HERE. NOW Orissa Pos

Prejudicial treatment Actor Malavika Mohanan says female actors are seen as more replaceable than male stars in some South Indian film industries

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 189 | www.orissapost.com

LEISURE | P2



STR to reopen Oct 10

Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhani district will reopen for tourists October 10 after a fourmonth monsoon break

STATE | P5

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY OCTOBER 8, 2024



Blast rocks Pak airport

Balochistan Liberation Army claims responsibility for the blast at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi which killed 2 Chinese nationals

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Dipa retires

SIBLINGS MURDER YOUTH

Rourkela, Oct 7: A youth was brutally stabbed to death in broad daylight by two

siblings before onlookers at Ratanpur

village under Sundargarh Sadar police

limits Monday morning. While the elder

of the two, Bijay Mahanandia has been

arrested by the police, the younger

Dulamani is absconding. Police are try-

ing to ascertain the cause behind the

murder. The deceased has been identi-

fied as Manoj Sa alias Pandu, a resi-

two brothers. No one knows what tran-

spired inside, but people saw Manoj running away from the house with a

bloodied nose. However, both Bijay and Dulamani chased him down.

Dulamani then grabbed the deceased

while Bijay repeatedly stabbed him

with a knife. Some villagers tried to save

Manoj, but everything happened so

quickly that he collapsed on the spot

bleeding profusely. Locals rushed Manoj

to a community health centre, but doc-

tors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Dulamani fled the spot. After police

arrived, Bijay was handed over to them.

ODISHA'S FIRST

Odisha Kheliba Duniya Dekhiba

Locals managed to catch Bijay, but

According to information available, Manoi had visited the house of the

dent of the same village.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dipa Karmakar, who was the first Indian woman gymnast to compete at the Olympics, announces her retirement

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

SHORT TAKES 32 lakh more added

to Subhadra scheme

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha government Monday deposited rupees one each in the bank accounts of at least 32 lakh beneficiaries in the phase II process of the first installment under the prestigious Subhadra Yojana. The remaining ₹4,999 will be deposited October 9 as per promise, informed Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida. Women beneficiaries who had completed their application on or before October 7 have received ₹1 each as a confirmation message.

All well, says Tata

NEW DELHI: Veteran industrialist and Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata said Monday there is no cause for concern regarding his health and he is undergoing checkups for age-related medical conditions. The 86-year-old Tata termed as 'rumour' reports of his hospitalisation in a Mumbai hospital, in a post on social media platform 'X'.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MARKET WATCH

GOLD

WEATHER

Max Temp

Min Temp

Humidity

PARTLY CLOUDY



students... Can't he stop the Israel conflict for us investors?

SENSEX **81050.00** 🖊 638.45

BBSR

0.5mm

CTC

32.0°C

0.3mm

VARIATION

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi admitted during the meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah that Maoists in the Kandhamal-Boudh-Kalhandi axis have shown remarkable resilience and to flush them out 12 companies of CAPF and a

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi demanded Monday a helicopter and 12 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) from the Union government to combat Maoists in the state. The chief minister said this amid the possibility of Maoist cadres entering Odisha

from neighbouring Chhattisgarh. Majhi raised this demand during a Maoist-related review meeting held under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. After the meeting Maihi told reporters that the Home Ministry has assured the state government of all possible support.

Majhi said during the meeting



CM demands forces, chopper

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has something to smile about during the meeting Monday in New Delhi

that the Odisha government has raised three battalions of exservicemen OSSF (Odisha Special Striking Force) to meet the requirements. He pointed out that till the recruited forces are deployed on ground, there is a pressing need, for effective area domination, to check in-

filtration from Chhattisgarh. "In the current scenario, I request you (Centre) not to with-

draw the central forces, till the induction process is complete. Also, may I request you, to send at least 12 companies of CAPF for a period of two years, to be deployed in the LWE-affected areas, to prevent infiltration, and eradicate LWE from Odisha, in a timebound manner," Majhi said in his speech, according to a release

IN MEMORIAM: People console one another Monday at the site of the Nova music festival, where hundreds of revellers were killed and abducted by Hamas and taken into Gaza, on the first

from the CMO here.. Majhi also mentioned that un-

Will eradicate LWE by March, 2026: Shah

NEW DELHI: Terming Naxals the biggest human rights violators, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Monday that security forces have been carrying out 'offensive operations' and have achieved big successes in recent times. Shah also said that all Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected states are committed to completely eliminating Naxalism by March 2026. "We are committed to eradicate Naxalism by March, 2026," Shah said.

interrupted helicopter service is a critical requirement, for the security forces and movement of troops and maintenance of forward posts. The CM also said security personnel have fought back and freed more areas from the influence of CPI (Maoist).

"However, the Kandhamal-Boudh-Kalahandi axis is in our focus now. Despite sustained operations. Maoists have shown considerable resilience, and they continue to hold ground in this particular area. So we need to flush them out," Majhi stated.

Orange, red coats for govt buildings

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: All government buildings in the state will have a uniform colour pattern – orange with red borders - soon, according to the Works department Monday.

In a letter to Engineer-in-Chief (Civil-cum-Roads), Engineer-in-Chief (DPQ), Engineer-in-Chiefcum-MD, OB & CC Limited and all chief engineers, the Works department said regarding adoption of uniform colour code for all government buildings.

.. I am directed to communicate the approval of the government to adopt uniform colour code henceforth for all new government buildings as well as existing government buildings at the time of periodical repair/renovation work," read the letter issued by the EIC-cum-Special Secretary of Works department, Lakshmi Kanta Padhi.

In the letter, the colour codes for orange and red have also



been mentioned. "Exterior wall: Orange shade: rgb mix (254, 190, 152). Border: Red shade: rgb mix (177, 85, 79)," it said.

This is the second such colour change in government-run institutions. Earlier, the Mohan Charan Majhi-led BJP government had changed the colours and designs of uniforms of all state-aided school October 1.

The dress colour of students used to be green and white, similar to the BJD's party symbol. Now after the formation of the BJP government, students have to attend school wearing clothes in light brown, chocolate and yellow colours.

Bhavish-Kamra spar: OLA shares tumble

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: Founder and CEO of 'Ola Electric', Bhavish Aggarwal, found himself in the eye of a storm following a war of words with stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on social media platform 'X' over the aftersales and service quality of the former's electric scooters.

The aftershocks of Aggarwal's rant - which sparked a debate on professionalism and handling customer grievances with many dubbing Aggarwal's language as 'arrogant', 'crass' and 'vulgar' - was felt Monday when the shares of Ola Electric Mobility tumbled nine per cent.

Saturday, Aggarwal took to 'X' to post a photo of Ola's gigafactory. The controversy began after Kamra responded to it Sunday by putting a picture of several Ola electric scooters parked together, ostensibly waiting for servicing.



In the post, Kamra wrote: "Do Indian consumers have a voice? Do they deserve this? Two wheelers are many daily wage workers lifeline..

Tagging Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in his post, Kamra asked: "is this how Indians will get to using EV's? @jagogra-

hakjago any word?" In another post, he wrote:



ing India Costumers how fly by night Chinese companies treat the entire continent of Africa... Shame @bhash.

Kamra's post did not go down well with Aggarwal who dubbed it as a 'paid post' and said Kamra can 'come and help'.

"Since you care so much @kunalkamra88, come and help us

out! I'll even pay more than you earned for this paid tweet or from your failed comedy career. Or else sit quiet and let us focus on fixing the issues for the real customers. We're expanding service network fast and backlogs will be cleared soon," he wrote.

The exchanges didn't stop there. Kamra reverted with another post and wrote: "Paid tweet, failed comedy career & Sit quietly. Indian Businessman at their humble best... If you can prove I am paid for the tweet this or anything else I must've said against private companies, I'll delete all social media & sit quietly forever.'

To this, Aggarwal mockingly replied: "Chot lagi? Dard hua? Aaja service centre. Bahut kaam hai. I will pay better than your flop shows pay you. Show your audience how much you truly care and whether you're only gas and BS.' Contd...P4

Nobel in Medicine for Ambros, Ruvkun

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm, Oct 7: The Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded Monday to Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for their discovery of microRNA, a fundamental principle governing how gene activity is regulated. The Nobel Assembly said that their discovery is 'proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function'.

Ambros performed the research that led to his prize at Harvard University. He is currently a professor of natural science at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Ruvkun's research was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Harvard Medical School, where he's a



Victor Ambros (left) and Gary Ruvkun

professor of genetics, said Thomas Perlmann, Secretary-General of the Nobel Committee.

Perlmann said he spoke to Ruvkun by phone shortly before the announcement. "It took a long time before he came to the phone and sounded very tired, but he quite rapidly, was quite excited and happy, when he understood what, it was all about," Perlmann said.

Pvt bus owners call off strike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Private bus operators in 14 districts of Odisha decided to call off their proposed strike Monday after a meeting with Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena in Berhampur.

The private bus owners' associations in the 14 south and western Odisha districts had announced to go on a 24-hour strike beginning at 6.00pm Monday, opposing the Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI) bus services from blocks to district headquarters.

Loknath Padhi, president of Private Bus Owners Association, Baliguda, who was present during the meeting with the transport minister said, "We have decided to call off our strike from this (Monday) evening as the minister has assured us that he will certainly look into our demands.



leisure

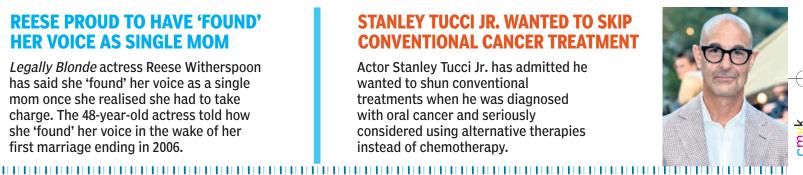


REESE PROUD TO HAVE 'FOUND' HER VOICE AS SINGLE MOM

Legally Blonde actress Reese Witherspoon has said she 'found' her voice as a single mom once she realised she had to take charge. The 48-year-old actress told how she 'found' her voice in the wake of her first marriage ending in 2006.

STANLEY TUCCI JR. WANTED TO SKIP **CONVENTIONAL CANCER TREATMENT**

Actor Stanley Tucci Jr. has admitted he wanted to shun conventional treatments when he was diagnosed with oral cancer and seriously considered using alternative therapies instead of chemotherapy.



Today, the stars put you on high alert... and not for nothing. You will save yourself from being swindled. Though you will easily manage to stay ahead of others, you may make a few enemies on your way. It's not a good day if you're looking to buy a house or vehicle, says Ganesha

TAURUS

Your enthusiasm will be as contagious as your smile today, predicts Ganesha. People will stand charmed by your high spirits. There will be stressful moments, but things will look up later in the day. Take some time off if things

IGEMINI

Today, you are likely to be rather emotional and sentimental, says Ganesha. Your love for performing arts may make you take up lessons in classical music or traditional dance. And much to your delight, your sweetheart will treat you to a surprise candlelit dinner.

CANCER

You are likely start the day in the best of spirits today. Your enthusiasm and cheer fulness will be infectious, and you will be able to lift the mood wherever you go. However, your enthusiasm can be shortlived and pummelled under the weight of some bad news, leaving you distraught.

LEO

If one were to put an earnest spirit and a frank attitude together, the result would be a Leo; it's like your hallmark. And with qualities like these in your kitty, don't be surprised if you happen to reach a milestone or two today. Will it be marital bliss or career success? No matter what the area is, be assured that your societal standing shall get a heady boost today, assures Ganesha.

■ VIRGO

The booster rockets of your ambitions and spirit to work will kick in at the maximum today. Seek recreation after a hard day's work and look to relax at private parties, social-dos and even weddings. says Ganesha.

"Every man has specific natural abilities", said Aristotle. This seems to be true for you today. Your natural talents will be acknowledged and documented at work This might prompt your equals to hold you up above the rest, and for your seniors to positively encourage you to scale greater heights.

SCORPIO

You will find yourself thinking with your heart rather than your head today, says Ganesha. You may not be able to repress your feelings, and you should not even try. But you should be careful about how you express them, particularly in public as people may judge you wrongly on the basis of it, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Today, your superiors at work are going to trust you with many complicated assignments. But, after exerting yourself you are sure to come out with flying col ors and have your work appreciated. Do not be surprised if cash incentives come vour way. Such may indeed be your for tune, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Duping the wisest with your extraordinary power of convincing may have been your forte, but you may have to prove yourself all over again, for Ganesha says you will be tested today. This apart, you are likely to find answers to questions lingering in your subconscious mind for long

AQUARIUS

For a moment, it seems that you're swamped with problems. But you are brave enough to deal with any ugly issue that crops up suddenly. Ganesha hints at a romantic evening, which may just be time together in a jacuzzi, or simply preparing a meal together.

PISCES

All the dieting that you have been undergoing will finally begin to show results, with compliments galore coming your way from your friends. Your energy and enthusiasm levels are likely to be high. A bright and beautiful day waits, says Ganesha

Malavika on status of female stars

Mumbai: Whether romance or thriller, social media is going to be a prevalent character in movies going forward, says actor Ananya Panday who has emerged as the go-to actor to tell stories rooted in modern technology with CTRL, Call Me Bae and Kho Gaye Hum Kahan.

In the Vikramaditya Motwane-directed CTRL, where a story unfolds entirely through various screens, Ananya plays Nella, a social media influencer whose life comes crashing down when she enlists the help of an AI to erase her cheating ex (Vihaan Samat) from her dig-

"I feel like it is the time that we're living in. It is the generation that we're living in where technology is such a big part of all of our lives. Being a part of Gen Z, these stories are relatable for me. It's something that is just starting to happen.

"In the romantic genre or in the thriller genre, it (technology) will be a prevalent character. I feel like it is something that exists. It'll be hard to tell a story where there isn't some effect or some social media. It will be in many more stories going forward," she told this agency. Asked whether working on CTRL made her cautious about the perils of hyper-connectivity, Ananya said some habits are hard to break. The film, however, has made her more aware about her online activity. PTI



Rashmika's food crush 🛭 MUMBAI: Actress Rashmika

Mandanna, who has a slew of titles lined up for release, loves savouring the flavours of Kochi. Her choice of treat was French toast.

On Monday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of goofy pictures of herself as she treated herself with some lipsmacking food and coffee a few days ago.

She wrote in the caption, "I was in Kochi for the last few days, and I went to this place called @frenchtoastindia and their French toast! OMG yummmy. And, coffee as usual. Coffee was a lil too strong for me, so make sure you ask for 20ml espresso cappuccino if you



Mumbai:

Television actress Surbhi Chandna, who tied-the-knot with her long time beau Karan Sharma in 2024, has talked about how her new journey is tough.

In a conversation with Amrita Rao and RJ Anmol on their

can't have strong coffee like me" She further mentioned, "Beautiful place, good food, and sweet people. Oh oh! Btw henceforth if I find nice places i order from or go to in my travels.. I am posting about it so that if you guys are in that city, you can also try".

Recently, the actress went to the temple and wished good luck to children for their exams and those who

are looking for a

job.



relationship. It just organically happened. Things just kept unfolding.'

Surbhi, who dated Karan for almost 13 years before making it official, added: "I am so glad for that night and that I attended that party and I mean people asked how did it survive for 13 years. It was difficult and the new journey in marriage is more difficult." She shared that it is "never easy".

You have to work on a relationship to make it happen if you know this is the per-

DUSSEHRA RELEASES

FOUR ODIA FLICKS TO CLASH AT BOX OFFICE

Bhubaneswar: Four Odia movies- Karma, Durga, Villain, and Khoka Bhai Tama Pain - are set to get the approval of cinegoers this Durga Puja.

Talking about Karma, the Amiya Patnaik Production is directed by Anupam Patnaik and stars Anubhav Mohanty as Amar Patnaik, a chief of the special investigation team who is trying to solve a murder case but faces a lot of challenges. The movie also stars Suryamayee Mohapatra, Divya Mohanty, Sanoj Kumar, Manmay Dey, Choudhury Jayprakash Das, and Nishant Majhithia in key roles.

Karma is the maiden collaboration of Anupam and Anubhav.

Anasmish Productions' Durga stars Poonam Mishra as 'Durga', who is accused of killing her new-born child, and acclaimed web series *Mirzapur* fame Isha Talwar as Archana, who is fighting for giving her justice. The



ney as she fights a great evil for her motherhood and a persistent lawyer who is relentless in her pursuit of justice. Directed by Tapas Sargharia and produced by Kumar Pritam Sahu, the movie



Saroj Parida in supporting roles.

The third movie is Adilaxmi Entertainments' Villain. Featuring Ardhendu and Tamanna in the lead roles, this

WHERE'S A FREIGHT TRAIN WHEN YOU REALLY NEED ONE?



movie explores a woman's jour- also stars Hari Mahapatra, actioner tells the story of a gang-Abhsihek Giri, Raj Rajesh, and ster played by Ardhendu. The movie is directed by K Murali Krishna and produced by Adikanda Sahu, with Bobby Mishra, Samaresh Routray, Hara Rath, Usasi Mishra, and KK playing other important roles. Khoka Bhai Tama Pain is the

fourth movie to be released this Dussehra. Made by Kuhu Cine Flicks in association with Bhadra Motion studios, the love story is inspired by the life and works of legendary singer Akshaya Mohanty. The movie stars Swarai Barik, Lucky Manisha, Upasana Mohanty, and Saroj Parida in

Directed by Girish Mohanty fans nostalgic.

and written by Bharadwaj Panda and the legend's son Mitrabhanu Mohanty, the movie is produced by Subhendu Kumar Sahu and Bishnupriya Sahu.

The movie also has Ankita Dash, Sukant Rath, Shweta Acharya, Jeeban Panda, and Shakti Baral in other important roles, The songs of the movie are recreations of Akshaya Mohanty classics and are set to make the ARINDAM GANGULY, OF

III. 11111 GIRISH MOHANTY & TEAM ISHNUPRIYA SAHU & SUBHENDU KU SA

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

9

3

3

9

2

5

3 9

6

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

9

4

6

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

3 4

SUDOKU

3 8

8

6

1

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN

CROSSWORD 12 22 25 Copyright @2024 PuzzleJunction.com 24 Kitchen garb

Across

- 1 Help out
- 4 Multitude 9 Recipe
- 10 Cake topper 11 Immaculate
- 12 Framework
- 15 Facetious 20 Prolong

22 Grassy plain

- liquor
- 13 Colourless
- - - 3 Russian space vehicle 5 Decree

1 Impact

2 Twilled fabric

Down

6 First

14 Witness

- 25 Catherine the 7 Lump of gold Great, e.g. 8 Aesop's tale
- 26 Lives 27 Limnos locale
 - 16 Backslide 17 Cebu, for one
 - 18 Building
 - addition
 - 19 Murder weapon, possibly
 - 21 Invalidate 23 Ridgeline

SUDOKU

ANTE TEASPOON

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Kandhamal, Boudh, Kalahandi new focus of anti-Naxal ops: CM

Majhi seeks Centre's real-time technical support to combat LWE menace



BENEFITS UNDER THE 'DHARITRI AABBA JANJATIYA **UTKARSHA GRAM** ABHIYAN' WILL LWE-AFFECTED AREAS IN ODISHA

A new yojana called 'Gramodaya' is being launched converging more than 40 schemes to ensure all the villages situated in the LWE-affected areas have basic infrastructure and services. This will help improve the socio-economic condition of the people residing in these areas MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI I CHIEF MINISTER

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The anti-Maoist operations in the state will now primarily focus on Kandhamal, Boudh and Kalahandi districts, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Monday.

"The Kandhamal-Boudh-Kalahandi axis is in our focus now. Despite sustained and aggressive operations, the Maoists have shown considerable resilience, and they continue to hold ground in this particular area. Agencies, including state forces, Central Armed Police Forces, Intelligence Bureau, State Intelligence Unit and Special Task Force (STF), are operating in seamless synergy to flush out Maoists from this axis," Majhi said at a Maoistrelated review meeting held

under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Along with anti-Maoist operations, the state has also geared up its developmental machinery in the three districts, he said.

The Chief Minister sought real-time support by specialised technical agencies of the Central government to further improve the operational capabilities of special forces and overall operational effectiveness in order to combat Maoists.

"The real-time technical support will be a performance multiplier for the security forces engaged in anti-Maoist operations,"

The CM said the state government has submitted a list of 127 vital roads in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected areas to the Centre. These road projects will considerably augment connectivity in these areas, and also facilitate effective operations by security forces against the Maoists.

This may please be considered, at the earliest," the Chief Minister said.

To ensure public welfare schemes and basic facilities are provided in saturation mode in the LWE-hit villages, the state needs to build mutual trust between the government, administration and general public. Several developmental schemes are being implemented to uplift and transform the socio-economic landscape of Maoist-affected areas, he said.

Besides, the Chief Minister said the benefits under the 'Dharitri Aabba Janjatiya Utkarsha Gram Abhiyan' will also be extended in the LWE-affected areas in Odisha.

"A new yojana called 'Gramodaya' is being launched converging more than 40 schemes to ensure all the villages situated in the LWE-affected areas have basic infrastructure and services. This will help improve the socio-economic condition of the people residing in these areas," Majhi said, adding that the scheme will be implemented in due earnest, covering all the eligible beneficiaries.

The Chief Minister said security personnel have fought back and freed more areas from the influence of CPI (Maoist) which is now confined to sporadic pockets of 10 districts in

Odisha.

"We also aim to choke down their mass support base, and discourage recruitment of local cadres to their outfit," he said.

The state government is also trying to integrate more areas into the socio-economic-political mainstream by facilitating remarkable progress in every sphere, he added.



PARTING SALUTES: Outgoing Special DGP, Training and Director, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy (BPSPA) Arun Kumar Sarangi inspects the guard of honour at BPSPA Ground in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Citizens brace for traffic jams as puja nears

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: As the Capital city gears up to celebrate Durga Puja, beginning October 9, commuters as well as residents are preparing themselves to brace the harrowing traffic jams and chaos that is synonymous with big pandals lining some of the arterials roads here during the festivities.

It is, nevertheless, an irony that even 76 years after its existence as the state Capital, Bhubaneswar still grapples with traffic issues during peak hours on a regular basis. The problem aggravates many folds during major events, public celebrations, or festivities, residents rued. The snarls and the corresponding wait on roads, they said, take away the spirit of celebrations like Durga Puja.

"Every year we face this issue during Durga Puja as we get struck for long hours in the traffic," said Ramesh Jena, a resident of Bomiklhal. He said the pandal in their locality, which borders another massive stage at Rasulgarh only precipitates the traffic situation in the areas.



Massive snarl on Jayadev Vihar-Nandankanan Road in Bhubaneswar, Monday

The situation is no different on roads along popular pandals in Nayapalli and Baramunda.

Urban planner Piyush Ranjan Rout said the traffic situation in the City has changed drasti-

cally over the years. "Even a couple of years ago the situation was manageable. Earlier, Durga Puja used to be just another autumn festival of family gathering celebrated for three days and was limited to the neighbourhood. The crowd too was more organised. But these days, Puja has become more pompous and an occasion among various

organisers to show off their

money power and political clout. It is devoid of any cultural trappings," he said.

Rout said the pandals are located at strategic points and, thus, are bound to create trouble for their very patrons who live around it.

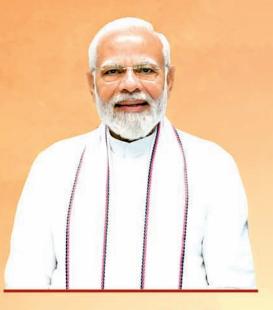
He said the footfall at these venues don't happen naturally as is in the case of Rath Yatra in Puri. "The rush here (at pandals) are manufactured by the puia committees by organising melody or cultural shows next to pandals irrespective of the fact that the places are located near traffic junctions, highway or

Secretary, Rasulgarh Durga Puja Committee, Sanjay Baliasrsingh said they have hired 100 volunteers who will ensure that the visitors park their vehicles at designated places. "The inordinately parked vehicles will be removed and imposed fines by informing the traffic department," he said.

hospitals. Invariably, the events lead to huge traffic jams. And, the situations are getting worse by the years," he added.

To ease the traffic congestion, Rout suggested people to visit pandals on foot, instead of using vehicles, and create 100-metre buffer zone from the pandal prohibiting parking, or stoppage of vehicles.

Meanwhile, Bhubaneswar Pinak Mishra said a dedicated traffic management unit will soon be tasked to ease the congestion in major arterial roads in the City during the festivities. "The Commissionerate Police would send an alert to all police stations to remain attentive to traffic issues. Our aim will be to thwart traffic jams and remove bottlenecks in vulnerable regions of the City. A master plan will soon be released in this regard," he said.





Government Of India



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 - **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**
- **Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)**
- Time Use Survey (TUS)
- **Annual Surveys of Service Sector Enterprises (ASSSE)**
- **Agriculture Survey**
- **Price Collection**

All Citizens/Enterprises are requested to co-operate with enumerators of National Statistics Office and provide accurate data

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WORLD HABITAT DAY

'Engaging youth key to urban planning'

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Building a clean, green, and developed city requires the active participation of all sections of society, particularly the youth, said BMC Mayor Sulochana Das while addressing an event here on World Habitat Day, Monday.

Emphasising the need for building inclusive and sustainable cities, Das said, "It is important that the urban poor also get their share in the process. The government is committed to ensuring their fundamental rights including housing and land so that they can lead a dignified life."

Das was the chief guest at the event organised by Sahabhagi Vikash Manch (SVM), with a special focus on empowering



urban poor through dignified livelihoods. Dignitaries present on the occasion include environmentalist Prafulla Samantara, former Additional SP Satish Ray, and IIEC director Shishir Das among others.

Over 200 participants, including slum dwellers, women, senior citizens, youth, and transgender individuals attended the

Event convener Sachikant Pradhan highlighted the transplanning. "Involving the younger generation in decision-making is essential for developing cities that are resilient and inclusive," he remarked.

Stressing the importance of grassroots participation in urban development, Shishir Das, said, "Empowering local communities, especially the poor, is key to creating resilient cities that can tackle challenges like climate change and urbanisation.'

Samantra and former Additional SP Satish Ray also highlighted the growing inequalities in urban spaces, with Samantra stating, "Addressing inequality is central to creating liveable cities. Without inclusivity, development will only



AIRING GRIEVANCES: Job aspirants under the banner of 'Students Against Corruption' stage a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Monday, to protest against alleged irregularities in RI, Amin and ICDS recruitment examinations conducted by the Odisha Sub-Ordinate Staff Selection Commission

Third Foundation Day of OUTR today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) will celebrate its third Foundation Day October 8. an official said Monday.

Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain will grace the occasion as chief guest. Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh will be the guest of honour. The university VC Bibhuti Biswal will preside over the programme.

On the occasion, the university will felicitate faculty, non-teaching staff and meritorious students for their exemplary work.

Biswal said, "We have successfully completed three years. We are prioritising to continue the journey of success and improve the broken ground. Priority has been given to imparting qual ity education to students, development of research and skill

According to officials, OUTR Fine, OUTR Community E-Bike Sharing Station, OUTR-Siemens CO and E Digital Manufacturing will be inaugurated at the event.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Bhatli, I, Laxmi Sahu, aged about 34 years. W/o- Gadadhar Sahu, resident of village Santhara, PO-Karla, Ps/Tah- Ambabhona, Dist.- Bargarh, Odisha, declare that both the name Laxmi Sahu and Geeta Yadav is the name of same and single person for all purposes.

I, Shankar Lal Soni, S/o-Amarsing Soni, resident of Town/P.O./P.S.-Kantabanji, Dist.-Balangir, PIN-767039, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.1857, dtd.07.10.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Shankar Lal Soni for all future purposes.

'Water reservoir storage levels better than last yr'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: India's water reservoirs are experiencing a significant boost in live storage with 155 of them across the country currently at 88 per cent of their total capacity, a 14 per cent rise from the normal storage, CWC bulletin said Monday.

This is a marked improvement compared to last year's storage levels for the same period. which stood at 134.056 BCM, as well as the normal 10-year average storage of 139.114 BCM. The bulletin further said that

86 reservoirs across the country are reporting higher storage levels than last year and 123 reservoirs were exceeding their normal capacity.

The 2024 figures reflect an 18 per cent increase over last year's levels and a 14 per cent rise compared to the normal storage.

While the overall storage levels across the country are higher,

regional variations exist. The Western region, com-



prising Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Goa, has witnessed the most robust storage figures, with 97 per cent of its total live storage capacity already filled.

This is a substantial improvement compared to last year's figure of 89 per cent and also surpasses the normal storage of 78 per cent for the region.

The central region, which in-

cludes Uttar Pradesh, Madhya than both last year's 84 per cent and the normal 81 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Eastern region, including states like Assam, Odisha, and Bihar, recorded 86 per cent of its live

Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh, also saw a positive trend, with 91 per cent of total live storage available—higher storage capacity, up from last year's 77 per cent.

However, the Northern region, which includes Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, reported a drop in live storage levels.

Currently, only 68 per cent of the total storage capacity in this region is filled, lower than last year's figure of 85 per cent and the normal storage of 82

The Southern region has seen a sharp increase, with reservoirs holding 86 per cent of their capacity, compared to just 50 per cent last year.

The CWC bulletin further high-

lighted that several major river

basins in India have better-thannormal storage levels. Notable among these are the Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari,

and Narmada basins.

In contrast, the Indus basin recorded deficient storage compared to normal, though no basin fell into the "highly deficient" category.

BIPF invites applications for Prof Ghanashyam Dash Scholarship

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), the social development arm of Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Limited (IMFA), Monday announced the acceptance of applications for the 20th edition of the prestigious Professor Ghanashvam Dash Scholarship (PGDS) for higher education.

BIPF trustee and founder Shaifalika Panda said, "Through the Professor Ghanashvam Dash Scholarship, we are committed $% \left(-1\right) =-1$ to ensuring that talented students from Odisha, regardless of their financial backgrounds, can pursue higher education and create positive impacts in their communities.'

According to BIPF, the scholarship aims to empower meritorious students from Odisha to pursue higher professional education. Annually, six excep-

tional students are awarded financial assistance to study fields such as engineering, medicine, STEM, and liberal arts at top institutions across India.

The scholarship covers up to 90 per cent of academic fees and eligible expenses, with a maximum scholarship amount of ₹6 lakh per awardee. This support helps students complete their four-year professional programs, Additionally, recipients will

benefit from BIPF's exclusive mentorship programme, 'UT-SAAH', which offers academic and career guidance from IMFA executives

Applications for the academic year 2024-2025 are being taken in, and the deadline for submission is November 15. Interested students who are domiciles of Odisha and meet the eligibility criteria (annual household income of less than ₹8 lakh) can apply online at

Dak Bungalow to be demolished

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The Dak Bungalow at Mahatab Road, the oldest colonial vestige of Bhubaneswar, is slated for demolition for the construction of a Kalvan Mandap, heritage expert Anil Dhir said Monday.

The Prachi Division has been allocated a sum of ₹2.60 crore, and groundwork has been started, he said. Built sometime in 1850 for the convenience of British officers, the Dak Bungalow has an interesting history.

It was also the staging point for mail runners of the Imperial Mail Service. For years it served as a makeshift courthouse for proceedings held by the British of-

ficials. The many properties in the Old Town that were taken up by the gentry of Bengal under the draconian Sunset Law were auctioned at this place. Dhir said.

It was also used by the surveyors of the Great Indian Trigonometrical Survey held between 1840 and 1870. The Bengal Nagpur Railways engineers too had used the place when the railway was being laid.

The modest two-roomed bungalow was set in thickly wooded plot with a well and two outhouses for the Khansama and Chowkidar. The large walled compound was dotted with trees, many fruit-bearing and others for shade. Just a single tamarind

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: TP Central CODL) has taken proactive steps to ensure a safe and uninterrupted power supply during the upcoming Dussehra festival.

In line with its commitment to safety, TPCODL has issued crucial guidelines for event organisers and vendors. The company urged everyone to secure legal temporary connections for pandals and shops, reinforcing the importance of complying with safety standards for a smooth and risk-free celebration.

The company has deputed teams to oversee the electricity



supply, ensuring safety and preventing unauthorised connections. The key safety guidelines include engage only licensed electricians for wiring and testing, maintain a safe distance from electrical installations.

avoid illegal hook-ups, and secure legal connections for tents, pandals and lighting.

TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh said, "At TPCODL, our unwavering commitment to safety is at the heart of our operations. As

we approach Dussehra, we aim to ensure that every celebration is not only joyful but also exinvolved. We strongly encourage the community to obtain authorized electricity connections and to diligently follow our safety protocols. By working together, we can create an environment where families can enjoy the festivities with peace of mind, knowing that safety is our priority." "TPCODL is dedicated to mak-

ing this festive season a safe and electrifying experience for all and wishes everyone a joyful and secure celebration. TP-CODL for you and with you always," he added.

Bhavish in soup after spar with Kamra: OLA shares tumble

Continued from Page 1

66 how your customers that vou truly care.' Kamra remarked, adding, "Instead can you give a total refund to anyone who wants to return their OLA EV & who's purchased it in the last 4 months? I don't need your money people not being able to get to their workplace need your accounta-

"We have enough programs for our customers if they face service delays. If you were a genuine one, you would have known. Again, don't try and back out of this. Come and do some real work rather than armchair criticism," the Ola CEO

'So you can't offer a 100 per cent refund to people who have purchased your OLA in the last 4 months who are genuine customers. But you want to pay me who's not a customer," Kamra wrote.

He even gave a few refund options: "Can you do an 85 per cent refund for 1/2 months? Can you do a 75 per cent refund for 3 months? Can you do 65 per cent for 4 months?

Kamra even offered to 'compile a list of genuine customers to initiate the refund process', adding, "their delight will be enough to



Bhawish Aggarwal

hary banne chale," is what

"Comedian ban na sake, chaud-



Kunal Kamra

Aggarwal wrote in response to Kamra's post where he gave a few refund options and offered to

"compile a list of genuine customers" for the same. He added, 'Do your research better next time. And the offer to come and help us out in our service center remains open. Take up the challenge. Maybe you'll learn some real skills for a change.

Kamra then gave a deadline to Aggarwal to fix the issues and clear backlogs. "Ok Ola customers Refund is out of the question... So, can you solve issues of every Ola complaint till date before 10th November 2024? I can keep tract of unsolved complaints post 10th November & Keep them public for you."

Meanwhile, many on social

media criticised Aggrawal's tone and termed it 'inappropriate' for someone in his position.

While some users acknowl-

edged points raised by both Aggarwal and Kamra, most expressed disappointment over the CEO's approach.

Moreover, Aggarwal's social media spat has reignited discussions on how CEOs should engage with the public, particularly in the face of criticism. With customer complaints piling up and the backlash growing, many wonder whether the CEO's online persona is damaging Ola's reputation more

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OrissaPOST



ENTHRALLING ONLOOKERS: An artiste dressed as an 'Aghori' ascetic performs at the Pila Ganesh idol immersion procession in Bhadrak, Monday

3 HURT IN CLASH BETWEEN VIMSAR STUDENT GROUPS

OOT NEWS NETWODE

Sambalpur, Oct 7: Three postgraduate students were injured late Sunday night in a violent clash between two groups of students at the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Science and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla, sources said Monday.

The injured individuals are former UG students' union president Dr Prabhat Kumar Jena, former general secretary Dr N Biswaranjan, and Dr Amit Shubham.

According to sources, the incident occurred late Sunday night during the ongoing 'Prisms-2024' event at the newly constructed auditorium at VIMSAR. While the event was progressing late into the night,

a sudden argument erupted between the two groups, which quickly escalated into a full-blown clash. The exact cause of the altercation is still unknown. However, following the incident the house surgeons called for a strike, demanding better security arrangements and addressing

other grievances.
Following a discussion between
VIMSAR authorities and both
student groups, the house surgeons withdrew from their protest.
The injured students received
primary medical treatment and
have been discharged. Both student groups have refrained from
making any public statements
regarding the incident.

It is believed that the clash occurred due to a minor issue between the groups. The misun-

derstanding has since been resolved, and the house surgeons have resumed their duties, as stated by VIMSAR Director Dr Bhabagrahi Rath.

He mentioned that after receiving information about the incident, Dean Dr Pradeep Mohanty and Superintendent Dr Lalmohan Nayak reached the scene late at night. This morning, the house surgeons who had called for the strike were invited for a discussion with the Dean. Superintendent. and other senior doctors. During the discussion, the misunderstanding was resolved, and assurances were given to address their demands. Dr Rath further clarified that no police case has been registered re-

Bear mauls man to death in Keonjhar

KEONJHAR: In a tragic incident, a 50year-old man was mauled to death by a bear at Turkipada village in Harichandanpur block under Brahmanipal range of Anandapur forest division in Keonjhar district Monday morning. The deceased has been identified as Pabana Juang, a resident of the same village. Sources said, Pabana had gone to his farmland near his house inside Chandadiha forest Sunday to guard paddy crops. The incident took place while he was going to attend the call of nature Monday morning. A bear suddenly appeared in front of him and attacked Pabana rendering him critically injured. On being informed, villagers reached the spot, rescued Pabana in a pool of blood and rushed him to Harichandanpur Community Health Centre (CHC). As his condition deteriorated, he was then forwarded to the Keonjhar District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), where doctor pronounced

Villagers gherao Collectorate over Samakoi-Chakdar project

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 7: Thousands of villagers from Telkoi block of Keonjhar district took out a huge rally in this district headquarters town and staged a demonstration in front of the district Collectorate protesting the proposed Samakoi-Chakdar Irrigation Project.

The protest organised by Samakoi-Chakdar Project Coordination Committee was led by the outfit's president Kailas Chandra Pradhan and co-ordinator Laxmidhar Pradhan. Thousands of Telkoi area residents marched to the district headquarters town located at about 60km distance and staged a rally holding placards and shouting slogans against the government.

Later, a protest meeting was held in front of the district Collectorate. Their agitation received a boost after leaders of various political parties including Congress and BJD joined them.

Congress and BJD joined them. The leaders strongly demanded the government to stop its implementation saying that the project will not bring any benefit to people of Keonjhar district. "We cannot leave our birth land for the sake of an irrigation project from which only neighbouring Angul district will be benefitted," they thundered. Implementation of the project has been hanging fire for the last 20 years after protests by the local residents.

However, after the new state government announced financial support for the project in the state Budget-2024, people have expressed displeasure over the move. The residents have staged Telkoi bandh and road blockades on National Highway- 49 several times in the past, the leaders informed.

The leaders said they will take



to the streets in state capital Bhubaneswar and threatened to lay siege on the Governor's office in the coming days if their demand is not met. They alleged that the project work is being expedited without conducting any Gram Sabha or Palli Sabha.

They informed that the dam work is being spearheaded by giving wrong information that a 402-feet dam will be built to store water up to 390 feet depth in the reservoir. They warned that they are the descendants of great revolutionary Dharani Bhuyan who fought against the royal system for democracy and will never allow let it happen. They threatened that if required they will go for mass self-immolation. Police registering cases against 60 persons among the protesters will never deter them in carrying out their protest, they said.

They also challenged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to carry on with the project work. This project is being built to appease the residents of Angul district, they alleged adding that previous governments of Congress and BJD stopped the project in the interest of the people.

The leaders asked the CM to answer as to why his state government approved the anti-people project. Among others, former PCC presidents Niranjan Patnaik and Jaydev Jena, BJD Zilla Parishad member Ashish Chakraborty, PCC general secretary Aloy Mishra, secretary Sangram Das, leader Nirmal Nayak, former MLA Subarna Nayak and Dhanurjay Sidhu, senior leaders Krushna Chandra Mohanty, former MP Yashwant Laguri, engineer Binod Nayak and others addressed the gatherings

Sources said the Samakoi-Chakdar irrigation project, when completed, will provide irrigation to 24,194 hectares of land in both Keonjhar and Angul districts. However, locals fear submergence of their lands as the reservoir of the dam will be in Telkoi block. On the other hand, people of Pallahara block of Angul district will be benefitted more from the project. This has been spreading discontentment among the people of Telkoi block. The project was conceived about 20 years back but was put on ice due to protests.

Keonjhar Sub-Collector Umashankar Dalei said, "We told the Water Resources department to prepare a report about the facts of the project including its social and other impacts. Villagers do not want any more projects. We have already intimated the government about the villagers' demands and are waiting for a report about the project."

Similipal Tiger Reserve to reopen for tourists Oct 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Oct 7: Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district will reopen for tourists from October 10, an official notification said Monday.

The tiger reserve was closed for tourists from June 12 due to monsoon, an STR official said. According to the notification

According to the lothication issued by STR Field Director Prakash Chand Gogineni, a maximum of 60 vehicles, with ground clearance of 180 mm or more, will be allowed inside the STR daily.

Tourists can visit the national park from the Kaliani entry point in Jashipur from 6am to 12pm and the Pithabata entry point in the Baripada forest division from 11am to 1pm.

It has been made mandatory for every tourist vehicle to take one guide with them while entering the park. The tourists will have to exit from the park through the Kalikaprasad check gate by 6pm, it said.

If a tourist car develops any mechanical snag inside the park, the occupants of such vehicle will have to pay Rs 4,000 and avail vehicles provided by the STR, as per the notification.

195 teachers fail to report for duty due to locals' opposition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Oct 7: As many as 195 newly-appointed junior teachers failed to report for duty after villagers and members of a joint action committee locked up the concerned schools in various villages in this district, Monday.

The protesters warned the headmasters of respective schools of intensifying their protest if teachers hailing from other districts come to join for duty in the schools of their postings. As a result, 195 teachers failed to report for duty where they have been given poetings

The appointed junior teachers arriving to join their respective schools were opposed by the villagers in Dangara, Biriguda, Laharakani and Gopiguda villages at Jatabal panchayat under Papdahandi block while similar scenes were witnessed in Jharigaon block where 44 teachers were debarred from joining their duty. Around 29 teachers were stopped from joining duty in Dahugaon block

Three bikers crushed to death by tractor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 7: A road accident on National Highway-20 near Langalakanti petrol pump in Dhenkikote area under Ghatgaon police station limits of Keonjhar district claimed three lives Monday.

The deceased were identified as Kahnu Charan Munda, Balabhadra Khatua and Maheswar Nayak of Ghatagaon block.

ock. Tension gripped the locality after the incident and vehicle movement was affected for some hours on the busy highway. The head-on collision occurred at about 5.30pm when a tractortrailer going towards Keonjhar crushed a two-wheeler coming from the

trailer going towards Keonjhar crushed a twowheeler coming from the opposite direction under the wheels. Three persons were travelling on the motorcycle from Dhenkikote Bazar to their destination at Masinabila.

One person died on the spot, while two others died

under treatment at Ghatagaon community health centre (CHC). Informed, local police reached the spot and seized the body.

Ghatagaon police station IIC said the trawler has been seized and further investigation is on. The three bodies have been sent for post-mortem, he added.

Sources said that one lane of the highway has been closed for traffic. Hence a single lane is open for the traffic of both lanes.

RSP signs contract to establish new Stamp Charge Coke Ovens battery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 7: The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has signed three contracts for construction of a new Stamp Charge Coke Ovens battery, to meet the coke requirements of the plant apart from reducing the cost of production.

RSP has six top-charge Coke Oven Batteries (COB). Out of them, five COBs are small in size while the COB-6 which is taller was built during the last phase of expansion.

The planned Coke Ovens battery will be the first stamp charge battery of SAIL. The new battery with a capacity of 1 Million Tonnes per annum of coal throughput will be set up along with new By-product



and Coke Dry Cooling Plant (CDCP)

The COB will reduce the input cost of the blend and will produce better quality coke along with improved

Techno-Economic Parameters.
RSP sources said global open ten-

ders were invited for three major project packages and the bids were successfully finalised for award of work to the respective winning bidders.

Accordingly, a contract was signed with the Consortium of M/s L&T & M/s Thyssenkrupp uhde GmBH, Germany October 7 for Battery proper with oven machine and refractory.

Earlier, another contract was signed October 5 with the Consortium of M/s BEC & M/s GIPROKOKOS, & M/s CUI, Ukraine, for CDCP and DM Water Plant.

Water Plant.

The contract for the erection of the By-product plant including BOD plant was signed with the consortium of M/s Hutni Projekt Frydek, Czech Republic and M/s Hutni Project FM (India) October 4.





The principle of Yoga is the turning of one or of all powers of our human existence into a means of reaching divine Being.

SRI AUROBINDO



Spreading Wings

fter Germany it is now the turn of Austria to let a Far-Right, neo-Nazi party to come within striking distance of capturing power. The development sends shockwaves to advocates of liberal democracy in Europe reeling under the rise of Far-Right forces linked with Neo-Fascist and Neo-Nazi parties. The Eurosceptic and Russiafriendly Freedom Party of Austria (FPO), which has just won the general election, has miles to go before it realises its dream of ruling the country even though it has emerged as the party securing the highest number of votes. Led by Herbet Kickl, known for his oratory and tactical acumen, the FPO has secured about 29% of the votes in the election. This is a historic first for a party founded in the 1950s under a leader who had been an SS officer and Nazi lawmaker.

However, all does not seem to be lost for the opponents of Far-Right politics since the FPO is still well short of a majority. This means it would need to cobble together a coalition to control most seats in parliament and form a stable government. But, at the moment that appears to be an uphill task since the only party that expressed its readiness to form a coalition government, the ruling conservative People's Party (OVP), has ruled out joining a government with Kickl in it.

Sensing that Austria may have to experience a repeat of what happened in France where the Far-Right failed to capture power recently after its opponents comprising Left, liberal and centrist parties closed ranks, Kickl has cautioned other parties of his country against forming a "coalition of losers." Such an eventuality, he warned, would be a "slap in the face" of the electorate. Instead, he has urged them to form a government headed by him. He even insisted that the voters have given the FPO a mandate to govern for which his party's hand is outstretched to the four other parties in the parliament.

Understandably, this is sheer rhetoric and his adversaries seem prepared not to fall for it. In fact, the OVP is in a position to be kingmaker since in principle it could either give the FPO a majority as junior partner to it in a ruling coalition or lead a separate, three-way coalition with the Social Democrats (SPO) and a smaller party, the Greens. President Van der Bellen, a former leader of the Greens who oversees the formation of governments, is holding one-on-one meetings with party leaders in the order they came in the election. He is due to meet OVP Chancellor Karl Nehammer and the SPO leader Andreas Babler 7 October and then complete parleys with the leaders of the liberal Neos party and Leftwing Greens. He has expressed reservations about Kickl and hinted he might not let him enter government.

Kickl, however, said the atmosphere during his meeting with the President was "pleasant" and that Van der Bellen had told him he would address the public once his meetings with party leaders

For the past few years the FPO has dominated opinion polls, outstripping mainstream parties such as the OVP and SPO. After the devastating floods that wreaked havoc in eastern Austria in early September, it appeared that the OVP might surge ahead for its commendable handling of the floods. Likewise, the Greens party too seemed poised for improving its position. However, the national elections have now produced results that even the most pessimistic observers might not have anticipated. Kickl seems to have exploited the livelihood crisis coupled with the hate politics against migrant population very well. Moreover, he projected himself as Austria's "volkskanzler" (people's chancellor), a term used by Hitler himself to garner votes. This seems to be getting traction among the people.

The rise of the Far-Right in Austria may prove to be a dirge for democracy, but it is sweet music in the ears of ultra-Right leaders of Europe, including Italy, France, Denmark, Hungary and Sweden. It is no wonder they all have hailed Kickl's victory. The scenario created by orators spewing hatred across the world is ominous, indeed.

FOCUS MIDDLE EAST

A DANGEROUS DANCE



Abbas Milani

A WAR BETWEEN **ISRAEL AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC** WOULD **INEVITABLY** DRAW IN THE US, **AND THE IRANIANS KNOW THAT THEY WOULD STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST SUCH COMBINED MILITARY MIGHT**

ran and Israel have long been locked in a volatile confrontation - a cold war chronically in danger of turning hot. Weaponizing a peculiar brand of Islam that denigrates nationalism in favour of an Islamic state, Iran's clerical regime has partly defined its divine mission as requiring Israel's elimination. To that end, Iran has created and armed proxies across the region, from Gaza and Lebanon to Syria and Yemen.

In recent months, however, the proxy warfare and clandestine operations have given way to the possibility of a direct, all-out conflict. While both sides understand the peril of the moment, the Iranian regime is at pains both to save face and to survive, and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu seems keen to strike while his foe is vulnerable.

Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attack was a painful turning point for Israel. While Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, lauded Hamas' successful operation as a sign of the imminent demise of the "Zionist Entity," other Iranian clerics went so far as to declare it a harbinger of the Twelfth Imam's return, which will bring the global triumph of Islam. The brutal assault on helpless civilians shattered Israel's longstanding aura of inviolability and Israel's yearlong campaign in Gaza became a propaganda bonanza for the Iranian regime. While Gazans are themselves virtual hostages of Hamas' despotic theocracy, the images of their suffering have helped the hostage-takers and their backers in Tehran.

But Iran's ruling clerics don't want a full-blown war, especially following the heavy losses suffered by their proxies. America's assassination of Qassem Suleimani in 2020 struck a seismic blow to Iran's Quds Force, the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps unit that is responsible for projecting Iran's influence and organising most of the regime's terrorist activity. Since then, Iran has watched as Israel has eliminated more Iranian officials



The 'axis of resistance' that Iran has spent decades, and many billions of dollars, cultivating is facing unprecedented challenges, and this has diminished the regime's ability to project strength vis-à-vis Israel

and the top leaders of Hamas (Ismail Haniyeh) and Hezbollah (Hassan Nasrallah).

These strikes, many of them achieved through daring acts of espionage and assassination, demonstrate the extent to which Israeli intelligence (Mossad) has infiltrated Iran and its proxies' ranks. The "axis of resistance" that Iran has spent decades, and many billions of dollars, cultivating is facing unprecedented challenges, and this has diminished the regime's ability to project strength vis-à-vis Israel.

Given this broader context Iran's ruling clerics find themselves in a difficult position. Longstanding international sanctions and the regime's own corrupt cronyism have taken a toll on the economy, leading to widespread discontent and simmering political unrest. Ordinary Iranians, often led by women, are defiantly demanding equality, freedom, and living conditions commensurate with the country's abundant natural and human capital.

To engage in a debilitating war with Israel would further destabilise the regime, perhaps even leading to its demise. Though Shakespeare observed that rulers can keep "giddy minds" busy with "foreign quarrels," Iran's clerics know that a deeply dissatisfied population could be tempted to rebel if forced to bear the torments of another violent misadventure.

Moreover, the same proxies that Iran deploys against Israel, US forces, and other regional players (like Saudi Arabia) have also occasionally been used to quell domestic protests. As the proxy network weakens. Iran's clerics will feel doubly vulnerable, and thus desperate to re-establish deterrence against regional foes and domestic dissidents alike.

They must tread carefully, though. Iran's latest salvo of missiles into Israel was part of the dance of deterrence. The attack was immediately followed by an announcement that the regime's "revenge" operation was complete, indicating that it hopes to avoid further escalation. A war between Israel and the Islamic Republic would inevitably draw in the United States, and the Iranians know that they would stand no chance against such combined military might.

Netanyahu also faces serious challenges. Any prolonged conflict would stretch Israel's resources and possibly lead to massive casualties. It is difficult to anticipate what impact a costly war would have on his already deeply divided government. Netanyahu has oriented his political legacy around blocking Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons, yet he might unwittingly hasten the very outcome he fears most. The situation is complex, but one likely scenario is that an even more desperate clerical regime could declare itself a nuclear state in a bid to establish a new, more dangerous form of deterrence.

Khamenei has always been the chief architect of the country's

nuclear programme, and the mul lahs have long relied on the Western delusion that concessions and promises of compromise can deter their quest to join the club of nuclear-weapon states The regime claims that it is bound by a fatwa from Khamenei not to seek weapons of mass destruction, and it has always maintained that its nuclear programme is solely for peaceful purposes. Yet many of the same figures who have repeated these talking points now say that every piece of the puzzle for a bomb is in place.

Obviously, this scenario carries enormous risks. A rush to complete the bomb would almost certainly provoke Israel – and perhaps the US - to launch preemptive strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, and this would almost certainly trigger a wider conflict. Iranian proxies might be unleashed on US bases, Saudi oil facilities, international shipping, and other targets, with devastating consequences for the

region and the global economy. Israel and Iran are both walking a tightrope. Israel is still grappling with the loss of its aura of inviolability following the Hamas attack, and Iran is struggling to maintain its regional influence as its proxies suffer heavy losses. Both countries are keenly aware that an all-out war would be catastrophic, yet neither side can afford to back down entirely.

The West urgently needs to develop an Iran strategy. The US and its allies have long relied on tactical, remedial responses to each escalation. But the only real solution is a democratic Iran. Neither the Israeli nor the US military can bring about that outcome, but the Iranian people can, and they have grown increasingly determined in recent years. For now, the rest of the world must confront and contain the regime's egregious behaviour, while doing what it can to support Iranians' democratic aspirations

The writer is Director of the Iranian Studies Program at Stanford University and a research fellow at the Hoover Institution.

WISDOM CORNER

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music

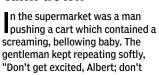
To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.

There is nothing with which every man is so afraid as getting to now how enormously much he is capable of doing and becoming

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- **1856:** In Canton (Guangzhou), Chinese officials boarded a British-registered ship, the Arrow, arrested several Chinese crew members (who were later released), and allegedly lowered the British flag; the event contributed to the start of the second Opium War, in which Britain
- **1871:** Great Chicago fire begins. The fire that destroyed most of Chicago's business district began in a barn on the evening of October 8, 1871. A very dry summer and an early autumn fanned the fire, which raged for 2 days. It killed over 300 people and destroyed property worth
- **1912:** First Balkan war begins. Montenegro started the conflict by declaring war on the Ottoman Empire. A few days later Greece. Bulgaria, and Serbia joined the war and created the Balkan League. The 7-month long war ended with a decisive Balkan League victory. Dissatisfaction over the spoils of the war led to the Second Balkan War a year later.
- 1919: World's first transcontinental air race held. 63 airplanes 15 from San Francisco and 48 from New York – took part in this 5400mile round-trip race. The winner, Lieutenant Belvin Maynard, took 3 days and 21 hours to return to New York.
- 1948: World's first internal pacemaker implanted. A 43-year-old man called Arne Larsson was the recipient of the pacemaker which worked only for a few hours. However, Larsson lived long after the pacemaker stopped working. He died in 2001 at the age of 86.
- 1967: A prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution and a South American guerrilla leader, Che Guevara was captured and later shot to death by a Bolivian army.

Calm down



scream, Albert; don't yell, Albert;

keep calm, Albert." A woman standing next to him said, 'You certainly are to be commended for trying to soothe your son, Albert.' The man looked at her and said, "Lady, I'm Albert."

SPECTRUM DISASTER

India needs a lightning safety strategy



Prakash Kumar Sahoo & Yashobanta Parida LIGHTNING **FATALITIES IN THE COUNTRY HAVE BECOME A PRESSING CONCERN WITH NO COMPREHENSIVE** NATIONAL-LEVEL **POLICY ADDRESSING** THE ISSUE

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

limate change is a pressing global crisis, causing severe economic and social disruptions. India, in particular, is frequently impacted by natural disasters, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and heatwaves. The country also faces a significant risk of lightning strikes, especially during May and June, resulting in numerous fatalities. On average, more than 2,500 deaths are recorded due to thunderstorms and lightning every year, and perstrike casualties are in large numbers (Annual Report, NCRB).

In recent years, lightning strikes have become increasingly frequent and severe in India, further exacerbating the country's vulnerability to climate change. According to the Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India report published by NCRB, lightning caused the most accidental deaths in India in 2022, accounting for 35.8% of the total 8,060 deaths attributed to natural forces. This amounted to 2,887 fatalities, followed by 9.1% (730) deaths due to heatstroke, 8.9% (720) deaths due to exposure to cold, and 6.8% (547) deaths due to flood during the year. Additionally, states such as Madhya Pradesh (496), Bihar (329), Odisha (316), Uttar Pradesh (31) and Jharkhand (267) experienced a significantly high number of lightning strike fatalities in that year. Between 2000 and 2022, around 55,456 people were killed due to lightning strikes across India.

India witnessed more than 20 million lightning strikes in 2022-23, a 60% increase from 2019-20 (Annual Lightning Report, 2023). The report also shows a 53% increase in cloud-to-ground (CG) lightning from 2019 to 2023, and the highest CG lightning strikes caused maximum damage in eastern and central India. The primary factors contributing to increased lightning strikes include global warming, deforestation, water body depletion, environmental degradation, urbanisation, and extreme climate change.

Odisha, a coastal state of India. faces a chronic problem with lightning-related deaths due to its frequent thunderstorms and intense lightning strikes. As per the data, a total of 1,625 people have been killed by lightning strikes across the state from 2019-20 to 2023-24. According to the Climate Resilient Observing Systems

Promotion Council data, lightning has claimed around 10,741 lives in Odisha in the last 50 years.

The impact of lightning strikes extends beyond immediate fatalities and property damage. Lightning strikes, often overlooked, cause significant losses to infrastructure, livelihoods, and vulnerable communities, especially those working in rural areas and urban informal sectors. According to the Annual Lightning Report 2023-24, about 96% of light ning victims are from rural areas and engage in occupations such as farming, cattle grazing, fishing, hunting, and outdoor labour.

Lightning fatalities in the country have become a pressing concern, with no comprehensive national-level policy addressing the issue. While Odisha has made progress in addressing lightningrelated deaths by declaring lightning as a state-specific disaster India needs more comprehensive national measures to mitigate the effects of this natural hazard bevond financial compensation. There is an urgent need to devise a national-level strategy and plan to mitigate the adverse effects of lightning. This includes investing in early warning systems, improving infrastructure resilience, promoting public awareness about lightning safety, and researching the factors contributing to increased lightning activity. To minimise fatalities from lightning, smart arresters should be installed, and officials should be prepared and trained. Large-scale plantations of palm trees in vulnerable areas can help mitigate lightning deaths. By taking proactive measures to mitigate the risks associated with lightning, India can enhance its resilience and protect its population and economy from the devastating consequences of this natural hazard.

Since lightning strikes kill more people than all other natural disasters combined, the government should declare lightning-related deaths a natural disaster.

Prakash Kumar Sahoo is an Assistant Professor of Economics, Government College, Sundargarh. Yashobanta Parida is an Assistant Professor of Economics, FLAME University, Pune. Views are personal.

are most welcome to contribute letters postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Crowd concern

Sir, The clear blue skies over Chennai were incandescent with adventurous excitement last Sunday, as the Indian Air Force (IAF) staged a stunning air show at the famous Marina beach in celebration of its 92nd anniversary. Much to the pride of the city, the event, which was reportedly attended by 15 lakh people, set a new world record, earning a place in the Limca Book of Records for the largest-ever gathering at an air show. Spectators were treated to a breathtaking display of aerial astronautics. The highlight of the show was the Rafale fighter jets demonstring their skills in mid-air refueling, a sight that added an extra layer of wonder to the spectacle. Sadly, however, the event saw five persons having died and many reportedly suffered from dizziness and fainting due to searing heat. Though the air show displayed its pageantry, and the event was a proud reminder of India's growing self-reliance in defence, it raises an important question over the need for IAF aggressively pushing the occasion to set a new world record by aiming to mobilise a crowd much beyond the manageable level.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Grand festival

Sir, Mysuru Dasara celebrated with a lot of pomp and show is a big part of the culture of the people of not just Mysuru, but the Karnataka state as a whole. From the grandeur with which the people of Mysuru celebrate Dasara to the rich cultural heritage can't simply be missed. It has been about 400 years since the Mysuru Dasara festival was first inaugurated by Raja Wodeyar, and till date, the Royals have managed to maintain the traditions with regal touch and elegance. The ten-day spectacular celebration that commemorates the victory of the Goddess Chamundeshwari over the demon Mahishasura, symbolises the triumph of good over evil. The attractions during the festival include the grand procession known as the Jamboo Savari, the illumination of the Mysuru Palace, cultural performances such as classical music and dance concerts, traditional art exhibitions, and the opportunity to enjoy South Indian cuisine and shop for handicrafts. —

N Sadhasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON

Mumbai's 1st underground

Metro corridor begins ops

PUBLIC HOPES IT WILL REDUCE COMMUTING WOES





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

morning.

from passengers.

Mumbai, Oct 7: Mumbai's first

underground Metro corridor,

the aqua line's phase-1, stretch-

ing from Bandra-Kurla Complex

(BKC) to Aarey became opera-

tional for the public Monday

A large number of people

came to experience the ride on

the first day as the service com-

menced at 11 am amid cheers

Later in the evening, officials

said only 8,500 passengers used

the financial capital's maiden

The ridership for the

first seven hours was

much below the esti-

mated 4 lakh com-

muters per day on

which the financial

model of the Mumbai

Metro Line 3 has been

Vaidehi More, a

Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation

(MMRC), said 8,532 passengers

used the Aqua line till 6 pm,

seven hours after it started com-

More, however, did not spec-

Several Mumbaikars, excited

about the first day travel, ar-

rived at stations before the Metro

operation commenced to buy

tickets and expressed hope the

new service would reduce their

Some complained of safety

door glitches, though officials

commuting challenges.

ify the reasons behind the poor

ridership figures on the first

spokesperson for

based, sources said.

mercial operations.

RG KAR HORROR

Docs continue fast unto death

MEDICS HAVE BEEN ON FAST SINCE SATURDAY EVENING

hamper their

health and

we do not

want to

take any

chance. The

West Bengal

government

will be held re-

sponsible in case

of any fatality," one

of the agitating doctors told

A large number of people and

a few celebrities gathered at the

protest site to express solidarity

4 called off their 'total cease

work', which had crippled health-

care services at state-run med-

Demanding justice, safety

phasised that securing justice

for the deceased woman medic

remains their foremost priority.

They also called for immedi-

ate removal of Health Secretary

NS Nigam as well as account-

ability for the alleged admin-

istrative incompetence and ac-

The protesting doctors em-

ical colleges and hospitals.

The junior doctors had October

with the agitating doctors.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 7: Agitating junior doctors in West Bengal continued their fast-unto-death for the third consecutive day Monday demanding justice for the rape and murder of a woman medic of the RG Kar hospital and workplace safety even as the state government remained silent to address their issues.

The medics also announced organising a rally in Kolkata from central Kolkata's College Square to Dharmatala at around 4.30 PM Tuesday to press for their demands.

'Tomorrow we will also be holding a symbolic hunger strike at all medical colleges and hospitals across the state. Representatives of various doctors' associations will take part in it. This will start at 9 AM Tuesday and will continue till 9 PM. We will also hold a rally in Kolkata. We, on behalf of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Forum, invite all those who have been beside us since Day 1 of our protest," one junior medic said. Six junior medics have been on the fast-unto-death since Saturday evening and later one more joined them.

Senior members of the Joint Platform of Doctors in West Bengal were mulling the option of joining the fast to express solidarity with the junior medics.

"Our fast-unto-death is on. We have not received any message from the state government. We will continue the protest until all our demands are met. No external pressure will be able to move us from our path of protest seeking justice for our deceased sister... It's now or never," Aniket Mahato, a

junior medics RG Kar hospital may

also alleged non-

cooperation on the part

of the Kolkata Police as

they were not allowed to

set up bio-toilets at the

protest site

joined Snigdha Hazra, Tanaya Pania and Anustup Mukhopadhyay of Kolkata med-

ical college, Arnab Mukhopadhyay of SSKM Hospital, Pulastha Acharya of NRS

medical college and Sayantani Ghosh Hazra of KPC medical college for the fast-unto-death. Two senior woman doctors -- Srahani Maitra and Srabani Chakraborty - started a 24-hour fast at the

protest site as a mark of solidarity with the junior medics. "We have joined the young doctors to support them. Moreover, 10-13 other senior doctors will join them. They will also fast for the next 24 hours," Mitra said.

Both Mitra and Chakraborty are former students of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

"We are checking the health parameters of those who are on an indefinite fast. They have been fasting for over 36 hours.

Row overshadows Bengal's biggest festival

urga puja, West Bengal's biggest carnival, is likely to be subdued this year as calls to boycott the festivities grow in response to protests over the brutal rape-murder of a woman doctor at RG Kar hospital in August, casting a shadow over the city's festive spirit. The killing of the doctor on duty at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital August 9 has ignited profound emotional turmoil across the state, as the vibrant excitement of Durga puja has been overshadowed by the troubling paradox of worshipping the goddess of strength and protection while real-life women continue to face grave dangers. As Kolkata grapples with this tragedy, the city stands at a crossroads between tradition and change, torn between devotion to the goddess Durga, symbolising strength, protection, and justice, and the harsh reality of daily violence and injustice faced by women. "It appears that this year's Durga puja will be much more subdued due to the RG Kar incident and the ongoing protests. Many people may participate in the Puja but choose to avoid the festive celebrations. Many can relate to the victim and her family, which is why the protests

have emerged so spontaneously, sociologist Prashanta Roy told PTI. For many Kolkatans, this vear's Durga puia has transformed from a mere festival into a symbol of the ongoing struggle for justice, prompting reflection on the significance of worshipping a goddess when reallife women embodying her spirit remain unsafe



tion against corruption in the department.

Other demands include the establishment of a centralised referral system for all hospitals and medical colleges in the state, implementation of a bed vacancy monitoring system, and formation of task forces to ensure essential provisions for CCTV, oncall rooms, and washrooms at their workplaces.

They are also demanding increased police protection in hospitals, recruitment of perma-

other healthcare workers.

to cease work following the rapemurder of a fellow medic at RG

nent women police personnel. and swift filling of vacant positions for doctors, nurses, and The junior doctors went on

said they had not received any Kar Medical College and Hospital complaint in this regard, and the entry-exit points being closed August 9. They ended their stir after 42 days September 21 folat a few stations on the first day lowing assurances from the state of the operation, while some passengers demanded an integovernment to look into their grated app for all Metro services in the city.

in the mechanism controlling the ticket vending machine.

Mumbai resident Ankush Nevre, who works at the Andheri

Some persons took to social

media to claim there was a glitch

MIDC, said the new service will be very helpful to reach BKC from there.

"I was waiting for this connection for quite some time. I managed to get the first train to BKC at 11.10 am at the MIDC (Andheri). The service will be good (for the people), but there is a need for more signages and boards (for better access to Metro services)," Nevre said.

A person claimed on his X account that an entry-exit point at CSMIA T1 was closed at around 1.30 pm.

Many passengers, however,

underground metro for their hailed the line, saying it had commute on its inaugural day. brought down the commute from more than an hour The minimum fare for a ride on the by road during peak hours to just 25 min-

Metro line is ₹10 and

he opening day sees low ridership of 8,532 in 7 hours

ecuting the 33.5-kmlong Colaba-SEEPZ-Aarey JVLR project, has already notified that the reg-

Corporation

(MMRC), which is ex-

Mumbai

ular operation of the Metro on the aqua line will commence from Tuesday. As per the notification, serv-

Metro

ices will be operated from 6.30 am to 10.30 pm between Monday and Saturday, and from 8.30 am to 10.30 pm on Sundays. The minimum fare for a ride on the Metro line is Rs 10 and maximum Rs 50, as per the MMRC.

Passengers can book tickets using the NCMC (National Common Mobility Card), Mumbai Metro 3 mobile app, and ticket vending machines, among other means.

The corridor between BKC and Aarey road has 10 Metro stations - BKC, Bandra Colony, Santacruz metro, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) T1, Sahar Road, CSMIA T2, Marol Naka, Andheri, SEEPZ, Aarey Colony JVLR. Of these, only Aarey JVLR station is at a grade while all others are underground.

The aqua line is the fourth Metro corridor of Mumbai.

Tribal university to Kolkata's iconic Globe Cinema come up in Nashik to reopen after two decades

Palghar, Oct 7: Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan Monday announced a tribal university will come up in Nashik district and noted adivasi communities are an integral part of the state's rich cultural fabric.

Speaking at a gathering, the Governor, who assumed office in July-end, declared he will visit all tribal areas of Maharashtra and also villages where members of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) reside.

'I have decided to set up a tribal university in Nashik, which will include world-class institutions like a medical college modelled after AIIMS, an engineering school akin to IITs, and a management school like IIMs. This initiative will ensure that tribal students have access to the best education, fostering both inclusion and excellence. said Radhakrishnan.

The Governor was addressing a 'Gram Sabha Sammelan' organised at Jawhar, a tribal-dominated Jawhar taluka in Palghar district. The event brought together representatives from various gram sabhas (village councils) across Palghar and Nashik.

"The gram sabha is more than iust a meeting of villagers; it is a living embodiment of democracy," Radhakrishnan stated.

He emphasized that empowering gram sabhas is crucial for achieving a prosperous and selfreliant India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. the government is dedicated to comprehensive development of villages and tribal communities," the Governor maintained.

Maharashtra has a rich tribal diversity and communities like Bhil, Gond-Madia, Katkari, Koli and Warli are an integral part of the state's cultural fabric.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to uplift these communities through effective implementation of the PESA (Panchavat Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act and the Forest Rights Act, which grant constitutional recognition to gram sabhas and enable them to make important decisions about land use and resource management.



"Under the leadership of

Radhakrishnan opined.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Kolkata, Oct 7: Kolkata's iconic Globe Cinema is set to reopen on

Maha Panchami (Tuesday) after a hiatus of nearly two decades. Once a hub for film lovers, the cinema will screen three Bengali films alongside two recent all-India hits, rekindling the magic that once captivated

audiences. The reopening promises to be a celebration of nostalgia and excitement, as the city's cinephiles eagerly anticipate the revival of this cultural landmark.

Satadeep Saha, managing director of SSR Cinemas, which

has leased the property, Monday announced that the newly revamped Globe will feature two screens (Dual-Plex) equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. with seating capacities of 239 and 197, respectively.

In 1917, Bijou Company Limited took over, and in 1922, it transitioned into a movie theatre under the Madan Theatre banner. Renamed the Globe in 1925, it quickly became one of Kolkata's most beloved cinemas.

After closing in mid-2000 and being partially converted into a shopping arcade, the Globe was leased to another city-based owner for the next few years.

BY THE BRITISH IN **1867 AS THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, THE HOSTED A MIX OF BRITISH AND INDIAN PLAYS, ESTABLISHING A SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL LEGACY**

Over the years, it screened cult Hollywood classics, including 'Mackenna's Gold', 'Ben Hur' 'Jaws', 'Basic Instinct', and 'Star Wars', alongside Charlie Chaplin masterpieces like 'The Great Dictator' and 'Limelight'. 'Titanic' was the last blockbuster shown before its closure, running for several months.

'We are excited to bring Globe back to life. It has always held a special place in the hearts of Kolkata's cinephiles. This Durga Puia, film lovers can relive nostalgia by watching movies at the Globe once again," Saha added.

The reopening will feature a lineup of exciting films, starting with 'Tekka', 'Bohurupi', and 'Shastri', along with reruns of recent hits like 'Tumbaad' and



REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B, Unit-VII, Surya Naga andhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003,

Ph. No.: 0674-2397551, 2397199 NVITATION OF BIDS/OFFERS FOR PREMISES ON LEAS

Central Bank of India requires premises admeasuring 92.90 to 139.35 Sq. m. (1000-1500 sqft.) carpet area in ready possession ready for possession within 3 months at Navachowk, Cuttac preferably on the ground floor with adequate parking space for their Navachowk Branch. The premises should be located a Badambadi Road, between Link Road Square to Badambadi Traffic. There should be a provision for an on site ATM with an area of 5.94 to 9.29 Sq.m. (64 to 100 Sq.ft.). No brokers or intermediaries please. Priority will be accorded to Government / Semi Govt. bodies or public sector undertakings. Kindly download the formats/terms and conditions from the website http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in or collect the same from Central Bank of India, Nayachowk Branch Plot No.: 3098/3099, Link Road, Cuttack-753012 / Regional Office at 108-B, 1" Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar - 751003 during office hours. The last date

for submission of offers is 23.10.2024 upto 4.00p.m. The authority

reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals without

assigning any reason thereof. Date: 07.10.2024

Sd/- Chief Manager

Tribute to unsung heroes of military intelligence

'Satark Park' features 40 busts of military intelligence personnel who sacrificed their lives *in the line of duty*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 7: The 'Satark Park', India's first such structure dedicated to military intelligence operatives, has been inaugurated in Maharashtra's Pune with an aim to showcase some of the most valorous episodes associated with these unsung heroes, officials said.

The park features 40 busts of military intelligence personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Each bust is accompanied by a brief description of their heroism.

Lieutenant General Pradeep Kumar Chahal, Colonel Commandant, Intelligence Corps, and Commandant, MINTSD, inaugurated the park Saturday.

Families of the fallen heroes were among those who attended

Located in Wanwadi area of Pune Cantonment, the 'Satark Park' has been conceptualised and developed by the Roadways Solutions



India Infra Ltd (RSIIL) in association with the Military Intelligence Training School and Depot (MINTSD). It is inspired by the Corps of Military Intelligence motto 'Sada Satark' (always alert), as per officials.

The park has a wall with the Intelligence Corps' song, an abstract sculpture of Bharat Mata symbolising the invisible nature of their work along with busts of 40 martyrs, ranging from 1962 to 2020.

These include Brig RD Mehta, Nk Mehtab Singh (1962), Nk Bipin Chandra (1970), Nk Pratap Singh (1977), Lt Col Baldev Anand (1990), Lt Col K Krishnamoorthy (1994), Nk Jai Singh (2001), Capt Jitesh Bhutani (2003), Maj Mukesh Chaurasia (2005), Brig RS Mehta (2008), Sub Rakesh Kumar (2020), among others.





(A STATUTORY BODY CONSTITUTED UNDER THE DENTISTS ACT. 1948)

UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PUBLIC NOTICE Curbing The Menace of Ragging in Dental Colleges/Institutions

It is brought to the notice of the Public that ragging is a criminal offence and Dental Council of India as framed 'DCI Regulations on curbing the Menace of Ragging in Dental Colleges, 2009' in order to prohibit, prevant and eliminate the scourge of ragging in Dental Colleges/Institutions

The above regulations are mandatory and all the Dental Colleges/Institutions shall take necessary steps for its implementation under intimation to the Dental Council of India

Students in distress owing to ragging related incidents can access the UGC at Toll Free Helpline 1800-180-5522 or Dental Council of India at 011-40108512, 011-40194297.

CBC-17110/11/0001/2425

Secretary Incharge **Dental Council of India**

national



If you discuss scientifically, when was the (H) Kantharaju committee (for caste census) formed? It was probably in 2014. It has been ten years. The caste census was done about ten years ago. In ten years, various developments and changes have taken place

HD KUMARASWAMY JD(S) LEADER AND UNION MINISTER

NGLV DEVELOPMENT MODEL WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON: ISRO CHIEF

The model for the development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) will be announced soon and that will provide a huge opportunity for industries to come into the space sector right at the beginning of design itself, ISRO chief S Somanath said Monday. Last month, the Union Cabinet approved the development of NGLV





Maintaining

along the Indo-Bangladesh border, @assampolice Bangladeshi infiltrators near the international border and pushed them back across

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA CM, ASSAM

₹14700 crore have been allocated for the development of railways in MP. Right now, five Vande Bharat trains are running in Madhya Pradesh

ASHWINI VAISHNAW UNION MINISTER

The man goes to Delhi for 24 hours and comes back to play straight into the hands of the BJP. The BJP would like

nothing more than to extend central rule in J-K if they aren't in a position

to form a government

OMAR ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADER

SHORT **TAKES**

History-sheeter lynched by mob

Durg: A 22-year-old historysheeter was killed by a mob who attacked him with sticks and sharp weapons in Chhattisgarh's Durg district, police said Monday. The police have taken 26 people into custody in connection with the incident that occurred in the Sheetla Para locality under the Old Bhila police station area Sunday night an official said. The deceased. Aashik Vishwakarma, was a history-sheeter with more than 20 offences registered against him at Old Bhilai police station, station house officer Mahesh Dhruv said.

₹120cr cocaine seized from Kutch

Gandhidham (Gujarat): Ten unclaimed packets containing 12 kg of cocaine, valued at Rs 120 crore in the international market, have been recovered from a creek area near Gandhidham town in Gujarat's Kutch district, police said Monday. A preliminary probe suggested that smugglers might have hidden the contraband near the creek to avoid getting caught, Kutch-East division Superintendent of Police Sagar Bagmar said. This is the third major drug recovery from the same creek area in one year, he said.

Loco pilot spots soil dumped on tracks

Raebareli (UP): A passenger train was briefly halted after the loco pilot saw a pile of soil dumped on the rail tracks near Raghuraj Singh station here Sunday, police said. The soil was removed from the track and rail traffic was resumed on the route, SHO Devendra Bhadoria said. "A small pile of soil was dumped on the railway track because of which a shuttle train from Raibareli was stopped," Bhadoria said. The locals reported that road construction is underway in the area, involving the use of dumpers to transport soil at night. A dumper driver carrying soil dumped the load onto the railway track Sunday evening and fled, he said.

Three killed as bus overturns

Palanpur (Gujarat): Three persons were killed and nearly 30 others iniured after a private bus carrying 50 pilgrims from Ambaji temple town overturned in Guiarat's Banaskantha district early Monday morning, police said. While Superintendent of Police Akshay Raj earlier said four passengers were killed. he later corrected the figure saying the number of fatalities stood at three. "As of now, the number of passengers confirmed dead stands at three," he said.



RUPAY CARD LAUNCH IN MALDIVES. NEW RUNWAY AT AIRPORT TO EASE TRANSACTION, BOOST CONNECTIVITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Seeking to strengthen bilateral ties, India and the Maldives Monday inked a currency swap pact and agreed to extend development cooperation to build ports, road networks, schools and housing projects in the archipelago nation grappling with a financial crisis. Prime Minister Narendra

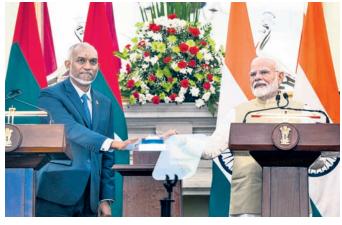
Modi and visiting Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu also launched the Rupay card in the Maldives, inaugurated the new runway at the Hanimadhoo International airport and agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations that had hit a rocky patch last year. Muizzu, who is on a five-day state visit, held talks with Prime Minister Modi at the Hyderabad House here.

The Maldivian president is known to have a soft corner for China and had chosen Turkiye for his first overseas visit after being elected to the top post in November last year.

The two sides also agreed on 'A Vision for Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership', a document that encapsulates the various aspects of the cooperation.

After the talks, India also handed over 700 social housing units in Hulhumale that were built under the EXIM Bank's buyer's credit facilities.

"A little while back, we launched the RuPay card in Maldives. In the coming times, we will work towards linking India and Maldives with UPI,"



A little while back, we launched the RuPay card in Maldives. In the coming times, we will work towards linking India and Maldives with UPI

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Modi said.

The prime minister also announced a USD 400 million support to the island nation and the two sides inked a currency swap agreement to the tune of Rs 3,000 crore -- moves that would be instrumental in tackling its ongoing financial challenges.

The two leaders acknowledged that it was an opportune time for both sides to chart a new framework for cooperation to transform the bilateral relationship into a Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, which is peoplecentric, future-oriented and will act as an anchor of stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

The two sides also agreed to collaborate in the development of a commercial port at Thilafushi island with enhanced cargo handling capacity to de-congest the Male port.

The two leaders agreed to explore collaboration for the development of transhipment facilities and bunkering services contributing towards the Maldives Economic Gateway project at the Ihavandhippolhu and Gaadhoo islands of the archipelago nation.

They also agreed to jointly work in harnessing the full potential of Hanimaadhoo and Gan airports which are being developed with Indian assistance as well as other airports of Maldives, and in establishing an Agriculture Economic Zone', tourism investments in Haa Dhaalu atoll and fish processing and canning facility at Haa Alifu atoll with Indian assistance.

mine blast in Bengal's Birbhum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 7: At least six people were killed and three others injured when explosives kept in a truck went off in a coal mine in West Bengal's Birbhum district Monday, a police officer said.

The explosion occurred when detonators were being transported in the truck for planned blasts at the Gangaramchak and Gangaramchak-Bhadulia coal mines, an official of the West Bengal Power Development

Corporation Ltd (WBPDCL) said. The incident happened around 10.30 am in Bhadulia village in which the

captive mine the WBPDCL is situated. "Six peowere killed and

three others ore injured," Additional Superintendent of Police of Birbhum, Rana Mukherjee, said.

The incident occurred in the dump yard of the coal block, WBPDCL Chairman and Managing Director PB Salim told PTI.

"An investigation has been initiated to ascertain the cause of the blast. Those killed in the explosion were workers of the agency deployed for mine operations. Currently, we are providing assistance to affected workers," WBPDCL Chairman and Managing Director PB Salim told PTI. A mine developer and operator (MDO) runs operations at the captive block.

The MDO concerned will provide compensation to the families of the victims, another WBPDCL official said.

6 killed in coal Wangchuk stays put at Ladakh Bhawan



Climate activist Sonam says awaiting word on meeting with top leadership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk Monday said he and his supporters will stay put at the Ladakh Bhawan till the authorities tell them when they will be able to meet the country's top leadership.

He said the protesters, who are demanding the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, are not asking for anything unusual and are here to remind the ruling BJP of its poll promise.

The Sixth Schedule pertains to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam. Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram as "autonomous districts and autonomous regions".

Wangchuk and his supporters began their indefinite fast at the Ladakh Bhawan Sunday.

'We are going to sit here till we get a reply on when we will be able to meet our leaders. We walked for 30-32 days, we deserve to get a meeting at least," Wangchuk told PTI.

The people of Ladakh had welcomed the government's decision to make it a union territory because they were promised a legislature and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule, the climate activist said.

"We are not asking for anything unusual, we are here to remind the BJP of the promise it made in its manifestos," he said.

Wangchuk and his supporters marched to Delhi from Leh to press their demands and were detained at the capital's Singhu border September 30. The Delhi Chalo Padyatra' is being spearheaded by the Leh Apex Body (LAB).

The protesters were released by Delhi Police on the night of October 2. Wangchuk stepped out of the Ladakh Bhawan around 4 pm Sunday and announced that he was going to sit on a fast.

Heavy security was deployed at the Ladakh Bhawan Sunday and entry was restricted. However, Monday, the extra force was removed and Wangchuk and others were allowed to meet visitors at the gate.

The Ramon Magsaysay awardee said the protesters spent the night in the open.

"It wasn't comfortable, we were almost on the road and there were mosquitoes. Now there's heat and these are Ladakhi people who are used to minus temperatures... There are old people as well but we will not move from here till our demand is met," Wangchuk said.

AHEAD OF MAHARASHTRA POLLS

EX-BJP LEADER PATIL JOINS NCP (SP)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indapur (Maharashtra), Oct 7: Former Maharashtra minister Harshvardhan Patil, a bete noire of NCP leader and Deputy CM Aiit Pawar, joined the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) Monday, days after quitting the BJP.

He is likely to get the NCP (SP) ticket from home ground of Indapur in Pune district.

Speaking at his induction in NCP (SP) in Indapur, Patil virtually acknowledged his "invisible" support in ensuring the victory of Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, who had defeated Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar from her home turf Baramati, in Lok Sabha elections.

Patil, a former MLA from Indapur, formally joined the NCP (SP) fold in the presence of Sharad Pawar.

Addressing a gathering at the occasion, Pawar appealed to the people to send Patil to the state Assembly, virtually declaring his candidature for the upcoming elections.

Patil, who quit the Congress and switched over to the BJP before the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls, famously said in 2021 that he was getting "sound sleep" in the BJP as there are "no inquiries".

Sunetra Pawar had lost her maiden Lok Sabha election against Sule from the Baramati constituency which includes the Indapur assembly segment, the stronghold of Harashvardhan Patil.

"Supriya Sule was elected from Baramati four times. She has been doing good work. On three occasions our support for her was direct. In 2024, the support (for Sule) was invisible, Patil said cryptically.

Sule, state NCP (SP) unit president Jayant Patil, Shirur MP Amol Kolhe, Madha MP Dhairyasheel Mohite-Patil, and other senior party leaders were present at the induction of Harshvardhan Patil



Actor and BJP MP Hema Malini performs at Ma Durga Nritya Natika during Navratri festival, in Mathura, Sunday

EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY ERASED

Human-caused bird extinctions reduced diversity in functions, study finds

The extinction also resulted in a loss of three billion years of unique evolutionary history

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Extinction of bird species caused by humans over the last 1,30,000 years have substantially reduced functional diversity of birds in the environment, a new study has found.

The extinction also resulted in a loss of three billion years of unique evolutionary history, it

At least 600 bird species, including the 'Dodo' and songbird 'Kaua'i 'o'o', have become extinct because of humans, since the Late Pleistocene -the era between 2.6 million years ago to 11,700 years ago - when modern humans started

to spread throughout the world, researchers, led by those at the University of Birmingham, UK, said. Dodo, related to the pigeon

family, was a heavy flightless bird native to the island of Mauritius, while Kaua`i `o`o was native to the Hawaiian island of Kaua'i and was declared extinct in 2023. "About five per cent of known

bird species have gone extinct over the past 1.30,000 years. and these species are more distinct in terms of their traits and lineages than would be expected by chance, especially those that went extinct before 1500 CE (the early modern period)," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Science.

'Species, functional, and phylogenetic diversity losses are greatest on islands," they said. The authors said that the loss of functional diversity is significantly larger than that expected based on the number of extinctions and will likely have had far-reaching implications, given the wide range of ecolog-

ical roles executed by birds. The study is "vital for setting effective targets for global conservation strategies, as well as ecosystem restoration and rewilding efforts," lead author Tom Matthews, from the University of Birmingham, said. 'The sheer number of bird

species that have become extinct is of course a big part of the extinction crisis but what we also need to focus on is that every species has a job or function within the environment and therefore plays a really important role in its ecosystem, Matthews said.

DIVERSITY IS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN THAT EXPECTED BASED ON THE NUMBER OF EXTINCTIONS AND WILL LIKELY HAVE HAD FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS, GIVEN THE WIDE RANGE OF ECOLOGICAL ROLES

CONSEQUENCES OF LOSS OF FUNCTIONAL DIVERSITY INVOLVE A REDUCED FLOWER POLLINATION.

SEED DISPERSAL AND A BREAKDOWN OF CONTROL OVER INSECT POPULATIONS, INCLUDING MANY DISEASE-CAUSING ONES

EXECUTED BY BIRDS

Consequences of loss of functional diversity involve a reduced flower pollination, seed dispersal and a breakdown of control over insect populations, including many disease-caus-

ing ones, the authors said.

Some birds control pests by eating insects, scavenger birds recycle dead matter, others eat fruit and disperse the seeds enabling more plants and trees to grow, and some, like hummingbirds, are very important pollinators, Matthews said.

According to him, when those species die, the important role that they play (the functional diversity) dies with them.

Additionally, each species is also known to carry a part of

evolutionary history, he said. "Therefore, when that species becomes extinct, it's basically like chopping off a branch of the tree of life and all of that associated (evolutionary) di-

versity is also lost," he said. The study's findings are a timely reminder that the extinction crisis does not merely concern species numbers and that we need to prepare for the loss of a projected 1,000 bird species expected to go extinctover the next two centuries, Matthews added.





national

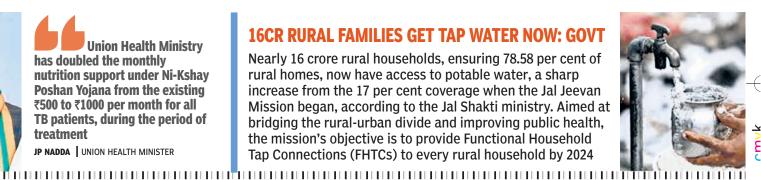


Union Health Ministry has doubled the monthly nutrition support under Ni-Kshay **Poshan Yojana from the existing** ₹500 to ₹1000 per month for all TB patients, during the period of

JP NADDA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

16CR RURAL FAMILIES GET TAP WATER NOW: GOVT

Nearly 16 crore rural households, ensuring 78.58 per cent of rural homes, now have access to potable water, a sharp increase from the 17 per cent coverage when the Jal Jeevan Mission began, according to the Jal Shakti ministry. Aimed at bridging the rural-urban divide and improving public health. the mission's objective is to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household by 2024





S REGUPATHY | MINISTER FOR LAW, TAMIL NADU

They have given me a request letter accept the Socio-Economic and Education Survey report and

SIDDARAMAIAH CM, KARNATAKA

He (Gehlot) was engaged in circus for the why he only sees circus. I want to

BHAJANLAL SHARMA CM, RAJASTHAN

5 members to be nominated by LG Shah terms Naxals biggest violators of human rights

CONGRESS, NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND PDP OPPOSE NOMINATION OF FIVE MEMBERS BEFORE GOVERNMENT FORMATION, THREATEN TO MOVE SUPREME COURT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/New Delhi, Oct 7: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's power to nominate five members to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was at the centre of a political and legal debate on the eve of vote count, with the Congress and regional parties NC and PDP Monday opposing any such move during government formation.

The Congress, its ally National Conference(NC) and the People's Democratic Party(PDP) have also threatened to move the Supreme Court.

At the heart of the nomination row was whether the LG can exercise the power during government formation or this has to be done with the aid and advice of the council of ministers. amid speculation the five members could play a crucial role in the event of a hung Assembly in the union territory.

Counting of votes in the threephase Assembly elections in

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court will hear

November 25 the bail plea of former JNU student

Umar Khalid and student activist Sharjeel Imam in a

UAPA case related to the alleged larger conspiracy

The two bail pleas, along with similar pleas by other

behind the communal riots here in February 2020.

co-accused in the case -'United Against Hate'

founder Khalid Saifi and others -- were Monday

Delhi riots 2020: HC to hear pleas

of Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam Nov 25

listed for fresh hearing before a bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur.

The bench, however, did not assemble. The cases were earlier before a bench headed

by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait but the judge was recently transferred to the Madhya

Pradesh High Court as its chief justice. Khalid, Imam and several others have been

booked under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and

provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the

February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

views on whether the LG can nominate the five MLAs at the time of government formation or at a later stage on the aid and advice of the council of ministers. The five members will comprise two women, two from the migrant community and one refugee from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir(POJK).

SNIPPETS

J&K's journey to get its first elected government since 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated will be taken up Tuesday.

In the mega battle of alliances, the addition of the five nominated members would take the House strength to 95, and the majority mark to 48. These members, who could be potentially advantageous to the BJP, will have

the same powers and voting rights as other MLAs.

Several exit polls Saturday gave an edge to the Congress' alliance with the NC, with the regional partner projected to emerge as the single largest party.

Legal experts held divergent

Shah terms Naxals biggest Addressing chief ministers and top officials of the Naxal-affected

states, Shah said that all Left Wing Extremism affected states are committed to completely eliminating Naxalism by March 2026



New Delhi, Oct 7: Terming Naxals the biggest human rights violators, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Monday said security forces have been carrying out "offensive operations" instead of defensive against the insurgents and have achieved big successes in recent times.

Addressing chief ministers and top officials of the Naxal-affected states, Shah also said that all Left Wing Extremism (LWE)affected states are committed to completely eliminating Naxalism by March 2026.

Due to the improved security situation, high voter turnout -- up to 70 per cent -- was witnessed in the Maoist-hit region in the last Lok Sabha polls. There was zero polling in the region earlier, he said.

Shah said more than 13,000 people from the northeast, Kashmir and LWE-affected areas have renounced violence and ioined the mainstream. He asked vouths involved in the Maoist movement to give up arms and join the mainstream, saying all states have prepared beneficial rehabilitation schemes for them.

The crucial meeting, which discussed anti-Naxal operations and development initiatives carried out in the affected areas, came days after the security forces killed 31 ultras in the forests of Chhattisgarh in one of the most successful operations in recent times.

"Security forces are now carrying out offensive operations instead of defensive operations earlier." Shah said.

An "offensive strategy" has been adopted by activating the National Investigation Agency

RFP Documents

Speed post Date and time for

opening of Technical

receipt of RFP through

offline Registered post

(NIA) to choke the financing of Naxalites, which has resulted in a shortage of financial resources for them, he said.

Multiple long-duration operations were conducted, ensuring that the Naxalites are surrounded, leaving them with no opportunity to escape, he added.

To completely eradicate Naxalism, Shah said, it is essential to give a final push to eliminate this menace once and for all and urged the chief ministers of all affected states to review the progress of development and anti-Naxal operations at least once a month.

Shah also requested the Directors General of Police to conduct such reviews at least once every 15 days.

Describing Naxals as the biggest hurdle to development. he said they are the biggest human rights violators who have been depriving over eight crore people, especially the tribals, of development and basic welfare opportunities.

He said that Naxalism prevents education, healthcare, connectivity, banking and postal services from reaching villages.

The home minister emphasised that in order to ensure that development reaches the last person in society, Naxalism must be completely eliminated.

The Naxal-affected states include Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Chief ministers of_ Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana and Maharashtra attended the meeting while other states were represented by senior ministers and officials.

Chief Minister M K Stalin has monitoring the control of the drug as part of his vision of making a drug-free Tamil Nadu

In the letter, most importantly, they demanded that the government should implement it

entire five years, sometimes in hotels and sometimes for no reason. That's say that nowadays he is



abused them and committed crimes with impunity! Is BJP anti-

SHORT **TAKES**

₹1.60cr drugs

seized, 5 held

Diphu (Assam): Drugs worth

operations in Assam's Karbi

police said. Acting on a tip-

operation at a check-point

near the State Bank of India

off, police launched a search

Anglong district Monday,

over ₹1.60 crore have been

seized and five persons

arrested in two separate

Security aren't able secessionist forces who mocked &

Jawan& anti-Kisan? @kclangel

RG KAR RAPE-MURDER CBI chargesheets Sanjay Roy

The CBI has charged Roy with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 64 and 66 pertaining to rape and 103(1) relating to murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Civic volunteer in Kolkata Police Sanjay Roy had raped and killed the trainee doctor in the seminar hall at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital August 9, the CBI has alleged in its first charge sheet in the sensational case filed Monday while ruling out "gang rape"

In the charge sheet filed before a Sealdah court 54 days after the CBI took over the investigation, the agency said



that Roy had committed the crime alone and it has not found evidence so far to substantiate allegations of gang rape and involvement of other individuals, officials in the know of the developments said.

The agency told the court that it has kept the probe open into other aspects of the crime,

The report had annexure carrying statements of prosecution witnesses was filed

The local police had arrested Roy on the next day of the crime August 10 - based on the CCTV footage and his inability to explain his conduct at the time of the crime.

The CBI heavily relied on the CCTV footage which showed Roy entering the seminar hall at around 4 AM August 9, they said. The footage showed that he had left the room after 30 minutes.

they said. The DNA samples collected from his nails also indicated his role in the gruesome crime, they said. The CBI has charged Roy with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 64 and 66 pertaining to rape and 103(1) relating to murder.

France, India to set up aeronautics cluster

About the LG's power to

nominate five members

and whether it can be

exercised without

the aid and advice

of the council of

ministers, former

Delhi High Court

iudge Justice (retd)

S N Dhingra said

one has to wait for

the actual poll results

and the issue at this stage

National Conference presi-

dent Farooq Abdullah said his

party might go to the Supreme

Court against any move to nom-

inate the five members during

government formation process.

is premature.

Land-for-jobs case: Lalu Prasad,

sons granted bail by Delhi court

the accused persons on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh each, noting

accused appeared before the court in pursuance to summons

issued to them by the court earlier. The judge had issued the

summons after taking cognisance of a supplementary charge

sheet against the accused persons. The final report was filed

The ED filed its case based on an FIR lodged by the CBI.

before the court by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) August 6.

that they were not arrested during the investigation. The

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court Monday

granted bail to RJD chief and former

Railway Minister Lalu Prasad and his

sons Teiashwi Yadav and Tei Pratap

Yadav in the land-for-jobs money

Vishal Gogne granted the relief to

laundering case. Special Judge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 7: France and India will be setting up an aeronautics cluster as well as developing an Indo-French campus for professional training in aeronautics and space.

France's Ambassador to India Thierry Mathou Monday said the two countries have been strategic partners for a long time, especially in the fields of defence and aero-

Speaking at the conference organised by the French Aerospace Industries Association (GIFAS) in the national capital, he said 55 per cent of French exports to India are in the aeronautical sector. amounting to 2.7 billion euros in the first half of 2024

CONCERN OVER AFRICAN ELEPHANT'S WELFARE

Global body suspends Delhi zoo's membership

During the suspension, the zoo will lose all WAZA membership rights and benefits, such as attending conferences and participating in committees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: A global alliance of zoos and aquariums Monday suspended the membership of Delhi's National Zoological Park due to concerns over the welfare of an African elephant, Shankar, who was reportedly kept in chains.

Delhi Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar said action deemed proper will be taken and a compliance report sent after examining the let-

"Currently Shankar is moving freely in its enclosure without any chains," he said.

Zimbabwe had gifted the elephant to the then president of India Shankar Dayal Sharma in 1996. It was brought to India and kept in the Delhi zoo.

Shankar has been alone after its companion, another African elephant named Bambai, died in

In a letter to Kumar and the Central Zoo Authority under the Union environment ministry, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) said it had previously requested information from them regarding the elephant's welfare and received replies May 24 and July 24.

'Following a thorough review of this case, the WAZA Council has voted to immediately suspend the WAZA membership of the National Zoological Park, New Delhi," said the letter which was accessed by PTI.

CZA Member Secretary Sanjay Shukla told PTI that Botswana has agreed to provide one African female elephant which will be paired with Shankar.



Environment ministry officials said CZA has a framework for animal welfare evaluation programmes and this is in the process of being aligned with the standards agreed upon by WAZA. The peer review is in progress and CZA will comply with the November 30 deadline, they said.

WAZA President Karen Fifield wrote in the letter that to lift the suspension, the zoo must create

provement in Shankar's welfare, the letter said.

If relocation is chosen, Shankar should be trained for the move using positive reinforcement techniques to minimise stress and ensure a smooth transition, WAZA

The letter warned that the zoo's membership will be permanently terminated if it does not have a WAZA-approved plan in place to relocate Shankar or address the concerns by April 7, 2025.

During the suspension, the zoo will lose all WAZA membership rights and benefits, such as attending conferences and participating in committees.

The letter said that the zoo has the option to appeal this decision by writing to the WAZA president within 60 days, but the suspension will remain in place during the appeal process.

BERHAMPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GANJAM **INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OF BOIMINING OF LEGACY WASTE** Boimining of Legacy Waste Boimining of Legacy Waste No. of work Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) Bid Cost. 18% GST in Shape of Demand Draft in favou of Commissioner BeMC Rs. 10,00,000.00 (Rupees Ten Lakh Only). In Bid Security / E.M.D shape of Bank Draft in favour of Commissioner Berhampur Municipal Corporation 6 Availability of RF www.berhampur.gov.in Documents From 11 Hours of dt. 07.10.2024 to 17 Hours Period of Availability of

Sd./- Commissioner, OIPR-13035/11/0015/2425

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI

29.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

28.10.2024 at 5.00 P.M.

Ph.: 0680-2119380(O), Fax No.: 0680-2119380(F), Email ID: ori-rengaliguda@nic.in L. No. /Dev. Dated

Government of Odisha Office of the Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti, Rangeilunda

Tender Call Notice No.02/2024-25 Total No. of Works: 6 (Six) Nos of individual works Estimated Cost: Varies from Rs. 15.47 Lakhs to Rs. 16.92 Lakhs Period of Completion: 6 (Six) Calendar Months

Bid documents consisting of Names of work, estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of Terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in https:// ganjam.odisha.gov.in/notices/advertisement and https://ganjam.odisha.gov

Other details as follows

SI. No.	Place of availability of Tender Document	Bid identification No.	Period of availability of Tender	Period of submission of Tender	Date and Place of opening of BID
1	2	3	4	5	6
1 to 6	Block Development Officer, Rangeilunda, Panchayat Samiti, Rangeilunda		From 08.10.2024 (10:00 A.M.) to 29.10.2024 (11:00 A.M.)	From 08.10.2024 (10:00 A.M.) to 29.10.2024 (11:00 A.M.)	29.10.2024 (03:00 P.M.) In the Office Chamber of the Block Development Officer, Rangeilunda

a plan within six months to either relocate Shankar to a new facil-Founded in 1935, WAZA proity or comprehensively address all motes high standards of welfare concerns regarding its manageof animals and their habitats 'Shankar and its (new) comaround the world. Nearly 400 leadment and care. This plan must be approved by panion will be kept at the Delhi ing institutions and organisa-WAZA and show significant imzoo as per global standards," he tions are its members.

branch under Khatkhati police station and recovered 117.52 grams of heroin concealed inside 10 soap cases in a vehicle going towards Arunachal Pradesh. Police arrested three persons from Arunachal Pradesh. The total value of the seized heroin was estimated to be ₹1 crore, police added. In a separate incident, police seized 1.5 kg of brown sugar from a vehicle traveling from Manipur at Kaliram Basti, near the Assam-Nagaland border.

NGT notice to Greater **Noida authorities** New Delhi: The National Green

Tribunal (NGT) has sought a response from authorities. including the district magistrate of Greater Noida, in a matter regarding the supply of contaminated water to a housing society. The green panel had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a newspaper report. according to which water containing E coli bacteria and bleaching powder was recently supplied to Supertech Ecovillage 2 in Greater Noida West. Consumption of the contaminated water led to over 300 residents, including 170 children, falling ill.

international



The arms deliveries, the prolongation of the war in Gaza, and its extension to **Lebanon cannot produce the** security expected by the Israelis and by everyone in the region

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

MAIDEN INDIA FEST IN ALBANIA

Albania's presidential palace was briefly transformed into an Indian royal court showcasing Rampur's exquisite culinary heritage, traditional music and fashion as a part to introduce the country's rich culture to the Albanians

56 are Israelis, though some of

them have more than one na-

tionality. Another six are Thais

Fifty-one are men and 10 are

women. Eleven are military per-



Commemorations

condemned the "unspeakable

brutality" of the October 7

attack, paid tribute to the

people including American citizens killed and kidnapped,

committed to Israel's right to

The German chancellery in

Berlin was adorned with a

the Israeli hostages. The

yellow ribbon commemorating

names of the people killed and

front of the Brandenburg Gate. Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni,

who has voiced strong support

for Israel, commemorated the

kidnapped were read out in

and said he remained

defend itself a year on.

US President Joe Biden



few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace. Violence

never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing

HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

For many, least developed countries, they have literally been priced out of the financial markets.



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR

The government will maintain a thorough readiness posture against various potential provocations from North Korea, while ensuring close South Korea-US cooperation, especially during the US presidential election and government transition period

CHO TAE-YUL FOREIGN MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

SHORT **TAKES**

Big blow to Khan

Lahore: Pakistan's Punjab government Monday banned jailed former premier Imran Khan from meeting his family members, lawyers and party leaders till October 18 due to "security concerns", amidst his party staging anti-government protests in several cities. Interior Minister Mohsin Nagyi has accused PTI of trying to disrupt the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit scheduled to be held Oct 15 and 16 in Islamabad and emphasised that the government will ensure that these plans do not succeed, "Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi have been hanned from meeting their family, lawyers, and party leaders at Adiala Jail. Rawalpindi, till Oct 18," a Punjab government official

PM Starmer names new chief of staff

London: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer Monday named a new chief of staff after a highprofile resignation amid a wider shake-up of his top team at 10 Downing Street to mark his Labour Party government's first 100 days in office. Sue Gray, previously a top civil servant appointed by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's to investigate the partygate scandal of Covid lockdown law breaching parties within the then Tory government, resigned as Starmer's top aide saying the "intense commentary around my position risked becoming a distraction to the government's vital work of change".

Philippines, allies launch naval drills

Subic: The armed forces of the Philippines, the United States and four other countries began joint naval exercises off the coast of the Philippines' northern Luzon island facing Taiwan in a display of naval strength amid rising tensions with China. Called "Sama Sama," which means togetherness, this year's drills, which involve almost a thousand sailors and personnel from Australia, Canada, France, Japan, the United States and the Philippines, are high-intensity exercises focusing on antisubmarine, anti-surface and anti-air warfare. US navy rear admiral Todd Cimicata told reporters in the port of Subic, to the west of Manila, that building partnerships with key allies created a "deterrent effect", though he added that the exercises were not targeted at any country.

Israel marks Oct 7 anniv amid rising conflicts

COMMEMORATIONS AND ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE ARE PLANNED ACROSS THE WORLD TO **MARK ONE YEAR**

AGENCIES

Reim, Oct 7: Israelis Monday marked the first anniversary of the devastating Hamas attack that triggered a war which has sparked protest worldwide and risks igniting a far wider conflict in the Middle East.

Ceremonies and protests in Jerusalem and Israel's south began around 06:29 am (0329 GMT), the hour when Hamasled militants launched rockets into Israel at the start of the October 7 attack last year.

They killed some 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages to Gaza, according to Israeli figures. Outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's home in Jerusalem, around 300 people led by families of hostages holding up photos of their loved ones, observed a minute of silence for the dead as a siren sounded.

"We're still stuck in October 7th, 2023, in one unending day of terror, of fear, of anger, of despair," said Yuval Baron, whose father-in-law Keith Siegel is hostage in Gaza.

"We wanted to start this day together to remind ourselves, our Prime Minister, the public of Israel that even though it is a day of grief there is still a holy mission to bring back the hostages," said Baron.

In Reim, the site of the music festival where more than 360 people were killed and dozens taken hostage, President Isaac Herzog presided over the memorial ceremony which began with the last track that was played at the party a year ago.

"We will remember always



Hostage families gather outside PM Netanyahu's

President Herzog presides over memorial at site of music festival

West Bank movement restricted, many checkpoints closed

who kidnapped, who murdered, who raped, who slaughtered. At the same time, we have also seen extraordinary fortitude. We have a wonderful people and on this day we strengthen it and call for unity," said Herzog.

Ceremonies were to take place at kibbutz villages and towns near the border throughout the day. Israel is fighting a "long war", the country's military chief told its soldiers and commanders a day ahead of the first anniversary of the 2023 Hamas attack, vowing to wipe out its "enemies" who seek to destroy Israel. Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi, Chief of the General Staff of Israel, praised their commitment and courage as the Middle East stared at uncer-

tainty, plunging into more violence by the day. He asserted every day was becoming worse for their "enemies" "A year has passed since

October 7th, the day we failed in our mission to protect the citizens of the State of will end the war Israel," said when we complete all

the goals we set: the Lieutenant overthrowing the evil rule General. of Hamas, returning all our After the abductees home, both the war ends, dead and the living Halevi said, BENJAMIN NETANYAHU I the enemies of Israel will know

> there will be no revival for those who seek to destroy the country Hostages still held in Gaza

Of the 251 hostages seized by militants October 7, 2023, 117 have been freed, most of them women, children and foreign workers. Most were released during a weeklong truce in November in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Nearly a year later, Israel believes 63 hostages still held in Gaza are alive. The army and the Hostages and Missing Two are children. No formal events were planned in Gaza Monday. Israeli forces mounted air and ground offensives in several areas, saying

and one is Nepalese

sonnel.

they were attacking Hamas militants and command centres. Hamas' armed wing fired a missile salvo at Tel Aviv, the group said in statement, with

the Israeli military saying sirens were sounded in central Israel. In a speech to mark the anniversary, Khaled Meshaal, who leads the group's political office

anniversary by visiting the in exile in Qatar, urged Arab and main synagogue in Rome. French President Emmanuel Macron took to social media to Hezbollah hits Israel with 135 missiles mark the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks. "The pain remains, as vivid as it was a year ago. The pain of the

Israeli people. Ours. The pain of wounded humanity," he In Australia, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attended a vigil in Melbourne, where he walked with members of the Jewish community and lawmakers from across party

lines. Thousands attended the

Turkey President Tayyip Erdogan focused on the plight of the Palestinians. "What is dying in Gaza, Palestine, and nowadays in Lebanon is not just women, children, babies, innocent civilians; it is humanity (and) the international system that is expected to serve humanity".

Families Forum have confirmed 71 others are dead, 34 of whose bodies are still in Gaza. The

Jerusalem: Hezbollah

fired rockets at Israel's

third largest city Haifa

early Monday as Israeli

forces looked poised to

southern Lebanon on

the Gaza war, which

has spread conflict

the first anniversary of

across the Middle East.

expand ground

incursions into

death of Idan Shtivi was announced Monday by the Forum. Of the 63 thought to be alive.

Muslim countries to launch "new fronts of resistance" against Israel. "Before October 7, one had dreams. As a father, I have six children, my biggest burden was how to provide them with homes

and get them married. But after October 7, this came to nothing. After 58 years of work for me, same as my father, all of it has gone to dust and rocks," Abu Hassan Shaheen said.

Russian missile blasts Ukraine's major airbase

Kyiv, Oct 7: A Russian hypersonic missile struck the "area" Ukraine's major Starokostiantyniv airbase Monday morning, Kyiv said in a rare admission, after a drone and missile attack that also targeted the capital.

The latest strike on the Starokostiantyniv airfield in the western Khmelnytskyi region, which is often attacked by Russia, came a day after the Dutch defence minister said the Netherlands would supply Ukraine with more F-16 jets in the coming months.

Ukraine, which took receipt of a batch of F-16s this summer after months of lobbying the West, keeps the whereabouts of its warplanes top secret to protect them from long-range strikes that Russia has conducted throughout its war.

The air force, which seldom discloses damage to military targets, did not say if the strike had caused any damage to the air base, but the acknowledgment of a missile striking the vicinity of the facility was unusual.

There were no civilian casualties or damage to critical infrastructure, Governor Serhiy Tvurin said.

Two Kinzhal missiles were also shot down in the Kyiv region, the air force said. Debris came down in three Kyiv districts, but no major damage or casualties were reported after air defences engaged incoming targets, city authorities said.

Debris damaged the roof of a multi-storey residential building and the roof of a supermarket in the Solomianskyi district in the city's west and one piece of debris came down on the territory of a school, the head of city's military administration Serhiy Popko said.

Missile debris also fell onto an open area in the central Shevchenkivskyi district and damaged the roof of a car in the southern Kyiv district of Holosiivskyi.

Ukrainian air defences also shot down 32 Russian drones and a further 37 were lost on military radars, suggesting they had been disabled by electronic warfare systems, the air force

Russia has staged long-range missile strikes on Ukraine throughout the war it launched in February 2022. Drone attacks have become regular, almost nightly occurrences.





Iran-backed Hezbollah said it targeted a military base south of Haifa

with "Fadi 1" missiles and launched another strike on Tiberias, 65 km

away. Hezbollah said it targeted areas north of Haifa with missiles in a

second assault later Monday. Hezbollah said it targeted areas north of

air force was carrying out extensive bombings of Hezbollah targets in

south Lebanon, and that two Israeli soldiers were killed in border-area

police confirmed that rockets had struck Haifa, also a major

were identified in the area. The incident is under review.'

combat, taking the military death toll inside Lebanon so far to 11. Israeli

Mediterranean port, Monday and local media said 10 people were hurt.

An Israeli military statement said five rockets were launched at Haifa

from Lebanon and interceptors were fired at them. "Fallen projectiles

projectiles had entered Israeli territory Monday. Israel's military said the

Haifa with missiles later in the day. Israel's military said around 135

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station

Pakistan airport blast kills 2 Chinese nationals

Islamabad, Oct 7: Two Chinese nationals were killed in an explosion near the international airport of the southern Pakistani city of Karachi Sunday night, the Chinese embassy in Pakistan said, in what it described as a "terrorist attack"

In a statement emailed to journalists, separatist militant group Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed the explosion was an attack carried out by them using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device targeting Chinese nationals, including engineers

The Chinese embassy said a convoy from the Port Qasim Electric Power Company was attacked near the airport.

"The Chinese Embassy and Consulates General in Pakistan strongly condemn this terrorist attack, express deep condolences to the innocent victims of



both countries and sincere sympathies to the injured and (their) families," the statement said.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said a Chinese national was also injured and that an investigation was underway. "Pakistan stands committed to

safeguarding our Chinese friends,' he said in a statement on social media platform X. "We will leave no stone unturned to ensure their security and well-being.'

Pakistan is preparing to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the capital Islamabad, which was roiled by protests and clashes this week-

China expresses 'deep shock'

Beijing: China said it was "deeply shocked" by the killing of two Chinese nationals in a suicide attack in Karachi and "demanded" Pakistan to effectively close the security loopholes and take targeted measures to provide full protection for its workers engaged in the CPEC projects. 'China is deeply shocked by the attack against Chinese citizens and strongly condemns this terrorist act," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement late Monday evening. "We deeply mourn the victims and our thoughts are with their families," it said. The attack is the latest in a string of violence against Chinese workers in Pakistan. It comes less than two weeks before the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Heads of Government summit to be held in Islamabad.

end between police and supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Pakistan broadcaster Geo News reported at least 10 people were injured in Sunday's blast in addition to the fatalities. Karachi police did not immediately respond to request

for comment. The BLA seeks independence for the province of Balochistan. located in Pakistan's southwest and bordering on Afghanistan and Iran. In August, it launched coordinated attacks in the province, in which more than 70 people were killed.

BLA specifically targets Chinese interests, in particular the strategic port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea, accusing Beijing of helping Islamabad exploit the province. It has previously killed Chinese citizens working in theregion and attacked Beijing's consulate in Karachi.

business



Today, there is more oil available in the world than there is consumption. If some parties hold back on the availability, there are new suppliers in the market also

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

INDIA'S CLEAN ENERGY TECH CAPACITY TO RISE

India's clean energy technology capacity is projected to rise significantly by 2030, but the country is likely to miss its green energy target due to challenges like availability of technological innovation and skilled labour, a report said Monday. According to S&P Global Commodity Insights, with government's supportive strategies, India's clean energy technology capacity is projected to rise significantly by 2030, aiming for full self-sufficiency in solar PV and wind by 2030.





We will be continuing to grow (sourcing of components)... We will continue to double around every 5 years, that is in the next decade to come. It is a stable pace

GUILLAUME FAURY | AIRBUS CEO

Indian food products should become popular globally. Indian food standards should be recognised as global standards









HARSHA V AGARWAL | EMAMI VICE

SHORT **TAKES**

Bol posts 14% loan growth in Q2

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of India (BoI) Monday said it has posted a credit growth of 14.4 per cent at ₹6.21 lakh crore for the second quarter ended September. Total advances were at ₹5.43 lakh crore at the end of September 30, 2023, Bol said in a regulatory filing. The lender reported a 10.1 per cent increase in total deposits to ₹7.75 lakh crore as against ₹7.03 lakh crore at the end of the second quarter of the previous financial year. Total business of the bank rose 12 per cent to ₹13.96 lakh crore, as compared to ₹12.46 lakh crore at the end of September 30, 2023.

JLR retail sales fall 3% to 1,03,108 units

New Delhi: Tata Motorsowned Jaquar Land Rover Monday reported a 3 per cent decline in retail sales at 1,03,108 units in the second quarter of the current fiscal as compared to the year-ago period. Retail sales for the first six months of the financial year were at 2,14,288 units, up 3 per cent vear-on-vear. Tata Motors said in a statement.

JSW Group arm invests in Aereo

Mumbai: JSW Ventures, an arm of diversified conglomerate JSW Group, Monday said it has picked up a stake in drone technology entity Aereo for USD 1.8 million. Aereo uses drone technology and AI-driven data analytics to help clients in asset management in sectors including mining and infrastructure, a statement by JSW Ventures said. The company raised the funds as part of Series B funding round. Aereo, which is delivering operating profits, will be utilising the funds for strengthening its offerings and also expanding into international markets, it said.

Ericsson bags 4 telecom circles

New Delhi: Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson has bagged four more telecom circles from Vodafone Idea for the deployment of 4G and 5G technology, the company said Monday. Last month, debtridden Vodafone Idea (VIL) had awarded about ₹30,000 crore telecom network contract to Ericsson, Nokia and Samsung for a period of three years. "Ericsson will upgrade 4G and deploy 5G across the Indian telecom circles it already powers for Vi. In addition, Ericsson will provide 4G and 5G services in the telecom circles of Delhi, Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan," a company statement said.

Sensex, Nifty fall for sixth straight session

Mumbai, Oct 7: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty extended their losing streak for the sixth straight session and settled sharply lower Monday dragged down by heavy selling in bellwether stocks amid mixed global trends and outflow of for-

The BSE Sensex tumbled 638.45 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at 81,050. During the day, it plummeted 962.39 points or 1.17 per cent to 80,726.06.

The NSE Nifty slumped 218.85 points or 0.87 per cent to end at

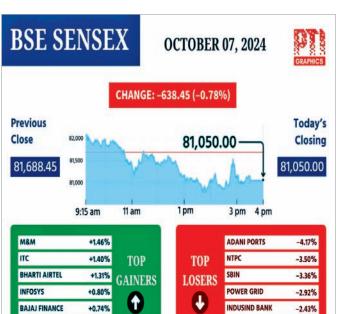
From the 30 Sensex firms. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones, NTPC, State Bank of India, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Titan and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services and Tech Mahindra defied the trend.

"The Indian markets have entered a consolidation phase with high risk of underperforming to Asian peers. This phase is marked by significant corrections in the broader market due to premium valuations. There is notable global arbitrage activity. with Chinese markets attracting substantial inflows driven by its attractive valuations and stimulus measures," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geoiit Financial Services, said.

Market capitalisation of BSElisted companies dropped by ₹8.90 lakh crore to ₹4,51,99,444.70 (USD 5.38 trillion)

The BSE midcap gauge dropped 1.85 per cent and smallcap index plummeted 3.27 per



Sector-wise, utilities tanked by 3.63 per cent, while power went down 3.14 per cent, and services slid by 3.12 per cent. Commodities fell 2.54 per cent, while telecommunication declined by 2.49 per cent, energy plummeted by 2.46 per cent, and oil & gas and industrials lost 2.38 per cent each.

On the other hand, IT and teck were the only gainers.

Meanwhile, shares of Ola Electric Mobility plunged over 8 per cent to ₹90.82 apiece on the BSE amid reports of service quality issues of its electric scooters and its CEO's spat on social media.

However, stock of Heidelberg Cement India ended 4 per cent higher following reports that the Adani Group is in talks to acquire Indian operations of Germany's Heidelberg Materials. The proposed buyout of

Heidelberg's India unit will be led by billionaire Gautam Adaniled Ambuja Cements and could be worth around USD 1.2 billion (about ₹10,000 crore), the reports added.

During the day, shares of the company rallied 17.95 per cent to hit its 52-week high of ₹257.85 apiece on the BSE.

Traders also kept an eye on the RBI's monetary policy to be announced Wednesday. The reconstituted rate-setting panel of the Reserve Bank on Monday started deliberations on the next bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectations of a status quo on interest rates in view of inflationary concerns and the possibility of a flare-up in the Middle East crisis that could jack up commodity prices.

In the current context, experts feel that the RBI may not follow the US Federal Reserve, which

their portfolio positions and FIIs outflows are exacerbated. Amid escalating geopolitical tensions, the surging oil prices poses a further challenge to economy

lowered the benchmark rates by 50 basis points, and the central banks of some developed nations, which have reduced the interest rates.

'With the inflation rate at 3.65 per cent in August, falling below the 4 per cent target, there is cautious optimism despite ongoing concerns about food inflation and crude prices due to Middle East tensions. The favourable monsoon and the Fed's rate cut provide the RBI with ample opportunity to adjust its policy and implement rate cuts in the foreseeable future. This is expected to support the market in the long run by providing liquidity and bolstering the economy's growth trajectory," Anwin Aby George, Research analyst at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude surged 2.09 per cent to USD 79.68 a barrel.

European markets were trading on a mixed note Monday. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul settled higher.

Investors are reassessing their portfolio positions and FIIs outflows are exacerbated. Amid escalating geopolitical tensions, the surging oil prices poses a further challenge to the domestic economy in the short-term,

RBI's panel begins deliberation on rates

Mumbai, Oct 7: The reconstituted rate-setting panel of the Reserve Bank Monday started deliberations on the next bimonthly monetary policy amid expectations of a status quo on interest rates in view of inflationary concerns and the possibility of a flare-up in the Middle East crisis that could jack up commodity prices.

In the current context, experts feel that the RBI may not follow the US Federal Reserve, which lowered the benchmark rates by 50 basis points, and the central banks of some developed nations, which have reduced the interest rates.

Earlier this month, the government reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

It has appointed Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Nagesh Kumar as external members of the MPC. They have replaced Ashima Goval, Shashanka Bhide, and Jayanth R Varma.

Apart from Governor Shaktikanta Das, the other internal members are the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy Michael Debabrata Patra and the Executive Director monetary policy department of RBI Rajiv Ranjan.

MPC Chairman Das will reveal the outcome of the three-day discussion Wednesday (October 9).

The central bank has kept the repo or short-term lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February 2023, and experts think some easing could only be pos-

The government has tasked



the central bank to ensure that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

"We expect the RBI to keep the policy reporate (currently at 6.50 per cent) and stance (withdrawal of accommodation) unchanged in the upcoming October monetary policy meeting, though we feel strongly that the stance should be changed to neutral. considering the change in global rates cycle and potential risks to India's growth momentum going forward," said Kaushik Das, chief economist. India & South Asia, Deutsche Bank.

The RBI is likely to keep its FY25 real GDP growth (7.2 per cent yoy) and CPI inflation (4.5 per cent vov) forecasts unchanged in the October policy, though there could be changes made to the quarterly CPI forecasts, particularly for July-Sep'24, he added.

On expectations from the MPC, Radhika Rao, executive director and senior economist, DBS Bank said the central bank's resolve in addressing food price inflation and preventing an unanchoring in inflationary expectations is likely to see the MPC members lean towards a pause in October, with a softening in stance towards the

BIZ BUZZ

UCO Bank launches special deposit scheme Bhubaneswar: UCO Bank has launched a special fixed

days for a limited period. The Scheme is applicable or domestic retail term deposits below ₹3 crore. The Scheme is offering higher interest rate @7.30 % p.a for general customers and @ 7.55 % p.a for senior citizen depositors which will benefit the customers to earn higher rate of return on their investment. The offered rate under "UCO 333" is among the best rates offered by Public its existing as well as new customers.

deposit Scheme "UCO 333" for deposit period of 333



Sector Banks (PSBs). The Bank is aggressively promoting this scheme to

Linen Club launches Linen Utsav

Bhubaneswar: Aditya Birla Group fashion brand and one of India's biggest linen destinations 'Linen Club' has launched its annual festive campaign - Linen Utsav in their exclusive showrooms in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Linen Utsav is an annual festive celebration by Linen Club where the brand gives



This year as a part of Linen Utsav, Linen Club is offering its consumers free duffle and trolley bags on their shopping. On a purchase of ₹8999 customers will get a duffle bag free and on purchase of ₹15999 customers will get a Wildcraft trolley bag free. Customers can shop from Linen Club's wide variety of Puja range available in both fabrics and ready to wear apparel offerings in various colors, designs and patterns.

Russia seeks to boost coal exports to India

REUTERS

Moscow, Oct 7: Russia is interested in increasing coal exports to India to tap into growing demand for the fuel in the Asian country, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said

China remains the biggest buyer of Russian coal but Moscow has said India may overtake it by the start of the next decade as Beijing plans cutbacks on coal usage for power generation.

India has increasingly relied on coal to address record power demand, with the rise in coalfired power output earlier this year outpacing renewable energy growth for the first time since at least 2019.

Its coal production in the last fiscal year to March 31 rose to a record 997.828 million metric tons, a 12% rise from a year ago. More than 75% of India's power generation was from coal in 2023.

India imported 176 million tons of thermal coal in 2023, driven mainly by power plants. Russian exports to India reached 26.2 million tons last year, up from 20

Russia is already the largest supplier of crude oil to India thanks to diversification of trade ties away from Europe, once

million tons in 2022, according to Russia's energy ministry.

Moscow's key business partner, due to a severe political standoff with the West over the conflict in Ukraine.

"Russian coal-producing enterprises have significant resources and are interested in expanding its presence in the fast-growing Indian market,' Novak said, according to a transcript of his remarks released by his office. He made the comments at a meeting with reporters.

Despite close political and business ties, India is wary of sanctions against Russia. It said last month that the country would not buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) produced from Russia's Arctic LNG 2 project, which is sanctioned by Western countries.

FMCG cos see two-fold rise in sales via quick comm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

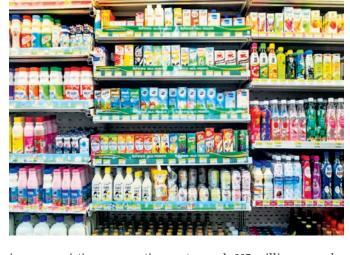
New Delhi, Oct 7: Leading FMCG firms reported a nearly two-fold increase in the share of quick commerce within their total e-commerce sales, and this surge is anticipated to continue, said a joint report by Deloitte and industry body FICCI.

Quick Commerce, also known as hyperlocal delivery, is now reaching around 35 per cent of online sales and has become a preferred channel for urban consumers "About 18 per cent of con-

sumers prefer purchasing food and beverage items from Q-commerce channels. The Q-commerce segment has grown by 230 per cent from 2021 to 2023. said the report titled 'SPURring growth in FMCG, retail and ecommerce sectors in India'.

It has already started 'cannibalising' traditional online grocery channels such as slotted and next-day deliveries. Now demand for quick commerce and hyperlocal delivery is surging, especially in urban areas, reshaping last-mile logistics.

"The growth in quick commerce is disruptive, re-examin-



ing many existing consumption, production and distribution paradigms," it said, adding: "This surge in quick commerce is anticipated to continue as consumers want to continue to purchase from Q-commerce channels.

Now consumers in India are increasingly turning to e-commerce as a preferred channel

for purchasing FMCG products. 'With internet penetration rapidly expanding -- projected

to reach 907 million users by 2023 -- online platforms now account for 17 per cent of overall FMCG consumption, particularly among affluent and evolved buyers," it said, adding, "This shift is driven by greater convenience, wider product availability and competitive pricing."

Citing the findings of a survev. the report said now consumers tend to favour quick commerce over traditional e-commerce for food and beverIn the overall sector, affluent consumers are shifting towards premium products, and companies are looking to focus on this trend through innovation-led new product development

ages, as these items are often driven by impulse purchases or immediate needs. In contrast, home, beauty and personal care products are generally more planned purchases, making e-commerce the preferred option in these categories

Now smaller households with both members working likely appreciate the convenience and speed of quick commerce, which caters to more immediate and flexible consumption needs,

In the overall sector, affluent consumers are shifting towards premium products, and companies are looking to focus on this trend through innovation-led new product development.

SNIPPETS

CHANGE OF **GUARD AT NESTLE INDIA**

New Delhi: FMCG major Nestle India Monday announced a change in the leadership from August next year, naming ex-Amazon India head Manish Tiwary as its Managing Director after the incumbent, Suresh Narayanan, retires in July 2025. Narayanan, who served Swiss FMCG giant Nestle group for over 26 years and steered the company here from the Maggi crisis dating back to 2015, will retire July 31, 2025, after leading the company for 10 years. Manish Tiwary, who was leading e-commerce major Amazon in India as its country manager till August this year, will take over the baton August 1, 2025, according to a statement from Nestle India. "Nomination has been received from Nestlé S.A. (Swiss parent firm) for the appointment of Manish Tiwary as the Managing Director of Nestlé India Limited with effect from August 1, 2025," it said. However, it also added the said proposal "is subject to necessary approvals."

HERO MOTORS

WITHDRAWS ₹900 **CRORE IPO PAPERS**

New Delhi: Hero Motors Ltd, the auto-components firm of the Hero Motors Company (HMC) Group, has withdrawn its documents for an initial public offering (IPO) worth ₹900 crore, an update with markets regulator Sebi showed Monday. In its draft papers, the company had proposed to raise ₹500 crore through a fresh issuance of equity shares and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares valued at ₹400 crore by promoters. Under the OFS, OP Munjal Holdings was offloading shares valued at ₹250 crore while Bhagyoday Investments and Hero Cycles were selling shares to the tune of ₹75 crore each. It had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) in August with Sebi to seek the regulator's nod to float IPO. Without disclosing the reason, the company said its "DRHP (was) withdrawn on October 5, 2024".



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Dipa Karmakar, who blazed a trail by becoming the first Indian woman gymnast to compete at the Olympics and finish a historic fourth, announced her retirement Monday, ending a career in which she inspired awe for routinely performing the highlydifficult Produnova vault.

The diminutive 31-year-old from Tripura grabbed headlines with her fourth-place finish in the vault final of the 2016 Rio Games, losing an Olympic medal by just 0.15 points.

"After much thought and reflection, I have decided to retire from competitive gymnastics. This is not an easy decision, but it feels like the right time," she said in a statement.

Dipa said she hopes to give back to the sport by becoming a coach at some point in her life or she might simply remain a "supporter of the next generation of gymnasts following their dreams".

"When I look back, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride for everything I've achieved. Representing India on the world stage, winning medals, and most memorably, performing the Produnova vault at the Rio Olympics, will forever be cherished as the pinnacle of my career," she said.

"These moments were not just victories for me; they were victories for every young girl in India who dared to dream, who believed that with hard work and determination, anything is possible."

Dipa was initiated to the sport when she was only six and was coached by Soma Nandi and Bishweshwar Nandi, who remained her mentor throughout her career, guiding her to several international medals and fame

As a child, Dipa had flat feet, a physical condition which would have ended her dream of becoming a gymnast. But through ex-

HISTORICAL CAREER

- First Indian female gymnast to compete at the Olympic Games
- First Indian female gymnast to win medal at Commonwealth Games
- First Indian gymnast to win medal at Asian Championships
- First Indian gymnast to win a gold medal at a global event

tensive training, she was able to develop an arch in her foot.

"I remember the 5-year-old Dipa who was told would not be able to become a gymnast because of having flat feet," she wrote.

Add to this, she had to train at inadequately-equipped gyms while growing up and her journey to the Rio Games became an inspiring tale for gymnasts.

Dipa's quest for sporting glory began in 2008 when she won the Junior Nationals in Jalpaiguri.

She first shot to limelight when she won a vault bronze at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, becoming the first Indian woman gymnast to win a medal in the event.

She also won a bronze at the Asian Championships in 2015 and finished fifth at the 2015 World Championships, both being firsts for any Indian female gymnast.

Following the 2016 Rio Olympics. Dipa faced significant challenges, including injuries and subsequent surgery.

She, however, came back strongly by winning top position at the 2018 Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Turkey, becoming the first Indian gymnast to secure a gold medal at a global event. Later that year, she won a bronze medal at the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Cottbus, Germany.

In 2021, despite facing several career setbacks, Dipa clinched a gold medal at the Asian Gymnastics Championships in Tashkent.

"But my last victory at the Asian Gymnastics Championship in Tashkent was a turning point. After that win, I truly believed I could push my body to reach new heights again. But sometimes, our bodies tell us it's time to rest, even when our hearts want to keep going," she said.

Dipa's career was not without controversies and she was suspended for nearly two years after testing positive for a banned stimulant Higenamine, which is also used for treatment of asthama and cough.

The test was conducted in October 2021 but nobody in India knew that she had failed a dope test at that time. Her ban period lasted till July 10, 2023. But her career is dotted with more accolades than embarrassments.

Dipa has been honoured with the Padma Shri, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award for her outstanding achievements.

IPL: Mayank, Reddy set to enter 'Million Dollar Club'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: India's latest pace sensation Mayank Yadav is set to walk into the IPL 'Million Dollar Club' after making his T20I debut against Bangladesh Sunday, with Lucknow Super Giants needing a minimum of Rs 11 crore (\$1.31 million) to retain his services for the next season.

Similarly, Sunrisers Hyderabad will also need to pay a minimum Rs 11 crore to avail all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy's services after his international debut in the same match.

As per IPL retention rules, any 'uncapped player', who makes his international debut in any of the three formats before the auctions will be elevated to 'capped player' category.

Hence, the retention prices for capped players is Rs 18 crore (No 1), Rs 14 crore (No 2) and Rs 11 crore (No 3). For retention numbers 4 and 5, the value would again shoot up to Rs 18 crore and Rs 14 crore, respectively.

While the deadline for announcing the retention list is October 31, it goes without saying that LSG will have



primary retentions.

While veteran KL Rahul. South African Quinton de Kock, West Indies dasher Nicholas Pooran and Australian Marcus Stoinis are the other heavyweight names in LSG's 2024 roster. there is no way that head coach Justin Langer and new mentor Zaheer Khan will let go of one of India's raw pace bowling diamonds.

While it is too early to predict the classification of retained players, but the 22-year-old Mayank is all set to laugh his way to the bank, even if he is the third retention. "There is no way that LSG will put a rare bowler like Mayank back in auction pool. They have invested in him for past two seasons and he will certainly be one among the top three retentions," an IPL insider privy to the developments told PTI on the condition of anonymity.



SHORT TAKES

Pak dominate England

MULTAN: Captain Shan Masood and Abdullah Shafique hit centuries as Pakistan dominated Day 1 of the first test against a new-look England pace attack Monday, Masood, who compiled his first test ton in four years, smashed 151 off 177 balls while Shafique made a fluent 102 to help the home team reach stumps on 328-4. England took three wickets in the final session, after Masood and Shafique had shared a huge stand of 253 for the second wicket as the visitors toiled in the searing heat of Multan, Saud Shakeel was unbeaten on 35 and nightwatchman Naseem Shah vet to score at the close of play.

Fritz, Dimitrov advance

SHANGHAI: Two days after starting, seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz and 10th-ranked Grigor Dimitrov finally got to complete their second-round matches at the Shanghai Masters Monday. Fritz, the US Open finalist, had led 4-3 in the opening set against Frenchman Terence Atmane when rain suspended play Saturday at the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena, and then washed out all matches on the outside courts until Monday. The 26-year-old American needed two tiebreakers to see off the No 161-ranked Atmane 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), with only one break of serve for each in the 122minute match. Dimitrov, playing in his 100th Masters event, resumed Monday with a set lead but down a break in the second against Zizou Bergs.

Lewandowski's hat-trick

MADRID: Robert Lewandowski continued his impressive start to the season, scoring a hat trick in a 25-minute span as Barcelona beat Alaves 3-0 and went into the international break top of the Spanish league. Lewandowski scored in the seventh, 22nd and 32nd minutes Sunday to take his league tally to 10 goals in nine matches. He has a total of 12 goals in 11 games in all competitions, and has scored eight times in his last five matches. The Poland striker was coming off a brace in Barcelona's 5-0 rout of Young Boys in the Champions League Tuesday

CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025

Naqvi 'confident' of India's participation in Pakistan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lahore, Oct 7: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has expressed confidence that the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy will be held successfully in Pakistan, with all participating teams, including India, expected to participate in the tournament.

Set to take place from February 19 to March 9, the Champions Trophy will be played across Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi. Naqvi emphasized that preparations for the event are progressing on schedule, with further improvements to stadiums already in motion.

Speaking in Lahore, Naqvi addressed the ongoing uncertainty surrounding India's participation. India has not toured Pakistan since July 2008 due to political tension between the two countries. However, Naqvi remained optimistic about India's inclusion in the tournament.

"The Indian team should come. I don't see them cancelling or postponing coming here, and we are confident we will host all the teams in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan," Naqvi told reporters in Lahore.

He reassured that the stadiums would be ready on time, and any further renovations would be



completed post-tournament. "In a way, you can say that we are going to have a brand new stadium," Naqvi added.

Naqvi's optimism comes amidst recent comments by BCCI vice-president Rajiv Shukla, who stated that the Indian government will ultimately decide India's participation in the Champions Trophy. Despite this, Naqvi's confidence reflects the PCB's commitment to successfully hosting the tournament and bridging gaps between the two cricketing nations.

During the conversation, Naqvi also addressed the speculation surrounding Babar Azam's future as Pakistan's white-ball captain. While there have been rumours of Babar resigning from the role, Naqvi stated that he had urged the selection committee to take its time and make a long-term decision.

"I have told them to take a decision after careful consideration because the captain's position is important," Naqvi said, stressing the need for a thoughtful approach.

Mohun Bagan SG disqualified from AFC Champions League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Mohun Bagan Super Giant are considered to have withdrawn from the AFC Champions League 2 after the Kolkata side decided against travelling to Iran to face Tractor FC, the continental body AFC said Monday, pending further decision on the matter.

Keeping their players' "safety and security" in mind, Mohun Bagan Super Giant had last month decided against travelling to Iran for the October 2 match owing to the volatile situation that prevailed in the west Asian nation at that time.

"In accordance with Article 5.2 of AFC Champions League 2 2024/25 Competition Regulations, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) confirms that India's Mohun Bagan Super Giant are considered to have withdrawn from the ACL 2 competition after the club failed to report to Tabriz \dots against Tractor $\bar{F}C$ on October 2, 2024," the AFC said.

"Consequently, all matches played by Mohun Bagan SG are cancelled and considered null and void in accordance with Article 5.6 of Competition Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, no points and goals in the club's matches shall be taken into consideration when determining the final rankings in



Group A pursuant to Article 8.3 of the Competition Regulations.'

Mohun Bagan SG were to play Tractor FC October 2 in their Group A match of the ACL 2 the continent's second tier club competition -- but their players expressed unwillingness to play in Iran, which had announced a state of mourning following the death of a prominent general of the Revolutionary Guard in an Israeli air strike.

'The matter will now be referred to the relevant AFC Committee(s) as appropriate for their decision(s)," the AFC said in the statement.

In their first match of Group A, Mohun Bagan had played out a goalless draw against Tajikistan's FC Ravshan.

It was learnt that 35 registered players, including seven foreigners, wrote to the club that they didn't wish to go to Iran at that point in time. "So we tagged their letters

and wrote to the AFC, asking them to either reschedule the match or move the game to a neutral venue," a Mohun Bagan source had told PTI.

"We have decided to not travel to Iran keeping our players' safety and security in mind, because that is paramount. We have also written to the ministry of external affairs as their advisory states that you can go to Iran or Israel on your own re-

an individual bronze in the event, his sixth medal of the competition, shooting a total of 548 over 60-shots. Azerbaijan's Imran Garayev won gold with a score of 552.

India top Lima Junior

Worlds with 24 medals

Lima, Oct 7: Junior shooters

capped off a dominant per-

formance with a gold medal in the men's 50m pistol team event

at the ISSF Junior World

Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun, as India

topped the medal tally with 13

gold, three silver and eight bronze

and four silver and bronze medals

each, while Norway placed third

with four gold and a total of 10

team of Deepak Dalal (545),

Kamalieet (543) and Rai Chandra

(528) combined for a tally of 1616.

to put it across Azerbaijan by a

Mukesh Nelavalli also won

point. Armenia was third.

The junior men's 50m pistol

Italy was second with five gold

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Championship



In the junior women's 50m pistol, Parisha Gupta won an individual silver shooting 540. She could not overhaul Hungary's Miriam Jako's effort of 546, which was a junior world

Sejal Kamble (529), Ketan (525) and Kanishka Dagar (513) also combined to win Indian a team silver in the event, finishing behind team Azerbaijan. Divanshi, the fifth Indian in fray, shot 523 to finish eighth.

In the other event of the final day, Shardul Vihan and Sabeera Harris combined to give India a bronze in the junior mixed team trap competition, played over 75 targets each. Shardul shot 71 to Sabeera's 67, as the duo's total of 138, was behind the scores of gold-winning Czech Republic (141+8) and silver winning Italy (141+7).

Zuhair Khan and Bhavya Tripathi, the second Indian pair in the event, shot a total of 134 to finish joint sixth.

Shuttlers eye comeback after Paris setback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vantaa (Finland), Oct 7: Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will lead the Indian contingent at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament commencing here Tuesday, as they eagerly look to reclaim their momentum on the international stage following a medal-less outing at the Paris Olympics.

This tournament marks the first outing for Sindhu and Sen since the Olympic Games, and they are keen to reset their goals. The duo has reassessed their performances and implemented changes to regain their rhythm.



Sindhu has roped in Anup Sridhar and Korean legend Lee Syun Il as her new coaches, moving on from her previous coach



Indonesia's Agus Dwi Santoso. Sen, who narrowly missed a medal in Paris, spent time at the Red Bull Arena in Austria for physical assessment.

In the opening round, Sindhu, who exited in the round of 16 in Paris, will face familiar rival Canada's Michelle Li, while Sen, who lost in the bronze medal play-off, will compete against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

Double Olympic medallist Sindhu is favoured to overcome Li and could face 18-year-old Japanese sensation Tomako Miyazaki, the 2022 junior world champion, in the next round, an opponent against whom she lost at the Swiss Open earlier this year.

For Sen, it's a chance for revenge against Gemke, having lost to him at the India Open in

2023. If he overcomes Gemke, he might face seventh-seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei. Kidambi Srikanth, returning

to action at the Macau Open after a four-month injury layoff, will compete in the qualifiers alongside younger compatriots Kiran George and Sathish Kumar Karunakaran.

Former world number one Srikanth is set to face George, while Sathish will battle against France's Arnaud Merkle.

In women's singles, besides Sindhu, in-form Malvika Bansod and Aakarshi Kashyap are also in contention.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy. RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159