removed as per the party constitution. I have removed him, and the new president H D Kumaraswamy has been appointed."

Kumaraswamy, a two-time CM of the state, is also the party's legislative unit president. Gowda's action came after Ibrahim revolted against the party's decision to strike an



electoral pact with the BJP. He had held a meeting with "like-minded" people of the JD(S)

October 16 and announced that the 'party' led by him was the original one. He also announced the formation of a core committee that would submit a memorandum to the party supremo that the JD(S) should not go with the BJP.

Gowda, a former Prime Minister, said all the state units of the JD(S) including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra had given their consent to align with the BJP.

1st long-lasting male contraceptive passes ICMR test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has completed the clinical trials of the world's first injectable male contraceptive which showed that it is safe and highly efficacious without any serious side effects.

The findings of the phase-III clinical trial, which involved 303 candidates aged 25-40 years, were published in the international open access Andrology journal last month.

The open-labelled and non-randomised, multi-centre hospital-based phase-III clinical trials were carried out at five different centres (New Delhi, Udhampur, Ludhiana, Jaipur

and Kharagpur) and coordinated by the ICMR, New Delhi.

Permission to conduct phase-III clinical trial was granted by the Drugs Controller General India (DCGI) and approved by the institutional ethical committees of the respective centres.

As part of the study, 303 healthy, sexually active and married men and their healthy and sexually active wives who came to the family planning clinic and department of urology or surgery for vasectomy or No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) were identified.

The men were injected with 60 mg of Reversible Inhibition of Sperm under Guidance (RISUG). "The overall efficacy of RISUG with respect to achieving



azoospermia was 97.3 per cent and based on pregnancy prevention was 99.02 per cent without any serious side effect," the study stated.

"In the history of contraceptive development, RISUG presents the highest effectiveness

compared to all other contraceptives both male and female as they were at the threshold of induction into a mass contraception program," it said.

According to the study, with an ever-increasing world population, there is an urgent need to

Permission to conduct phase-III clinical trials was granted by the Drugs Controller General India (DCGI) and approved by the institutional ethical committees of the respective centres

develop modern methods of male contraception for population control.

Even though vasectomy is quite effective as a contraceptive measure, some major limitations of this method call for the development of improved tech-

niques. An ideal male contraceptive approach should have minimally invasive drug delivery system with a one-time injection, long-term effectiveness with negligible side-effects and the option of reversal.

"To achieve these goals, a novel male contraceptive approach of Reversible Inhibition of Sperm under Guidance (RISUG) has been developed, which has the potential to become for mass use as once injectable and reversible male contraceptive method. Significant features of this method include localized injection and no detectable interaction with other body parts unlike the hormonal injectable contraceptives," the study said.

international

MAHSA AMINI AWARDED EU HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody in Iran last year, sparking worldwide protests against the country's conservative Islamic theocracy, was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize Thursday. The EU award, named for Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honour individuals or groups who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. Sakharov, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, died in 1989



NO WAY OUT



SUFFERING CONTINUES

THE BOMBARDMENTS CAME AFTER ISRAEL AGREED WEDNESDAY TO ALLOW EGYPT TO DELIVER LIMITED HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA, THE FIRST CRACK IN A PUNISHING 11-DAY SIEGE

MORE THAN 1 MILLION PALESTINIANS, ROUGHLY HALF OF GAZA'S POPULATION, HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES IN GAZA CITY AND OTHER PLACES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE TERRITORY SINCE ISRAEL TOLD THEM TO EVACUATE

FOLLOWING AIRSTRIKES EARLY THURSDAY, SIRENS WAILED AS EMERGENCY CREWS RUSHED TO RESCUE SURVIVORS FROM A BUILDING IN KHAN YOUNIS, WHERE MANY RESIDENTS WERE BELIEVED TRAPPED UNDER MISSHAPEN BED FRAMES, BROKEN FURNITURE AND CEMENT CHUNKS

dreds of thousands of Palestinians had sought shelter, was among the places hit. Medical personnel at Nasser Hospital said they received at least 12 dead and 40 wounded.

The bombardments came after Israel agreed



Wednesday to allow Egypt to deliver limited humanitarian aid to Gaza, the first crack in a punishing 11-day siege. Many among Gaza's 2.3 million residents are down to one meal a day and drinking dirty water.

The announcement of a plan to bring water, food and other supplies into Gaza came as fury over a Tuesday night explosion at Gaza City's al-Ahli Hospital spread across the Middle East. There were conflicting claims of who was behind the blast, which health authorities in Hamas said had killed hundreds of Palestinians.

Hamas officials in Gaza blamed an Israeli airstrike. Israel denied it was involved and released a flurry of video, audio and other information that it said showed the blast was caused by a rocket misfire by Islamic Jihad, another militant group operating in Gaza. Islamic Jihad dismissed the Israeli claim.

The Associated Press has not independently verified any of the claims or evidence. US President Joe Biden, who visited Israel Wednesday, said data from his Defense Department showed the explosion was not likely caused by an Israeli airstrike.

The White House later said an analysis of "overhead imagery, intercepts and open-source information" showed Israel was not behind the attack. But the US continues to collect evidence. Video

from the scene showed the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. Hundreds of wounded were rushed to Gaza City's main hospital, where doctors already facing critical supply shortages were sometimes forced to perform surgery on the floors, without anesthesia.

More than 1 million Palestinians, roughly half of Gaza's population, have fled their homes in Gaza City and other places in the northern part of the territory since Israel told them to evacuate. Most have crowded into UN-run schools-turned-shelters or the homes of relatives. Following airstrikes early Thursday, sirens wailed as emergency crews rushed to rescue survivors from a building in Khan Younis, where many residents were believed trapped under misshapen bed frames, broken furniture and cement chunks.

A small, soot-covered child, unconscious and dangling in the arms of a rescue worker, was taken out of a damaged building and rushed toward a waiting ambulance. Gaza's Hamas-led



Every civilian death is a tragedy. And too many lives have been lost following Hamas's horrific act of terror. The attack on Al Ahli hospital should be a watershed moment for leaders in the region and across the world to come together to avoid further dangerous escalation of conflict. I will ensure the UK is at the forefront of this effort

RISHI SUNAK | UK PM

Look, Israel has been badly victimised. But the truth is that if they have an opportunity to relieve the suffering of people who have nowhere to go, it's what they should do. And if they don't, they'll be held accountable in ways that may be unfair

JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

government said several bakeries in the territory were hit in the overnight strikes, making it even harder for residents to get food.

The Israeli military said it killed a top Palestinian militant in Rafah, near the Egyptian border, and hit hundreds of targets across Gaza, including militant tunnel shafts, intelligence infrastructure and command centres. It said it also hit dozens of mortar-launching posts, most of them immediately after they launched shells at Israel. Palestinians have launched barrages of rockets at Israel since the fighting began.

Israel has said it is attacking Hamas militants wherever they may be in Gaza, and accused the group's leaders and fighters of taking shelter among the civilian population, leaving Palestinians feeling in constant danger.

The Musa family fled to the typically sleepy central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah and took shelter in a cousin's three-story home near the local hospital. But at 7.30 pm Wednesday, a series of explosions, believed to be airstrikes, rocked the building, turning the family home into a mountain of rubble that they said buried some 20 women and children.

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip): Israeli airstrikes pounded locations across the Gaza Strip early Thursday, including parts of the south that Israel had declared as safe zones, heightening fears among more than 2 million Palestinians trapped in the territory that nowhere was safe.

In the nearly two weeks since a devastating Hamas rampage in southern Israel, the Israeli military has relentlessly attacked Gaza in response. Even after Israel told Palestinians to evacuate the north and head to what it called "safe zones" in the south, strikes continued across the territory overnight and Palestinian militants continued firing rockets into Israel.

A residential building in Khan Younis, a city in southern Gaza where hun-



Lebanese army soldiers scuffle with protesters during a demonstration in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza, near the US embassy in Aukar, a northern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon



Russia offers security talks with NK, China

Seoul, Oct 19: Russia's foreign minister proposed regular security talks with North Korea and China to deal with what he described as increasing US-led regional military threats, as he met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top diplomat on Thursday during a visit to Pyongyang.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in North Korea's capital on Wednesday on a two-day trip expected to focus on how to boost the two countries' defence ties following a September summit between Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Last week, the United States said North Korea had transferred munitions to Russia to boost its fighting capabilities in Ukraine in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any weapons trading involving North Korea.



In this photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service via their telegram channel, Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov greet each other during a meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea

Thursday, Lavrov met Kim for talks that lasted about an hour, Russia's state-run Tass news agency reported, without elaborating. Lavrov met his North Korean counterpart, Choe Son Hui, earlier Thursday and lauded deepening bilateral collaboration.

Lavrov and Choe discussed "resuming full-fledged contacts" and intensifying economic cooperation, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It added that Lavrov invited Choe

to visit Moscow "at her convenience." The ministry also said Lavrov recommended that Russian tourists start holidaying in North Korea.

Tass also quoted Lavrov as telling reporters that he supports holding regular talks on security issues on the Korean Peninsula with North Korea and China.

The Lavrov-Kim meeting "means that the recent fleet of containers likely carrying munitions from North Korea to Russia was not the last Kim-Putin transaction the world has to worry about," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor of international studies at Ewha University in Seoul.

"After accepting Pyongyang's help to resupply the illegal invasion of Ukraine, Moscow is set to commit further violations of U.N. Security Council resolutions by providing North Korea with weapons technology that could threaten stability in East Asia," Easley said.

China has over 500 nuclear bombs: US

Washington, Oct 19: China has more than 500 nuclear bombs in its arsenal and is developing new Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) that will significantly improve its nuclear-capable missile forces, the Pentagon said Thursday.

In its latest report on China sent to the US Congress, the Pentagon said that over the next decade, China will continue to rapidly modernise, diversify, and expand its nuclear forces.

"The PRC (People's Republic of China) is developing new ICBMs that will significantly improve its nuclear-capable missile forces and will require increased nuclear warhead production, partially due to the introduction of multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) capabilities," the Pentagon said in the report.

PRESIDENT'S HOUSE CASH CASE Graft case against Gotabaya dropped

Colombo, Oct 19: Citing lack of evidence, Sri Lanka's anti-graft commission has dropped a case against former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in which more than Rs 17 million was discovered by protesters from the President's House here in July 2022.

The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) on Wednesday reported to the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court that due to lack of evidence, no further action can be taken against the 74-year-old politician.

The Bribery Commission informed the court that further legal proceedings regarding this incident would not be taken owing to insufficient evidence to proceed with the matter, the Daily Mirror online reported



on Thursday.

More than Rs 17 million in cash was found at the President's House in Fort Colombo after Rajapaksa fled the President's House on July 9 last year following the uprising against him. Tens of thousands of protesters stormed the President's House in the capital in July last year demanding his resignation. The anti-government protesters discovered over Rs 17.85 million in cash and handed over the money to the Colombo Fort police.

Rajapaksa later applied to the court to return the cash to him.

business

of the day quote

Air India Group to take delivery of one new aircraft every six days on an average till the end of 2024
CAMPBELL WILSON | CEO AND MD, AIR INDIA

With the surge in newly available spaces and the onset of the festive season, we anticipate a continued upswing in space utilization
ANSHUMAN MAGAZINE | CHAIRMAN & CEO (INDIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, ME & AFRICA), CBRE

We received the license (to launch operations) in October 2020. We want to grow AUM to ₹50,000 crore by 2028. This year we expect to reach ₹10,000 crore that is by March 2024
MANISH SHAH | MD AND CEO, GODREJ GROUP

RESULTS CORNER

PVR back to black

New Delhi: Leading cinema exhibitor PVR INOX Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹166.3 crore for the September quarter. The company, earlier known as PVR Ltd, posted a net loss of ₹71.2 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations for the second quarter of the current fiscal stood at ₹1,999.9 crore. In the year-ago period, the same was at ₹686 crore.

HUL profit drops

New Delhi: Hindustan Unilever Ltd Thursday reported a marginal decline in consolidated net profit at ₹2,657 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2023. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹2,670 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated total income stood at ₹15,806 crore in the quarter under review, as compared to ₹15,253 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Nestle net surges

New Delhi: FMCG major Nestle India Ltd Thursday reported an increase of 37.28 per cent in net profit at ₹908.08 crore for the third quarter ended September 30, 2023. The company, which follows the January-December financial year, had posted a net profit of ₹661.46 crore in the same period a year ago, Nestle India said. Nestle India's net sales rose 9.43 per cent to ₹5,009.52 crore during the period under review, as against ₹4,577.44 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal, the company said.

UltraTech shines

New Delhi: UltraTech Cement Ltd Thursday reported a 68.75 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹1,280.38 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2023. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹758.7 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, UltraTech said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹16,012.13 crore, as against ₹13,892.69 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Coforge net slides

New Delhi: IT company Coforge posted a 10 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit for the September quarter at ₹181 crore, partly on account of a one-time increase in ESOP costs. The IT solutions company reaffirmed its 2023-24 revenue growth guidance of 13-16 per cent. Consolidated Profit After Tax for the second quarter of the current fiscal was at ₹181 crore, 10 per cent lower than the year-ago period.



Prices are expected to remain stable during the festival season. We are not anticipating any manner of hike (in food item prices) in the festival season. Hopefully, prices should rule stable in the next couple of months
SANJEEV CHOPRA | UNION FOOD SECRETARY

NOKIA TO AXE 14K EMPLOYEES

Finnish telecom gear group Nokia Thursday said it will cut up to 14,000 jobs as part of a new cost savings plan after third-quarter sales drop 20% due to slowing sales of 5G equipment in markets such as North America



BOOST TO 'MAKE IN INDIA'

THE TECH GIANT JOINS GROWING LIST OF GLOBAL FIRMS SETTING UP PLANTS IN THE FASTEST EMERGING MARKET IN ASIA

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 19: Alphabet Inc's Google will start manufacturing smartphones in India and its flagship Pixel 8 will be available next year, an executive said Thursday, as the tech giant joins global companies setting up facilities in the South Asian nation. At a Google for India event, Rick Osterloh, senior vice president of devices and services, said Google will partner with international and domestic manufacturers to produce the smartphones locally. The company also announced plans to allow users to book metro tickets directly from the Google maps app. "Earlier, 98 per cent mobile

Google to make Pixel phones in India

THE TECH GIANT JOINS GROWING LIST OF GLOBAL FIRMS SETTING UP PLANTS IN THE FASTEST EMERGING MARKET IN ASIA

phones that were used in India were imported. Now, 98 per cent mobile phones (used in the country) are made in India. Electronics companies now want to set up their base in India. India has emerged as a trusted value chain partner. Google's announcement to make Pixel smartphones in India is a big achievement of the government's made in India policy," Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. Google, which runs one of the largest payment apps via Google Pay, also said Thursday it will tie up with an Indian non-bank lender, DMI Finance, for small loans for merchants starting at ₹15,000.



First India-made Pixel devices are expected to roll out in 2024

Google Pay already disburses loans via tie-ups with a number of lenders and will also introduce credit via UPI, a facility recently allowed by the central bank, in partnership with large banks. The stronger push into lending comes at a time when demand for small personal loans in the country is soaring, prompt-

India is a priority market for Pixel smartphones, and we're committed to bringing the best of our hardware and underlying built-in software capabilities to people across the country

RICK OSTERLOH | SENIOR VP OF DEVICES AND SERVICES, GOOGLE

ing concern from the Indian central bank. Google counts India as a key growth market, where most smartphones run on its Android ecosystem. But it also faces business and regulatory challenges there - startups and companies like Disney have legally challenged some of its in-app policies. Google is also fighting several antitrust battles including one related to

alleged abuse of its position in the Android market.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Google's plans to open a global fintech operations centre at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) during a virtual meeting last week with Alphabet's Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai.

Global companies are eyeing India as their next growth driver, including Apple which is projected to account for 7% of all smartphone sales in the country from July to December, according to data from market researcher Counterpoint.

US memory chip firm Micron Technology recently announced plans to set up its first semiconductor plant in the country.

INDIA SPENT OVER ₹3.85L-CR ON COAL IMPORTS LAST YR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: The country spent more than ₹3.85 lakh crore on coal imports last year, the government said Thursday.

Though the share of coal import in total consumption came down from 26 per cent to 21 per cent in the last five years, India is importing more than 200 million tonnes (MT) of dry fuel every year, incurring huge foreign exchange outflow.

"The goal of coal ministry is to enhance coal production to ensure adequate availability of coal for fast growing economy of the country. As a result of efforts of the ministry, the share of imports in total consumption reduced from 26 per cent to 21 per cent during last 5 years," it said. Meanwhile, the ministry said it is deeply concerned about protecting forests and no coal mine has been auctioned by ignoring suggestions of the environment ministry.

For example, it said, the plea of Chhattisgarh to de-notify coal mines falling under Lemru Elephant Corridor has been accepted. Areas beyond Lemru Elephant Corridor have also been considered for exemption on the request of the state government.

"Over 40 new coal blocks having about 10 per cent of reserve of Chhattisgarh has been decided to be kept out of coal mining," it said. Nine coal mines falling in dense Hasdeo-Arand coal field have also been kept out for further round of auctions of coal blocks.

₹1.36L-crore GST evasion in FY24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: GST Intelligence Officers have detected GST evasion of ₹1.36 lakh crore in the current fiscal, the finance ministry said Wednesday.

In the 2022-23 fiscal, GST officers had detected evasion of over ₹1 lakh crore. Six months into the current fiscal, the evasion detection has crossed last year's number.

"Overall in FY 2023-24, ₹1.36 lakh crore has been detected as overall GST evasion (including fake ITC) and voluntary payment of ₹14,108 crore has been made for the same," the ministry said.

A total of 1,040 fake ITC cases involving ₹14,000 crore have been detected so far in the current fiscal. As many as 91 fraudsters have been apprehended till date.

In case of evasion through fake input tax credit (ITC) between April 2020-September, 2023, GST intelligence officers have detected ₹57,000 crore tax evasion.

INVESTORS SPOOKED

Bearish trend drags indices for 2nd day



Shares fell tracking a selloff in global stocks on worries over escalating tensions in the Middle East

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 19: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure for the second straight session Thursday as a bearish trend in global markets amid escalating geopolitical uncertainties unnerved investors.

Besides, disappointing quarterly earnings numbers and revenue forecast from IT services company Wipro also weighed on investor sentiments, traders said.

Metal, energy and power stocks witnessed selling pressure while buying in auto and consumer durable counters capped the losses.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 247.78 points or 0.38 per cent to settle at 65,629.24 points. During the day, it plunged 533.52 points or 0.80 per cent to 65,343.50 points. The Nifty declined 46.40 points

or 0.24 per cent to 19,624.70 points.

Among the Sensex firms, Wipro fell nearly 3 per cent after the company reported an almost flat consolidated net profit at ₹2,667.3 crore for the September quarter, trailing street expectations. It has also projected up to 3.5 per cent fall in revenue in the current quarter due to a weak global economic outlook and uncertain business environment.

NTPC, Tech Mahindra, JSW Steel, Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Reliance Industries were among the other major laggards.

The rupee traded in a narrow range to settle 5 paise higher at 83.23 (provisional) against the US dollar Thursday, tracking softening crude prices in the international markets amid lingering geopolitical uncertainties.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,831.84 crore Wednesday.

On Wednesday, the BSE benchmark plunged 551.07 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 65,877.02 points while the Nifty declined 140.40 points or 0.71 per cent to 19,671.10 points.

Tiny personal loans' rise sparks concern

THE RISE IN SMALL LOANS HAS SHARPLY OUTPACED OVERALL BANK CREDIT GROWTH OF ABOUT 15% OVER THE PAST YEAR

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 19: India's central bank has urged lenders to tighten controls on tiny personal loans following a surge in borrowing by low income consumers and may impose stricter measures to avert risks of a blowout in defaults, two people familiar with the matter said.

While bad loans in India's banking sector are at a decade-low, estimated at 3.6% of assets by March 2024 by the central bank, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said this month the central bank was monitoring some categories of personal loans, without elaborating.

What's worrying the regulator is a surge in tiny personal loans, particularly loans of up to ₹10,000 taken for three to four months, often for "lifestyle" spending, according to a person familiar with the central bank's thinking. It was not determined when the regulator may tighten its rules.

Four people discussed the central bank's concerns with Reuters but declined to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Delinquencies for loans under ₹50,000 were at 8.1% as of June 2023, data from credit bureau CRIF Highmark shows. This is well above the 1.4% bad loan ratio for all retail loans as of March 2023, according to the latest RBI data.

Ismail Sayyed, a 30-year old cab



driver from Mumbai, took his first personal loan of ₹5,000 this year. He used some of it to buy a mobile phone and the rest on eating out. But he fell behind on payments, and loan collection agents landed at his doorstep. "Why would three people show up to collect such a small amount?" he said.

The total value of loans below ₹10,000 grew 37% in the financial year ending March 31, 2023, while loans of ₹10,000-50,000 rose 48%, according to CRIF data.

By volume, 38% of loans below ₹10,000 in the last 12 months were outside the country's top 100 cities, CRIF said in response to Reuters queries.

RISE IN LEVERAGE, HIGHER RISK

The increase in leverage pushed India's net household financial savings to a 50-year low of 5.1% of gross domestic product in the year ended March 31, 2023, data released by RBI last month showed.

Illegal betting: Tax loss of ₹2L-cr annually

According to the report at a baseline estimated deposits of ₹8,20,000 crore for betting at current GST rate of 28%, India is losing ₹2,29,600 crore per annum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: As Cricket World Cup 2023 is gaining momentum, illegal betting activities are also picking up steam with crores of rupees invested through informal routes leading to a loss of about ₹2 lakh crore to tax authorities, a report said.

The illegal sports betting market receives an estimated inflow of ₹8,20,000 crore (\$100 billion) per annum from India, according to Think Change Forum (TCF) report.

Factors such as digital infrastructure growth, smartphone usage, and the expansion of athletic events have contributed to this kind of inflow, it said.

Despite regulatory restrictions, India's illegal betting and gambling market has shown remarkable growth, it said.

To restrict such activities, the report suggested strict implementation of the new GST regime by establishing a task force to monitor illegal offshore betting activities and forcing



offshore operators to register in India to protect the outflow from legal gaming platforms to offshore platforms.

Without such stringent measures, the new regime could lead to the diversion of growth from legal gaming companies to illegal betting platforms and offshore operators, resulting in substantial tax losses for the government, it said.

In India, it said, cricket dominates, with the Indian Premier League (IPL) being a significant

driver of betting activity. As per estimates, more than 140 million people in India participate in betting and gambling regularly and this number shoots up to 370 million during the IPL.

The report highlighted that a ban on betting and gambling transactions under India's exchange control regulations drives offshore gambling firms to employ covert methods for moving money both within and outside the country, it said. According to the report, there

Funds are funnelled through mechanisms like hawala, cryptos, and other illicit channels, posing a threat to the nation's financial stability

are more than 75 betting and gambling sites that specifically target the Indian population, many of which persist in their operations despite legal bans.

To further attract Indian users, it said, they have secured the endorsement of popular Bollywood actors and sports figures as their brand ambassadors.

Delay in forming of Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) will allow illegal offshore betting sites to mushroom, as without these regulators will have no authoritative instrument to classify legal and illegal operators, it added.

POLICY DILUTION

No curbs on import of laptops & tablets

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Indian government Thursday decided to allow restriction-free imports of laptops and tablets, and launched a new system of "authorization" aimed at monitoring shipments of such hardware without hurting market supply.

The new "import management system" takes effect from November 1 and requires companies to register the quantity and value of imports, but the government will not reject any import requests and will use the data for monitoring, the officials said.

Its purpose is "to ensure that all this provides us with the kind of data and information we need to make sure that we have a completely trusted digital system," said S Krishnan, the top bureaucrat in the electronics and infotech ministry.

On August 3, India imposed a licensing regime on laptops and



tablet imports, but quickly deferred the decision following criticism from industry and Washington. That plan would have allowed the government to hold up or reject import requests while requiring a licence for every shipment.

The decision spells relief for global laptop makers such as Dell, HP, Apple, Samsung and Lenovo, which had been unnerved by the abrupt announcement of a licensing regime in August.

India's electronics and software imports, which include laptops, tablets and personal computers, stood at \$33.6 billion in the April to August period, up nearly 8% from last year.

CHASE DONE, CHASE ON

Australia, Pakistan look to revive WC campaign



KOHLI NOW ONE SHY OF SACHIN'S CENTURY RECORD IN ODIs AFTER HIS 48TH TON POWERS INDIA TO 7-WICKET WIN OVER BANGLADESH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 19: The legend of Virat Kohli continued to grow exponentially as he reached within handshaking distance of Sachin Tendulkar's world record of 49 hundreds during India's walk-in-the-park seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in a World Cup game on Thursday.

Kohli, who plans 50-over chases with a precision of a surgeon, remained unbeaten on 103 (97b, 6x4, 4x6) as India knocked off the 258-run target with as many as 51 balls remaining. India have now made it four wins out of four games and one more win would virtually put them in semi-finals.

It was Kohli's exemplary running between the wickets in pursuit of his 48th hundred that would be etched in the memory for the longest time. But credit should also go to Ravindra Jadeja (2/38) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/41), who were exemplary covering all bases in absence of Hardik Pandya, who hobbled off the field after twisting his left ankle.

While skipper Rohit Sharma (48, 40b, 7x4, 2x6) and Shubman Gill (53, 55b, 5x4, 2x6) added 88 in just 12.4 overs to set up the chase, it was a cakewalk for Kohli at a venue, with which he shares an intimate relation.

Earlier, as has been the case with each of India's opponents in the World Cup so far, scoring runs against arguably the best bowling attack in the competition proved a big ask for Bangladesh too, who managed a modest 256/8 on a batting-friendly surface.

In fact, Bangladesh squandered a terrific start which had them placed formidably at 90 for no loss after 14 overs, but India's bowling once again came to fore on a featherbed here.

India lost Pandya as early as in the ninth over, when he tried to stop a straight drive off Litton Das' bat with his right foot and fell on the ground.



With all options at his perusal, the fact that Rohit chose Kohli to complete the injured Pandya's over — with India still in search of first breakthrough — showed how assured India are with their bowling attack in this competition.

Kuldeep Yadav (1/47) provided the first breakthrough and Jadeja the second, as it was India all the way with Bangladesh going at under five runs per over after a robust beginning.

The initial exchanges belonged to the young Tanzid Hasan (51, 43b, 5x4, 3x6), who struck a dazzling maiden fifty. Litton made 82-ball 66 (7x4), whereas Rahim's 38 and a late charge from Mahmudullah (46, 36b, 3x4, 3x6) brought the Tigers their runs.

BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh 256/8 (Litton Das 66, Tanzid Hasan 51, Mahmudullah 46, Mushfiqur Rahim 38; Ravindra Jadeja 2/38, Jasprit Bumrah 2/41, Mohammed Siraj 2/60) lost to India 261/3 (Virat Kohli 103 n o, Shubman Gill 53, Rohit Sharma 48, KL Rahul 34 n o; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 2/47) by 7 wickets.

48 The century against Bangladesh became his 48th in ODIs, just one behind record holder Sachin Tendulkar (49). This was also his 78th international century

26026 Virat Kohli's international runs in 511 matches as he surpassed Mahela Jayawardene (25957) to become the fourth in the list after Sachin (34357), Kumar Sangakkara (28016) and Ricky Ponting (27483)

Injury scare for India

PUNE: In a major injury scare for India, star all-rounder Hardik Pandya hobbled off the field after twisting his ankle while bowling his first over against Bangladesh, here Thursday. Pandya suffered the injury during the third delivery of the ninth over when he attempted to stop a straight drive from Bangladesh opener Litton Das with his right foot in his follow-through. He twisted his ankle as the ball passed under his leg and he stumbled to the ground. BCCI in its medical update, said: "Hardik Pandya's injury is being assessed at the moment and he is being taken for scans."



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 19: Australia's cricketing DNA is constructed by meticulousness and Pakistan's by explosiveness. When they meet each other here Friday, Australia and Pakistan will have to regain those qualities in batting and bowling to infuse a fresh life into their World Cup campaign, which is yet to go into overdrive.

Pakistan's strength lies in their ability to play fearless cricket in the face of pressure. Make a quick rewind to their glory year of 1992 for a validation of that remark. But in this World Cup, they caved in at the first hint of real pressure, a match against India. There simply was no fight in their seven-wicket battering by the Men in Blue.

That mammoth chase of 345 at Hyderabad in their second match came on a featherbed against a vastly short of quality Sri Lanka, and taking it as a pointer will be sheer naivety.

Now, the Aussies offer another genuine pressure point to the Green Brigade. A side immersed in their own turmoil, the five-time champions are no India but they are a rival not to be scoffed at. Pakistan will know that very well because Australia hold a 69-34 advantage in ODIs and a 6-4 edge in the 50-over World Cups. Pakistan perforce will have to shed their timidity.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Aussies are in an even



bigger hole. The defeats against India and South Africa have put them in an unenviable position where even one more loss can further peg back their semifinal ambitions. Their victory over Sri Lanka is just a baby step as they have to build on it to reach the knockout stage.

The batters are the main culprits for pushing the Aussies into that squishy place. Apart from Josh Inglis no other Australian batsman has made a fifty in this event, and Marnus Labuschagne is the only batter to have scored more than 100 runs in total.

If anything, it shows a total downtime of their batting unit, and they need to better it against Pakistan. But that does not absolve the Australian bowlers from their faults. While Starc, Adam Zampa and Josh Hazlewood have tried to keep things tight, skipper Pat Cummins remains a loose end in their bowling. But the only hindrance for that is the smooth deck and shorter boundaries at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, often a friend of the batters.



Messi earns USD 20.4mn with Inter Miami contract

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Oct 19: Lionel Messi's annualized compensation from his Major League Soccer contract with Inter Miami is just over USD 20.4 million, the MLS Players Association said. Messi earns more than the entire payroll of all but three other MLS teams and twice as much as every player combined on Orlando City.

The 36-year-old star has a USD 12 million base salary and total guaranteed compensation of USD 20,446,667 — the players association said in its 2023 salary update.

Those figures cover what Messi receives from his MLS deal, which runs through the 2025 season, including any marketing bonus and agent's fees. They do not account for any additional agreements with the team or its affiliates, or for any performance bonuses.

He has the highest total compensation in MLS, followed by Toronto's Lorenzo Insigne at USD 15.4 million, Chicago's Xherdan Shaqiri at USD 8,153,000, the LA Galaxy's Javier Hernandez at USD 7,443,750, Toronto's Federico Bernardeschi

at USD 6,295,381 and Austin's Sebastian Driussi at USD 6,022,500.

Miami top the league with a USD 39.4 million payroll based on total guaranteed compensation, followed by Toronto at USD 32.3 million, the LA Galaxy at USD 25 million and LAFC at USD 20.8 million.

Messi earns more than twice the USD 9.6 million payroll of Orlando City, which has the lowest in the league. He accounts for 4% of MLS's total compensation of USD 501.9 million.

Messi has made three league starts and five appearances for Miami, totaling 283 minutes and scoring one goal. He also helped the team win the inaugural Leagues Cup, scoring 10 goals in seven games. Josef Martinez is Miami's second-highest-compensated player at USD 4,391,667.

Two of Messi's former Barcelona teammates who joined him in Miami are getting far less. Midfielder Sergio Busquets has a USD 1.5 million salary and USD 1,775,000 in guaranteed compensation, and defender Jordi Alba has a USD 1 million salary and USD 1.25 million in guaranteed compensation.

Sindhu enters Denmark Open quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Odense, Oct 19: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu fought her way to the women's singles quarterfinals with a come-from-behind win over World No.7 Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia at the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here Thursday.

A former World Champion Sindhu, who had reached the semifinals at Arctic Open last week, produced a gritty show to bounce back from a game down to outwit Tunjung 18-21, 21-15, 21-13 in a 71-minute second round match.

The Indonesian had defeated Sindhu twice in the last three meetings this year, including one at the Madrid Spain Masters final, though the Indian came into the match with an overall 8-2 head-to-head record.

Sindhu has been going through poor form this season, having returned from the Hangzhou Asian Games without a medal and things looked bleak for the Indian after she fell behind 6-12 and



conceded the opening game against the Indonesian.

However, she returned with vengeance in the second game, blazing her way to a 13-4 lead in

a dominating run of play. Soon, the Indonesian reeled off eight straight points to draw parity at 14-14 but two flick serves helped Sindhu to move ahead as she

grabbed six game points when Tunjung went long. Sindhu squandered one before sending a precise lift at the baseline to take the match to the decider.

After some early blows, it was 3-3 in the third game. Sindhu disposed of a serve with a straight smash but then went wide at net to allow the advantage slip. A series of forehand cross hits kept Sindhu under pressure as she continued to make errors. In no time, Sindhu was trailing 5-9.

But the Indian was back on level terms after drawing errors out of her rival. Tunjung grabbed a narrow one point advantage after two precise returns on her opponent's forehand but Sindhu again fought back to draw level at 13-13 after Tunjung went long twice.

The young Indonesian imploded as she made too many errors on the backline and at net as Sindhu jumped to 18-13 in a blink of an eye. A reverse drop took her to seven match points and Sindhu sealed it with a diving save as her opponent sent the shuttle to the net.

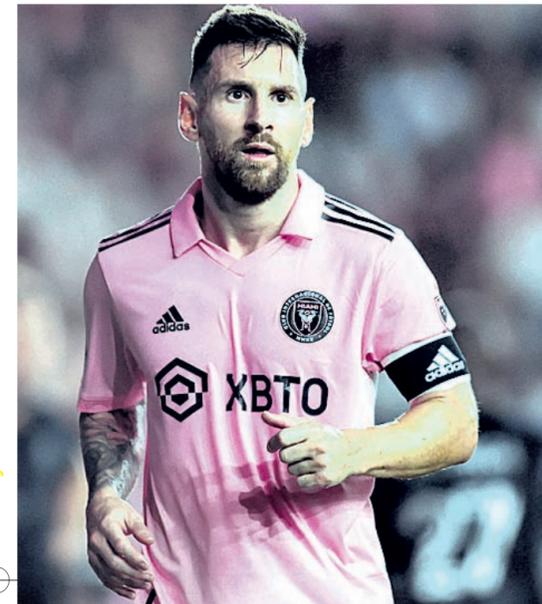
Mathews, Chameera to join Lankan squad as travelling reserves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: Veteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews and pacer Dushmantha Chameera will join Sri Lanka's World Cup squad in Lucknow on Friday as travelling reserves, country's cricket board announced Thursday.

Both Mathews and Chameera last played in an ODI series against Afghanistan in June. The 36-year-old Mathews is a veteran of 221 games with close to 6000 runs and 120 wickets under his belt. Of late, he has not bowled much and plays as a specialist batter only. Right-arm pacer Chameera, 31, has played 44 ODIs taking 50 wickets.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce that Angelo Mathews and Dushmantha Chameera will join the team in India as travelling reserves," SLC posted on X. Sri Lanka will next play against the Netherlands October 21 in Lucknow.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: There was no surprise in store as all the marquee players, including Mumbai Indians' Harmanpreet Kaur, Delhi Capitals' Meg Lanning and Royal Challengers Bangalore's Smriti Mandhana, have been retained by their respective Women's Premier League (WPL) franchises, the league announced Thursday.

The window for the five franchises to retain players for the WPL 2024 season came to an end October 15. While 60 players, including 21 overseas cricketers, were retained across five franchises, 29 players were released from their existing squads.

Besides Kaur, who led MI to title triumph in the tournament's inaugural edition this year, the team has retained Hayley Matthews, Yastika Bhatia, Natalie Sciver-Brunt, Amelia Kerr and Isabelle Wong among others.



The Delhi-based franchise, which finished runners-up in the first edition, retained a total of 15 players, including 5 overseas players.

The UP Warriorz, who finished third, have retained their core group and have decided to hold on to the services of five of their overseas players, while the South African ace pacer Shabnim Ismail has been released. Also re-

leased from the squad are Devika Vaidya, Simran Shaikh and Shivali Shinde.

Speaking about the players released from the team, Delhi Capitals' head coach Jonathan Batty said, "It wasn't an easy decision at all for us to let go of these players. They were all a crucial part of our very memorable inaugural season, and I wish them all the very best.

DELHI CAPITALS

Retained: Alice Capsey, Arundhati Reddy, Jemimah Rodrigues, Jess Jonassen, Laura Harris, Marizanne Kapp, Meg Lanning, Minnu Mani, Poonam Yadav, Radha Yadav, Shafali Verma, Shikha Pandey, Sneha Deepthi, Taniyaa Bhatia, Titas Sadhu; **Released:** Aparna Mondal, Jasia Akhter, Tara Norris

GUJARAT GIANTS

Retained: Ashleigh Gardner, Beth Mooney, Dayalan Hemalatha, Harleen Deol, Laura Wolvaardt, Shabnam Shakil, Sneha Rana, Tanuja Kanwer; **Released:** Annabel Sutherland, Ashwani Kumari, Georgia Wareham, Hurley Gala, Kim Garth, Mansi Joshi, Monica Patel, Parunika Sisodia, Sabbineni Meghana, Sophia Dunkley, Sushma Verma

MUMBAI INDIANS

Retained: Amanjot Kaur, Amelia Kerr, Chloe Tryon, Harmanpreet Kaur, Hayley Matthews, Humairaa Kaazi, Isabelle Wong, Jintimani

Kalita, Natalie Sciver, Pooja Vastrakar, Priyanka Bala, Saika Ishaque, Yastika Bhatia; **Released:** Dhara Gujjar, Heather Graham, Neelam Bisht, Sonam Yadav

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

BANGALORE

Retained: Asha Shobana, Disha Kasat, Ellyse Perry, Heather Knight, Indrani Roy, Kanika Ahuja, Renuka Singh, Richa Ghosh, Shreyanka Patil, Smriti Mandhana, Sophie Devine; **Released:** Dané Van Niekerk, Erin Burns, Komal Zanzad, Megan Schutt, Poonam Khemnar, Preeti Bose, Sahana Pawar

UP WARRIORZ

Retained: Alyssa Healy, Anjali Sarvani, Deepthi Sharma, Grace Harris, Kiran Navgire, Lauren Bell, Laxmi Yadav, Parshavi Chopra, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, S Yashasri, Shweta Sehrawat, Sophie Ecclestone, Tahliia McGrath; **Released:** Devika Vaidya, Shabnim Ismail, Shivali Shinde, Simran Shaikh.