



Bitter experience
Actor Triptii Dimri says she cried for at least three days following the release of *Animal* due to negativity

LEISURE | P2



Cong seeks probe
Congress demands a thorough probe into 'discrepancies' found in some EVMs during the counting of votes in Haryana

NATIONAL | P8



Israel-Lebanon war
Hezbollah says its fighters have pushed back advancing Israeli troops in clashes

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Stir hits Samsung
Over 1,000 striking workers at the Samsung Electronics factory in TN reject a settlement offer, with the protest entering its second month

BUSINESS | P11

PWD seals Atishi's official residence

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Public Works Department (PWD) Wednesday sealed the former official residence of Arvind Kejriwal at 6 Flagstaff Road, called the 'Sheesh Mahal'—currently the official residence of Delhi CM Atishi—following a dispute over its handover. The PWD has put a double lock on the gate. The BJP had complained to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena that the property was not properly transferred to the current Chief Minister Atishi, leading to the intervention. It had also alleged that AAP convenor Kejriwal is yet to formally vacate the official bungalow. The PWD issued a show-cause notice to two of its section officers and Kejriwal's former special secretary from Vigilance department for the alleged unauthorised occupation. **P9**

SHORT TAKES

RBI keeps policy rate unchanged

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Wednesday decided to keep the policy rate unchanged for the 10th time in a row but changed its stance to 'neutral' that may lead to a cut in the forthcoming policies. RBI maintained status quo despite the US Federal Reserve lowering the benchmark rates by 50 basis points last month. The central banks of some developed nations have also reduced their interest rates. **P11**

Free fortified rice till December '28

New Delhi: The Union government Wednesday decided to continue the supply of free fortified rice under the food law and other welfare schemes till 2028 through allocation of ₹17,082 crore, a move aimed at reducing anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I think we should avoid my victory parade in an open car. You see, it will pass through my constituency



FESTIVE FERVOUR: A majestic tableau made of shells all set to pull crowd at Unit I Durga Puja mandap in Bhubaneswar Wednesday (MORE P3) PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

Ratan Tata no more

AGENCIES

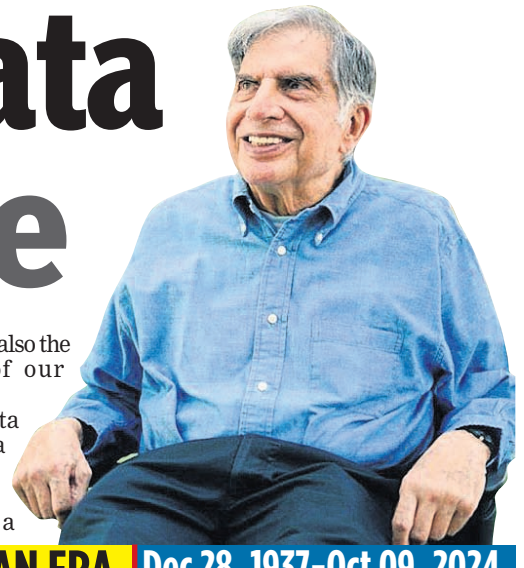
Mumbai, Oct 9: Ratan Naval Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, passed away at the Breach Candy Hospital Wednesday night following age-related health conditions. He was 86.

Tata, a recipient of Padma Vibhushan, was admitted to the hospital Monday, sparking intense speculation on his health status in corporate, political and common circles. Later, he had issued a statement that he was undergoing certain routine medical examinations for age-related health concerns. Subsequently, he was reportedly put on life-support systems, though the Tata Group officials then did not confirm or deny anything. Later, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said, "It is with a profound sense of loss that we bid farewell to Mr. Ratan Naval Tata, a truly uncommon leader whose immeasurable contributions have shaped not only the

Tata Group but also the very fabric of our nation." "For the Tata Group, Mr. Tata was more than a chairperson. To me, he was a

END OF AN ERA Dec 28, 1937-Oct 09, 2024

mentor, guide and friend. He inspired by example. With an unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, and innovation, the Tata Group under his stewardship expanded its global footprint while always remaining true to its moral compass. "Mr. Tata's dedication to philanthropy and the development of society has touched the lives of millions. From education to healthcare, his initiatives have left a deep-rooted mark that will benefit generations to come. Reinforcing all of this work was Tata's genuine humility in every individual interaction," he said. **MORE P11**



BJD govt was into lending biz: Majhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 9: Taking a swipe at the previous Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday said the Naven Patnaik-led administration was into the business of moneylending on the pretext of providing loans to the women self-help groups (SHGs) in the state. The Chief Minister said this while attending a function for disbursement of first instalment of money under state government's women-centric scheme 'Subhadra Yojana' here in Mayurbhanj district. "The then government had also turned the SHG scheme into an event management programme, on the pretext of women empowerment. On the other hand, the present BJP government is all out to make the women self-reliant in every sphere," said Majhi, while releasing the Subhadra money. Majhi along with Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida disbursed ₹1,750 crore to bank accounts of 35 lakh beneficiaries during a function held at

Chhaupadia here. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the flagship scheme September 17 and, on that day, the first instalment of ₹5,000 was sent to the accounts of around 25.11 lakh beneficiaries. Majhi said the BJP government has fulfilled its promises made to the people. Subhadra Yojana is one of the major promises made by the BJP for women in its election manifesto in Odisha, he said. A total of around 60 lakh women have so far received the financial assistance under the scheme, he said, adding that so far, 1.20 crore women have registered under Subhadra Yojana. The Chief Minister said that Subhadra Yojana was the biggest-ever scheme implemented in Odisha which covered over 1 crore women. Under the scheme, each beneficiary will receive ₹10,000 per year in two instalments of ₹5,000 each one on Rakhi Purnima, and the other on International Women's Day (March 8) for five years. They will get ₹50,000 in five years under the scheme.

Two minor sisters drown in Balasore



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bahanaga, Oct 9: In a tragic incident, two sisters drowned while taking bath in a pond at Kharasahapur village under Soro police limits in this block of Balasore district Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Rajalaxmi Behera, 16, and Bhagalaxmi Behera, 13, daughters of Manas Behera. Rajalaxmi was studying in Class X while Bhagalaxmi was in Class VIII, said their grieving family members. According to sources, both the sisters had gone to the village pond to have a bath around 1:30pm Wednesday. The family members began a frantic search when they did not return home. In the meantime, a villager told them that the sandals of the sisters were lying near the pond. Soon, a rescue operation was launched after the sandals were identified by the family members. The lifeless bodies of the girls were fished out and taken to Soro hospital where the doctors pronounced them dead.

Amid row, 'Naga Human Skull' auction cancelled in UK

AGENCIES

London, Oct 9: A UK auction house has withdrawn a 'Naga Human Skull' from a live sale Wednesday that would have fetched GBP 4,000. The decision follows a huge outcry in Nagaland and serious concerns raised by Forum for Naga Reconciliation which said the proposed auction contravened Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. According to sources, the Swan auction house at Tetsworth in Oxfordshire had a series of skulls and other remains originating from around the world as part of 'The Curious Collector Sale, Antiquarian Books, Manuscripts & Paintings. The '19th Century Horned Naga Human Skull, Naga Tribe' was slotted as Lot No-64 and resulted in protests in Nagaland, led by Chief Minister



Neiphu Rio, who sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to stop the hurtful sale. "The news of the proposed auction of Naga human remains in the UK has been received by all sections in a negative manner as it is a highly emotional and sacred issue for our people. It has been a traditional custom of our people to give the highest respect and honour for the remains of the demised," said Rio in his letter. He urged the minister to take up the matter with the High Commission of India in London so that steps are taken to ensure that the auction of the skull can be stopped after the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) raised concerns over the matter. "This piece would be of particular interest to collectors with a focus on anthropology and tribal cultures," reads the description of the auction lot, listed for an opening bid of GBP 2,100 (Rs 2.30 lakh approximately) with the auctioneer's estimate expecting it to fetch as much as GBP 4,000 (₹4.3 lakh approximately). Its provenance is traced back to the collection of 19th century Belgian architect Francois Coppens. The FNR asserted that the auction of the human remains contravenes Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which says: "Indigenous Peoples have a right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information."

FNR then contacted the auction house directly to condemn the sale and to call for the object to be repatriated to Nagaland. The organisation is one of many indigenous groups from across the world that is currently in dialogue with the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford about artefacts held in the museum's collection. Laura Van Broekhoven, director of the museum, told the BBC she was "outraged" at some of these items going up for auction. "The fact these objects were taken is really painful, and the fact that they were being put on sale is really disrespectful and inconsiderate," said Broekhoven. "We're conscious that the remains would have been collected in the 19th and 20th centuries, but for them to be on sale in 2024 was quite shocking," she said.

3 share Chemistry Nobel for work on proteins

AGENCIES

Stockholm, Oct 9: The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded Wednesday to David Baker, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for their breakthrough work predicting and designing the structure of proteins, the building blocks of life. Heiner Linke, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honoured research that made connections between amino acid sequence and protein structure. Baker works at the University of Washington in Seattle, while Hassabis and Jumper both work at Google Deepmind in London. Baker designed a new protein in 2003 and his research group has since produced one imaginative protein creation after another, including proteins



that can be used as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, nanomaterials and tiny sensors, the Nobel committee said. Hassabis and Jumper created an artificial intelligence (AI) model that has been able to predict the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers have identified, the committee added. "Four years ago, Hassabis and Jumper managed to crack the code. With skillful use of AI, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature," Linke said.

leisure



TIMBERLAKE DISAPPOINTED OVER SHOW CANCELLATION

Singer-songwriter Justin Timberlake recently shared a disappointing post on Instagram about postponing one of his eagerly awaited shows because of an injury. A lot of fans were delighted to witness him performing at Prudential Center October 8 but the *Bye Bye Bye* singer's health played spoilsport.

NOLAN TO REUNITE WITH DAMON FOR HIS NEXT

Following the massive success of *Oppenheimer* in 2023, Oscar-winning director Christopher Nolan is gearing up for his next film. Rumours are rife that the director is reuniting with Universal Pictures for the release of his next starring Matt Damon, scheduled to hit theatres and IMAX screens July 17, 2026.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Career decisions and money matters will keep you busy today. And after all the work, you will want to spend some leisure time and take it easy. A leisure trip may materialise, which will put you in high spirits. Ganesh says indulging in group projects will help you make new friends.

TAURUS
You have a hectic day ahead, says Ganesh. You will be immersed in your work all day long and will love doing so. A lot will get done by the end of the day. Make sure you do not stretch your neck or take unnecessary risks. That will be bad for business.

GEMINI
An extremely productive and fulfilling day awaits you. Along with your daily routine, you will also concentrate on your household issues. You will feel the need to have someone to call your own. You may find yourself in two minds over things like marriage and partnership.

CANCER
An awareness of optimism and idealism will mark your activities this day. You may benefit by traversing from one terrain to another. You will be liberal and generous with ideas; your internal beauty will blossom.

LEO
You are fond of travelling. You will make plans for a trip or a journey and will include your family and friends in your schemes. For those in artistic fields, you will receive critical acclaim. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
It is not the time to rest on your past laurels, and you will have to carry on with your work unabated. You will have to keep your focus steady and remain organised to get the same level of success that you had in the recent past. Ganesh advises you not to neglect your relationships, as they are the cornerstones of your success and tranquillity.

LIBRA
Ganeshji says that today you shall make your competitors and enemies envious of your success in business. Beware, as they shall try to hurt or put down your reputation in varied ways. Instead of having a fight with them you should try to be politically correct and take care of matters using your intelligence. This afternoon can bring in a new love in your life that will be very good for you.

SCORPIO
You are in a dilemma and feel like standing at a crossroads of life. Some important decisions of life need time and that's what you want right now. However, keep personal life and work separate to avoid confusion and disturbance. As per Ganesh's advice, it's all right if decision making takes some time, but avoid taking hasty decisions.

SAGITTARIUS
The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. You may have a few family friends over for lunch or dinner, and end up chatting a good deal with them. Ganesh says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN
The day will sail smooth, but your mind will wreak havoc by forcing you to act on the spur of the moment, says Ganesh. However, this will not ruin your reputation with bosses and peers. You may also see some of your dreams come true, but don't fly too high; you may climb up the ladder of success but with every step you leave behind there is always one more to go. Concentrate on your work a little more and the goal will certainly seem closer.

AQUARIUS
Your dream house or car may well be on its way! The stars proclaim that it's a good time to acquire new assets. So bring out those attractive brochures and check out your loan prospects. A perfect way to end an exciting day will be an evening at a quiet temple, says Ganesh.

PISCES
A good day awaits you. You will finish your work and beat your deadlines by miles on account of the luck favouring you. There are chances that a family holiday, which has been in the planning for a long time, will eventually come to fruition today, says Ganesh.



Triptii's way of dealing with conflict

Mumbai: Triptii Dimri revealed that becoming an overnight sensation came with a personal cost, as she faced a wave of negativity following her blockbuster debut in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal*. In the Ranbir Kapoor-led film, Triptii portrayed a mole and was involved in the controversial 'lick my shoe' scene, which drew significant backlash.

After starring in Netflix hits like *Bulbbul* and *Qala*, Triptii admitted that *Animal* exposed her to a level of criticism she hadn't encountered before, leaving her shaken. On Ranveer Allahbadia's podcast, she shared how the hate and "nasty comments" overwhelmed her, as she found herself focusing solely on the negativity despite receiving praise as well. Triptii shared that the hate reached a point where she could no longer handle it, leading her to cry for at least three days. She explained that her way of dealing with conflict is to withdraw, and the overwhelming negativity from *Animal* caused her to retreat into her shell. She said, "Pre-*Animal*, there was no criticism. Post the film, there has been a lot of criticism, but I think that is the side effect of being mainstream. Overall, I am happy, because I am getting to work with such important people."

After *Animal*, Triptii appeared in Karan Johar's *Bad Newz* and will next star in *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* alongside Rajkumar Rao.

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Haasan, who was recently seen in the theatrical movie *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire*, has written an EMO song, and is very proud about it.

Shruti not sorry about EMO song

The actress recently took to her Instagram, and shared a video of herself doodling on a piano as she sang the song. The video, which is foregrounded by heavy filters, shows her dressed in an athleisure clothing with open tresses and a pair of spectacles.

The actress wrote in the caption, "I wrote a super duper EMO song today And no I'm not sorry about it".

Shruti, the daughter of Tamil cinema icon Kamal Haasan and actress Sarika Thakur, is also an established playback singer. She began her career as a music director with her father's production *Unnaipol Oruvan* and has since formed her own music band. She won the Best Music Director award for *Unnaipol Oruvan* at Edison Awards.

Last year, the actress released her single *Monster Machine* which is a hard edged, industrial rock track, the song is an edgy and trippy celebration of the misfit attitude. Given the actress' fondness for rock music, the song is filled with a rebel punk style attitude something similar to hardcore punk bands such as *Suicidal Tendencies*, *Misfits* or *Black Flag*.

IAN S

Bebo spills beans on sister's crush

Mumbai: The trailer of the upcoming episode of *The Great Indian Kapil Show* dropped Wednesday, and it promises a healthy dose of humour and revelations from film industry's sibling pair Karisma Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor Khan.

The trailer shows Kareena, aka Bebo, making a huge revelation about her sister when she was asked about Karisma's first Bollywood crush.

Kareena swiftly replied, "I think, Salman Khan" which left her sister stunned and gasping.

Karisma, Lolo for her fans, and Salman have worked together in many films in the 1990s like *Judwaa*, *Andaz Apna*, and *Biwi No.1*.

Elsewhere in the episode, Kareena also revealed that she was the one to confess her love for husband Saif Ali Khan first, and even pushed him to get a tattoo of her name on his forearm.

Karisma also shared that there have been many instances when she asked her sister to watch movies as a strong recommendation only for the latter to get disappointed on watching those films as they were downright unbearable to watch.

AGENCIES



Sam's definition of fashion

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, aka Sam, loves getting dolled up and revealed that fashion is fun again for her.

Samantha took to Instagram, where she posted a string of pictures dressed in a nude hued skirt with fringes and a crop top. She chose statement gold chunky jewelry and subdued make-up to complete the look.

For the caption, she wrote: "Fashion is fun again because I get to play dress up with my best friend. Outfit @kreshabajajofficial Accessories @zohra_india @simranranchhabrajewels Styling @jukalker

Make-up & Hair @avnirambhia with @makeupbyjill___ Photography @kannasrihari." Samantha keeps experimenting with her looks and shares it on her social media to treat her fans and followers.

Last month, the actress, for the promotions of her spy action series *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, posted mesmerising pictures, showcasing her elegance in a stunning white outfit.

She donned a white tube top designed in a flower shape, adorned with pearl embellishments, paired elegantly with matching trousers.

SANJAY TIES KNOT FOR 'FOURTH' TIME

Mumbai: Actor Sanjay Dutt, who was recently seen in the streaming movie *Ghudchadi*, has exchanged the wedding vows once again. However, the actor took the pheras with his wife Maanayata Dutt. A video of the actor taking pheras with his wife Maanayata went viral on social media.

Wednesday. The video showed Dutt in a saffron-coloured kurta and pyjama and a towel, while Maanayata Dutt wore white and plain clothes.

The pheras were reportedly taken as a part of a pooja at their newly renovated house in Mumbai. Maanayata even shared a picture of the pooja ceremony on her Instagram Story.

The picture features the couple sitting together for the puja. Sanjay has been married thrice. In 1987, he married Richa Sharma, who passed away in 1996 due to brain tumour. In 1998, he tied the knot with Riya Pillai, who was an air hostess and model. The two parted ways in 2008. The same year in Goa, he married Maanayata, nee Dilnawaz Sheikh.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

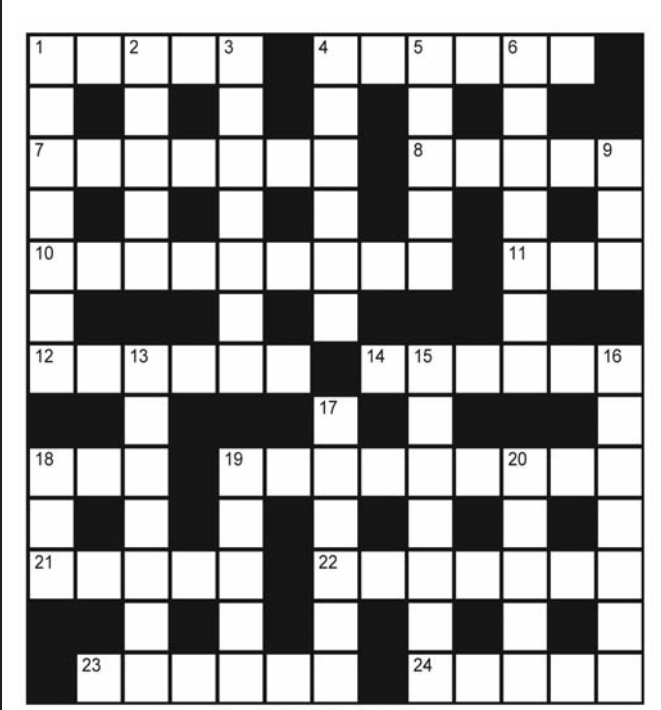


BREVITY



FUN post

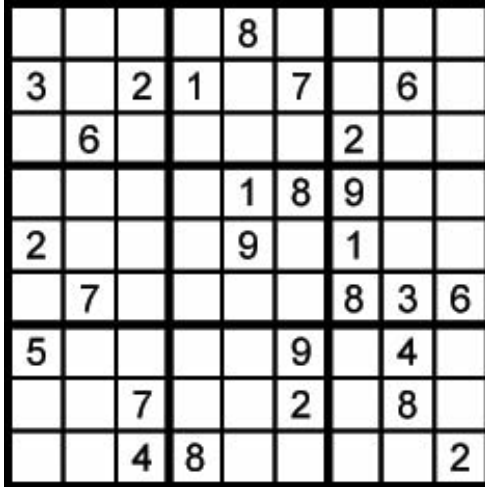
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Sedate
 - 4 Posted
 - 7 Scared
 - 8 Passé
 - 10 Central American nation (5,4)
 - 11 Piña colada ingredient
 - 12 Fencing sword
 - 14 Fish parts
 - 18 Be mistaken
 - 19 Type of lifestyle
 - 21 Feather
 - 22 Worship
 - 23 Hate
 - 24 Despot's duration
- Down**
- 1 Motorcycle attachment
 - 2 Some folks cry them
 - 3 Exhausting routine (3,4)
 - 4 Spanish capital
 - 5 Kind of ink
 - 6 Delight
 - 9 Water holder
 - 13 Eau de cologne
 - 15 Frankness
 - 16 Oil source
 - 17 Aimless
 - 18 Psychic's claim
 - 19 Attack
 - 20 Cover story?

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

VISUAL TREAT FOR CITY PANDAL HOPPERS



PICS: BIKASH NAYAK

52 police stations had no CCTVs till Sept 15

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Oct 9: At least 52 police stations across Odisha did not have CCTV cameras till September 15, when an Army officer and his fiancée were allegedly assaulted at Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar, senior IPS officer Dayal Gangwar has informed the Orissa High Court.

The alleged incident that sparked controversy in the state took place when the couple went to Bharatpur police station to lodge a complaint of road rage during which they were reportedly harassed by some youths.

Since there were no CCTV cameras at Bharatpur police station, it could not be immediately ascertained how the matter reached such a stage that the Army officer was 'tortured' and

Out of 11,729 CCTV cameras installed in 593 police stations of the state since March 2022, at least 2,266 cameras in 456 police stations were non-functional due to various reasons as on September 24, 2024



his fiancée 'sexually assaulted'.

However, Bharatpur police station was not the only such facility where CCTV cameras were absent.

At least 52 newly-constructed police stations, out of the total 645 in the state, had no CCTV facilities put in place, Gangwar said in an affidavit to the HC,

Tuesday.

None of the 295 police outposts of the state had a video surveillance facility, the affidavit said.

However, steps are now being taken to install CCTV surveillance facilities in all the 52 newly-constructed police stations, including at the Bharatpur police

station.

Gangwar, an ADG-rank officer, also informed the HC that out of the 11,729 cameras installed in 593 police stations of the state since March 2022, at least 2,266 cameras in 456 police stations were non-functional due to various reasons as on September 24, 2024.

He further informed the HC that since the integrated project involved a lot of IT interventions, the state government had decided that the Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC), under the E&IT department of the government, would execute the work.

Since the project involved a three-tier supervision and maintenance, it needed installation of Video Management Software (VMS) at the district level under the control of district Superintendents of Police (SPs)

and Central Monitoring System (CMS) at the state level under the Director General of Police (DGP) for seamless monitoring of CCTV surveillance system.

"But due to non-implementation of VMS and CMS systems for the lack of requisite internet connectivity, the monitoring and maintenance of the facility was done telephonically in an archaic manner," Gangwar said in his affidavit.

He, however, informed the HC that the state government has now decided to work on the modalities of the completion of VMS and CMS using the existing internet facility.

He said by November 15, the restoration work of non-functional cameras would be over and the installation of CCTV cameras in the 52 newly-constructed police stations would be completed.

3,660 PLAINTS AT CITY CYBER PS IN 9 MONTHS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: At least 3,660 cyber fraud complaints over duping people of Rs 68.79 crore have been reported at the dedicated cyber police station here over the past nine months, a senior police officer said Wednesday. Speaking to media, City deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Pinak Mishra said 3,660 cyber fraud cases were reported from January to September this year, and 247 FIRs were registered at the cyber police station, involving frauds totaling Rs 68.79 crore.

Victims from the Capital city and other parts of the state lodged complaints at the police station. The police have so far frozen approximately Rs 11.86 crore in fraudulent funds and returned Rs 1.80 crore to the vic-

tims, Mishra said.

So far, 24 cyber fraudsters have been arrested, he said, adding that for investigation and recovery of the amount, special police teams have been sent to West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Assam and Chhattisgarh in these nine months.

For Durga Puja, cyber volunteers will be deployed at important puja pandals for sharing pamphlets and sensitising the public, he said.

Police Wednesday organised a 'Cyber Fraud Money Return Mela' here to return recovered amounts to the complainants. A total of Rs 49 lakh has been refunded to the victims who lost money through cyber frauds including calls, investment trading and KYC updation, police officials said.

Dhaneswar Majhi, former MP, dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Veteran tribal leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Dhaneswar Majhi died at a hospital in Kalahandi Wednesday, family sources said. He was 83.

A five-time MLA from Kesinga and Narla Assembly constituencies in Kalahandi district, Majhi was elected to the state Assembly in 1971, 1974, 2000, 2004, and 2014. He was member of Rajya Sabha from 1978 to 1984. Majhi breathed his last while undergoing treatment at Kesinga hospital, they said.

Majhi was a member of the Janata Dal and Biju Janata Dal.

He, however, quit the BJD and joined the BJP. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over

Majhi's demise and said his death has created a void in Odisha politics.

"Express my condolence to the family members of Majhi and pray before Lord Jagannath to give peace to his soul," the Chief Minister said.

Taking to X, Leader of Opposition and BJD president Naveen Patnaik said, "I am saddened to learn of the demise of senior politician Dhaneswar Majhi. His work towards the service and betterment of the people will always be remembered. May his soul rest in peace and my condolences to the bereaved family members."

BJD single largest political party in Odisha: Naveen



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is the single largest political party in Odisha, its president Naveen Patnaik claimed Wednesday while launching the regional party's membership drive.

Calling himself a proud BJD member, Patnaik became the first to renew his party membership. He launched the membership drive of the BJD both online and manually on the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das.

"BJD is the single largest political party in Odisha. People voted in large numbers for BJD in the last general elections and the party is in the hearts of the people. All of us are proud to become workers of the BJD," he said.

Patnaik said his party continued to serve the people of Odisha on the ideals of 'sacrifice and service'. He said membership drive is an important activity of any party and it strengthens the organisation.

Sacrifice and service were the motto of Gopabandhu Das and BJD has been following it, Patnaik said.

Apart from including people in Odisha as BJD's member, Patnaik also invited those living outside the state. "I want the people outside the state also to become members of the BJD. For them, the party has made online arrangements to register their membership,"

Patnaik said.

Noting that the people across India and abroad understand the ideals of the BJD, Patnaik said his party leaders will go from door to door and apprise the public about the aim and objectives of the regional party. The party is dedicated to protect the interest of Odisha, he said.

Without taking the name of BJP, Patnaik said, "Some parties are using miss call as a mode of membership drive. Missed call diary is their membership book. However, we are much above that process. Our party leaders will approach the people directly to become a member of the BJD."

Stating that self-respect and struggle are the motto of the BJD, Naveen said, "Biju Babu fought till the end for the service of the people of Odisha, for the protection of the self-respect of the Odias and for the interests of Odisha."

The BJD president claimed his party's government has done a lot of good work for the state and it has become a model for others including the Central government which often followed the Odisha government's schemes.

Patnaik said that no one can deprive the people of Odisha from the development and welfare schemes launched by the BJD government.

The BJD's membership drive, which is launched every three years, will continue till December 9. "Members will be accepted from all Assembly constituencies. Those who become members online will also be contacted by our leaders," said BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra.

Mishra said that the BJD membership drive will also be carried out in all the district headquarters. "Focus will be on students and women. The members will be accepted both online and offline," he said.

From ward, panchayat to constituency, various assemblies and committees will be formed to fulfil the objectives of the membership campaign. The party last time had more than 10 million members and this time, the target is to cross the previous number, Mishra said.



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In Odisha we have a significant presence. Our community engagement enriches the lives of more than 2.5 lakh people.

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World Post Day at RSC



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Regional Science Centre (RSC) here, a unit of National Council of Science Museums, celebrated World Post Day 2024 in association with department of Post, Bhubaneswar Division and Eastern India Philately Association on the theme '150 years of enabling communication and empowering people across nations'.

On the occasion, a postal stamp designing contest was also conducted among students with an aim to promote critical thinking. Deputy Superintendent of post offices in Bhubaneswar division Mohan Suna engaged the students about the importance of the day and contribution of the Postal department in development of the nation. He also motivated the students to take part in an ongoing national level letter writing competition named 'Dhai Akhar' by the department.

Eminent philatelist and secretary of Eastern India Philatelist Association (EIPA) here SS Rath highlighted the

philately collections on display and RSC project coordinator Kapil Jain talked about the evolution, role and contribution of the department in promoting science and technology. A philately exhibition, featuring rare collection of stamps and postal materials namely 'Journey of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam' was put on display. A large number of students from Saraswati Public School in Baranga and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, here took part in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Jain said that he is hopeful of conducting such events on a larger scale in future.

World Post Day is an annual event celebrated October 9 every round the world. The day highlights the evolution of postal services, their importance in global communication, e-commerce logistics and financial inclusion alongside honouring the work of postal employees worldwide. World Post Day 2024 marks a significant anniversary for the postal industry, celebrating 150 years of the Universal Postal Union.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY Enhancing mental well-being

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The importance of World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is underscored by the growing recognition of the profound impact mental health has on individuals, families, and communities.

The suicide rate among the students in Odisha has increased by 58 per cent from 2021 to 2023. According to the state government, the number of students' suicide cases has increased from 119 in 2021, to 173 in 2022, and to 189 in 2023.

The state has witnessed more cases among girl students than boys during the period. Altogether, 218 boys died by suicide in the last three years, while the number was 263 for girl students.

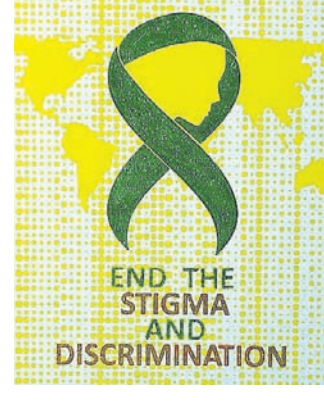
The state Health department has circulated the free helpline number to various institutions to prevent such incidents.

Taking a step further, the Health and Family Welfare department is going to operationalise tele mental health assistance and networking across state (Tele MANAS) in the state. Currently, the state has one Tele MANAS centre each in Cuttack and Berhampur and both are operational on a daily basis.

SCB Medical College and

Every week we receive around 1,000 distress calls, attended by our trained counsellors, who talk with them and try to help them or connect them with experts

DR PALLABI SAHU | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, SCBMCH



Hospital (SCBMCH) department of Psychiatry assistant professor and in-charge of Tele Manas Cell, Cuttack Dr Pallabi Sahu said, "Every week we receive around 1,000 distress calls, attended by our trained counsellors, who talk with them and try to help them or connect them with experts. We also have one clinical psychologist and psychiatrist social worker in Cuttack cell."

Speaking about the significance of the day, Psychiatrist

For many people there is a complicated combination of factors, although people may get deeply affected or get triggered by certain things compared to others

AMRIT PATTOJOSHI | PSYCHIATRIST

Amrit Pattojoshi said, "Mental health problems can have a wide range of causes. It is likely that for many people there is a complicated combination of factors, although different people may get deeply affected by certain things than others."

"Array of factors could potentially result in a period of poor mental health. Childhood abuse, trauma and neglect may give rise to irritable behaviour and low self worth, whereas social isolation or loneliness, discrimination and stigma, social disadvantage, poverty or debt may result in depression, anxiety or substance abuse," he added.

"Losing someone, long term stress, including health conditions and unemployment may also lead to poor mental health. Significant trauma, mental, physical, or neurological causes like epilepsy may manifest psychiatric symptoms. In children, speech delay, developmental delay and school failure are most common parental concerns, whereas self-reported mental and subjective health complaints such as pain, sleep issues, anxiety, relationship issues and various stress-related problems seem to have increased over time among older adolescents, especially girls," he further stressed.

For Free Tele-mental health services call Tele Manas helpline number 14416/18008914416

BIITM hosts annual fest 'JASHN 2024'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Biju Patnaik Institute of Information Technology and Management (BIITM) celebrated its annual fest 'JASHN 2024' at the Rail Auditorium with a vibrant mix of academic discussions and cultural performance here Wednesday.

BIITM principal Mihir Ranjan Nayak, in his welcome address, presented the institute's annual report, emphasising the institute's mission to achieve excellence in academics and leadership development.

The chief guest on the occasion, Padma awardee Aruna Mohanty, a renowned Odissi performer, connected lessons from

mythology to modern leadership. "Just as Krishna stayed connected with his people during the Ras Leela, leaders must remain inclusive and empathetic," she noted.

IIM Bodh Gaya professor Sreelekha Mishra attended the event as guest of honour and encouraged the students to use the 'Magic Pause Button' when making decisions, urging them to reflect before acting.

Institute's placement and training head K Chandrasekhar highlighted the importance of improving the institute's placement record and stated, "We are committed to ensuring better opportunities for our students in the corporate world."

The event concluded with vote of thanks from academics dean Chinmaya Kumar Dash, followed by cultural performances by students.

Just as Krishna stayed connected with his people during the Ras Leela, leaders must remain inclusive and empathetic

PADMA SHRI ARUNA MOHANTY | ODISSI PERFORMER

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Khordha. Affidavit No. - 1746, dt. - 20.09.2024, I Dali Sundaray W/o - Gadadhar Sundaray, Chandrasekharpur (HB Colony) PO/PS - Chandrasekharpur, BBSR, Dist. - Khordha, But in my LIC policy bond my name mention that Santilata Sundaray. I do here by declared that, above both name is same and one person for all purpose.

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Khordha. Affidavit No. - 1213 and dt. - 24.09.2024, I Kalyani Mangaraj W/o - Nabakishore Mangaraj, At - Mirigadayani, PO/Via/PS - Nirakarpur, Dist. - Khordha - 752021 (Odisha), I do here by declared that in my LIC policy bond my name is mention that Urmila Mangaraj is same and one person for all purpose.

I, Satya Sankar Biswal, S/o Durga Sankar Biswal, resident of 227/228 Krishnapuri Colony, Malipada, P.S.- Chandaka, Dist. - Khordha Pin-751003, Aadhaar No. XXXXXXXX6311 declare by this affidavit No. 899 dtd.16.03.2023 that my passport number Z7018623 issued by the passport authority which is valid till 16.03.2023, that in the said passport my wife's name mis-spelt as SHAMIKASHYA LENKA, that I declare that SHAMIKASHYA LENKA and SHAMIKSHYA LENKA is one and same person who is my wife.

3rd Kumar Purnima Utsav of Nrutyayan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: The 3rd Kumar Purnima Utsav of Nrutyayan was celebrated at Rabindra Mandap here Wednesday.

The evening began with "Chandra Upasana", a presentation in Odishi, choreographed by Durga Charan Ranbir and performed by his disciples.

The event was an interesting



mix of Odishi and folk-based theme on state's great tradition and culture.

A play Bara Masare Tera Parba was enacted on the occasion.

Students of Nrutyayan performed various folk dances.

The event was attended by Lalit Das, Odissi dance guru Snehapraava Samantary, and guru of the Odissi Mardala Dhaneswar Swain.

Epigraphists decipher 304-yr old inscription

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Epigraphists from Kalinga Epigraphical Research Society (KERS) deciphered a 304-years old stone inscription in Khurda. The inscription was found engraved on a stone panel over the southern entrance into the 'Mukhasala' of Kedareswara Mahadev temple in Uparabasta village near Jatani town. KERS members Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, Bikram Kumar Nayak, Mihir Bahinipati and Deepak Kumar Nayak jointly deciphered the inscription which is believed to have significant historical importance.

According to Deepak Kumar Nayak, the writing in the inscription is in Odia script and language.

A total four lines of writings found in the inscription, out of which few characters in the fourth line remain under colour plastering and are unreadable.

Speaking about the findings, Adhikari suggested that the kings mentioned in the inscription belonged to the Bhoi dynasty of Khurda region.

RANGILO RAAS KICKS OFF IN CITY



A three-day long 'Rangilo Raas 2024' kicked off at Hotel Crystal Crown here Wednesday. The event is being organised by Regal Designs along with Crystalline Evention and VG Designs. The event commenced with a high-energy performance by playback singer Rupali Jagga and DJ Ayush who made the audience dance to their tunes. The organisers said a lot of programmes are lined up for the next two days, packed with music, dance and celebration. The second day will be a fun night with singer Kanika Kapoor performing on stage, they said.

'Govt decision to affect nutritional status of PVTG children'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: A coalition of non-governmental organisations has objected to the state government's decision to abruptly end a vital nutrition programme for children of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) communities under the Odisha PVTG Nutritional Improvement Programme (OPNIP) with effect from October 1, 2024.

In a press meet organised recently here, the members of Jana Swasthya Abhiyan, Lok Shakti Abhiyan and Odisha Khadya Adhikar Abhiyan released a joint statement expressing their deep concern over the government's unilateral decision to discontinue the three-year-old PVTG nutrition development programme.

The programme, implemented

in 89 Gram Panchayats across 12 districts, focused on providing essential nutrition, healthcare, and early childhood development services to children aged 0-3.

The coalition criticized the government for not consulting with elected representatives, tribal communities, or relevant advisory bodies before making the decision. They argued that the closure of the programme would have a devastating impact on the development and well-being of PVTG children, who are already disproportionately affected by malnutrition and poverty.

"The first 1,000 days of a child's life are crucial for their physical, intellectual, emotional, and mental development," said Prafulla Samantara, a spokesperson for the coalition. "By abruptly closing this programme, the government is denying these



The members criticised the government for not consulting with elected representatives, tribal communities, or relevant advisory bodies before making the decision

They argued that the closure of the programme would have a devastating impact on the development and well-being of PVTG children

children the opportunity to reach their full potential," he said.

They said that it is a matter of grave concern that the government has unilaterally stopped the three-year long nutrition development programme.

The programme, which provided community-based creches

and feeding centers, has been a lifeline for thousands of young children in the state, they said.

According to NGO coalition, there is a provision of Anganwadis for the nutrition and cognitive development of children in the age group of 3 to 6 years. But there is no long-

term, institutional arrangement and adequate budgetary provision required for addressing the issue of under nutrition of PVTG children between 0 to 3 years of age.

Notably, the state government launched OPNIP in 2021 to address the specific needs of 13 PVTG communities in Odisha. The programme included community-based creches, maternal spot feeding centers, and spot feeding centers for children aged 3-6. These centers provided hot meals, regular growth monitoring, early childhood care, and early stimulation activities.

The coalition urged the government to reconsider its decision and immediately reinstate the creche programme. They emphasised the importance of protecting the rights of tribal children and ensuring their access to essential services.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	81467.10	↓ 167.71
NIFTY	24981.95	↓ 31.20
DOLLAR	83.96	↑ ₹0.02
EURO	91.99	↓ ₹0.17
GOLD	₹75,060	↓ ₹101
SILVER	₹ 89,224	↑ ₹495

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.3°C	34.0°C
Min Temp	25.2°C	24.4°C
Humidity	80%	81%
Rainfall	1mm	1.4mm

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder

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Coastal erosion threatens Gahirmatha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Oct 9: Rapid coastal erosion has posed serious threats to the existence of the world-famous Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary under this block in Kendrapara district.

Forest department officials pointed out that the sea (Bay of Bengal) has completely devoured the 5km-long Agarnasi casuarina forest which was once providing protection to the coastal areas from being washed away by towering waves. Moreover, almost half of the casuarina forest in Lanchaghola, they added, has been washed away.

The rise in sea level and high waves due to the impact of climate change has led to coastal erosion. As a solution to the phenomenon, the Forest department had planted casuarina saplings along the coastal areas in the district in the 1970s and 1980s. A protective forest of casuarina, hental, and mangroves was created to act as a shield against the marauding sea. However, later, massive sea waves started destroying the forest.

Nearby areas of Hukitola island, such as Lanchaghola,



Madali and Solamuhana, have seen half of their forests swallowed by the sea near Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

Environmentalist Subas Chandra Swain fears that in the coming years the sea will further erode these forests, causing significant damage to the land.

Residents in coastal regions have been urged to be aware of and alert to the issue and plant more trees to protect themselves from this looming disaster, according to elders and intellectu-

als of Batighara and Jambu areas.

On the other hand, residents of Batighara Panchayat near the Mahanadi River mouth have alleged that many trees in the protected casuarina forest at Hetamundia have been collapsing due to the impact of high waves.

Many fishermen in the area reportedly tie their boats to casuarina trees, causing those to gradually uproot due to the constant pounding of the waves, said a fisherman who chose to re-

main anonymous. Local intellectuals have demanded that the Forest department should strictly implement security measures in the area. Fishermen in these deserted areas, especially around Balidhipa island, have reportedly been engaging in various illegal activities such as smuggling, trading of narcotics, and catching exotic marine fish for easy transportation to the nearest fish depot at Paradip. Due to minimum, or no, surveillance by security agencies on account of the remoteness of this island, hundreds of fishermen are taking advantage of the situation in building settlements, in spite of repeated complaints made to authorities about their illegal activities.

When questioned over the issue, Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary Range Officer Pradosh Kumar Maharana agreed that the Agarnasi and Babubali islands have been submerged by the sea due to high waves. "The natural balance along the coastline is changing drastically. Despite many challenges, our department is attentive to the various problems and issues of the area," Maharana said.

Portico of under-construction building collapses; one dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhenkanal, Oct 9: At least one person was killed and two others were injured after the portico of a five-storey under-construction building collapsed in Dhenkanal district Wednesday, police said.

The incident took place in Mahisapat area beside National Highway-55 when workers were constructing the roof of the portico when the structure collapsed, a police officer said.

"One person died and two others were seriously injured and have been admitted to the district headquarters hospital," a police officer said.

It is suspected that two or three workers might be trapped under the debris and a rescue operation is underway, he said.

Sub-Collector Bibudha Garanaik said a detailed inquiry will be conducted and strong action will be taken against those found guilty.

Fire service personnel have been asked to put up high-mast lights to continue the rescue operation till the debris was cleared, he said.

Fire officer Prasant Dhaal said two fire brigade teams have been deployed and more teams have been sought from nearby fire stations.

YOUTH BRUTALLY KILLED OVER ₹2K

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balishankara, Oct 9: A youth was brutally killed with an axe after he insisted for payback of loan worth Rs 2,000 from a person at Lamti Karuapada village under Kurei panchayat and Talsara police limits in Sundargarh district, Tuesday night. The accused is absconding after committing the murder.

The deceased was identified as Surendra Majhi, 22, of Bahradema village. Talsara police sent the body for post-mortem to the district headquarters hospital and launched an investigation with the help of a scientific team.

However, no case had been filed in the police station by the time this report was filed.

Sources said the accused rang up Surendra around 5pm Tuesday and requested him to come to his house to take the money back. Believing his words, Surendra visited his house. However, a fight ensued and the accused brutally assaulted Majhi with an axe. Family members rescued Surendra from a pool of blood and rushed him to the hospital but he succumbed on the way.

Engineering student dies of snakebite

Khallikote: An engineering student was killed after a poisonous snake bit him at New Ghumusar village of Badhinuanpali panchayat under this police limits in Ganjam district late Tuesday night. The deceased, identified as Tushar Patra, 17, was studying in a private engineering college at Berhampur and had come to his village to go on a family picnic to Puri. During his sleep, a poisonous snake bit him around 1am. Family members immediately rushed him to Khallikote community health centre where he got preliminary treatment. However, as his condition deteriorated, he was later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur where he died while undergoing treatment. Kin of the deceased alleged that Tushar died due to medical negligence by the doctors at Khallikote CHC.

UTP dies in Bargarh Sub-Jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Oct 9: The death of an undertrial prisoner (UTP) under mysterious circumstances at Bargarh Sub-Jail Wednesday has sparked a controversy.

The deceased has been identified as Manoj Paika, 26, a resident of Prakashpur village under Ambabhona police station limits here.

According to information received, Manoj was arrested October 6 for selling foreign liquor illegally, and was subsequently forwarded to court. Since his bail application was rejected by the court he was lodged in Bargarh Sub-Jail.

He was supposed to be present in the court for hearing Wednesday but couldn't make



it to the court due to bad health condition. Police rushed him to Bargarh urban community health centre (UCHC) where Dr Manoj pronounced him brought dead, jail superintendent Salman Kujur informed. The actual reason behind his death will be ascertained after police investigation and arrival of the post-mortem report, said Kujur.

DASSAIN DANCE: A LOST TRIBAL REVELRY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 9: As Dussehra arrives, a festive fervour fills the atmosphere in villages, towns and cities alike and people gear up to invoke the mother Goddess Durga for a span of 10 days to their earthly abodes. While the major festival of Hindus is not celebrated among the tribal communities with much pomp and show, they mark the onset of autumn with merrymaking coupled with songs and dance.

Dassain dance, a unique culture barely kept alive by the Munda tribal community in Keonjhar district, marks the arrival of festivities well ahead of Dussehra in the hamlets nestled among hills. This dance in-

dicates to the rural people that Dussehra is approaching.

The tribal men who participate in the dance get painted with different colours and don the garb of males, females, eunuchs, animals and birds. Dressed in myriad colourful attires, they visit from village to village dancing and beating instruments, for about a month before Dussehra.

They use instruments made up of bamboo, leather and pitchers called 'bhuan baja' in their performances. Dancing to the melodious beats produced by brass bowls and dishes used as instruments, they sing 'Se bere se bere se, bhun se se bhun', a song in their parlance. One of them dresses like a hermit or



an animal and amuses the villagers with his unique and quirky moves. Bamboo canes of various shapes are used as part

of their costume. Sources said tribal people who practice 'mantra and tantra' take part in this dance.

"During the dance, the tribal actors receive rice, spices, money and various other donations by the villagers. They use the collected items and funds to worship the mother goddess during Dussehra in a bid to please the 'deity of Tantra' for success in their tantric training. Later they organise a feast for themselves," said Karunakar Barik, a writer.

However, this unique aspect of tribal culture is on the verge of extinction with modernisation taking over the rural landscape. Earlier many groups of Dassain dancers used to visit and perform in the villages of the district. It not only amused and entertained the rural audience, but also helped create a sense of brotherhood in the village.



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Weakened Axis

A year ago, the Middle East seemed primed for a breakthrough: normalisation of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. More broadly, US President Joe Biden's administration was touting a de-escalation of tensions across the region. The US even seemed to have reached some informal understandings with Iran, not enforcing oil sanctions and permitting it to receive several billion dollars in payments from Iraq for natural gas and electricity. In return, Iran was to dilute some of the uranium it had enriched to 60% (near weapons grade) and bar its Shia proxies from firing at US forces in Iraq and Syria.

Then came the horrific Hamas attack of 7 October. With Hamas embedded in densely populated areas of Gaza, and its leaders and fighters hidden in tunnels, Israel faced a cruel dilemma: target Hamas leaders, fighters, and military infrastructure, and kill large numbers of civilians, or spare Gaza and permit Hamas to prepare to attack Israel again.

After 7 October, no Israeli government could forego trying to destroy Hamas. The price for Gaza has been devastating. And for Israel, the war in Gaza has cost the lives of several hundred soldiers and increased the country's international isolation.

While it remains unclear whether Israel and Iran will engage in a conflict that proves difficult to contain, there are now possibilities for dramatic change for the better in the region. This will require that Israel keep in mind that its remarkable military achievements need to be translated into political outcomes.

Consider that Israel has destroyed 23 of Hamas' 24 battalions, together with its command-and-control structures and a significant part of its military infrastructure (arms depots, weapon labs and production facilities, and tunnels). Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu stated at the United Nations that 90% of Hamas' rockets are gone.

Israel has also dramatically weakened Hezbollah – Iran's most important proxy, which provided shock troops for Iranian interventions across the region and trained other Iranian-backed militias, helping them to develop and produce their own weapons. In addition, tens of thousands of Hezbollah missiles served as a deterrent against Israel striking Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

Hezbollah's weakening denies Iran one of its main tools of intimidation and coercion, and creates an opportunity for the Lebanese state to reclaim its sovereignty over all of its territory. What Iran calls the "axis of resistance" looks far less threatening today.

Moreover, Iran's losses have probably already triggered an internal debate about the high cost of supporting its proxies – an investment that now looks to have been largely lost. True, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps holds the upper hand in these debates, but those questioning may have an effect over time.

Of course, Israel's retaliation against Iran for its recent missile barrage, and Iran's response, could wreak more havoc in the region. But if the head-to-head conflict is contained and ends soon, the Biden administration should act to take advantage of the weakening of Hamas and Hezbollah.

Several steps can be taken. First, Biden should try to reach an agreement with Netanyahu on what constitutes success, so that Netanyahu can end the Gaza war, provided the remaining hostages taken from Israel on 7 October are released. Netanyahu will need to see very real mechanisms for preventing smuggling and cutting off funding to Hamas so it cannot reconstitute itself as a military threat.

In addition, Netanyahu will want to know there is a plan for Arab and international forces to administer Gaza until a reformed Palestinian Authority (PA) can play that role. Netanyahu does not want to be in Gaza forever and needs to know that there is an alternative to Hamas. Yes, some of Netanyahu's ministers, led by Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, will resist returning control of Gaza to the PA in the future. But Netanyahu is politically stronger now, given Israel's military achievements, and he understands that without a Palestinian alternative to Hamas, there will be a political vacuum likely to be filled by extremists.

Biden and his team also need to complete the Saudi-Israeli normalisation deal. The Saudis won't do it unless and until the war ends, which should help motivate Netanyahu to claim success and conclude the conflict.

Donald Trump would certainly like to finalise such a deal should he return to the White House, but a fundamental Saudi condition for normalisation with Israel is a defense treaty with the US. Biden can muster the two-thirds majority necessary in the Senate to adopt a treaty, because the Republicans will support it and Biden will get whatever Democratic votes he needs, especially as this would be his last act. But given Democrats' views of Trump, and of the Saudis, they are unlikely to give Trump the votes he would need. (In the best case, Trump would need at least 15 Democratic senators to support such a treaty, which is unlikely to happen).

Saudi-Israeli normalisation would have a transformative effect in the region in no small part because it requires what US Secretary of State Antony Blinken calls a "credible pathway to a Palestinian state" that is time-bound and condition-based. The latter means that Palestinians will have to demonstrate that a Palestinian state will not be failed state, a threat to either Israel or Jordan, or an Islamist partner to rejectionists in the region.

In the current setting, with Israel having weakened the threats against it, a breakthrough with the Saudis would allow Netanyahu to show how – notwithstanding the calamity of 7 October, 2023 – he transformed the region, Israeli security, and Israel's prospects for the future. And, given the high costs of the war, the prospect of much foreign investment in Israel and deals with the Gulf states will be vital.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, for his part, would gain a defense treaty with the US – which no other country in the region, including Israel, has – as well as a partnership with the US on nuclear energy, renewables, and artificial intelligence, in addition to a pathway for Palestinian statehood. And Biden could say he was able to end the war and produce a more hopeful future for the region.

None of this is a given. But the defeat of Hamas and Hezbollah – and the weakening of the Iranian axis – must be seen in strategic terms. Put simply, it creates an opening to transform not just Gaza and Lebanon, but much of the region.

The writer is a fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

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- Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. **BOB MARLEY**
- Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures. **CESAR CHAVEZ**
- It is a useless life that is not consecrated to a great ideal. It is like a stone wasted on the field without becoming a part of any edifice. **JOSE RIZAL**

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Dennis Ross

Hezbollah's weakening denies Iran one of its main tools of intimidation and coercion, and creates an opportunity for the Lebanese state to reclaim its sovereignty over all of its territory

In recent years, the Indian real estate market has witnessed a transformative shift with the advent of fractional real estate investment. Traditionally, real estate has been a lucrative investment option, but it was mostly accessible to high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) due to the significant capital required for property purchases. However, with the concept of fractional real estate ownership, even retail investors with limited funds can now participate in the real estate market, making it more inclusive and dynamic. This innovative approach has the potential to democratise real estate investing in India, providing opportunities to a broader range of investors and reshaping the financial landscape.

Fractional real estate investment refers to a model where multiple investors pool their resources to collectively own a high-value property, such as commercial buildings, warehouses, or office spaces. Each investor holds a fractional share of the property, proportionate to their investment, and enjoys the returns generated from it. This ownership model is somewhat analogous to owning shares in a company, where each shareholder possesses a fraction of the company's equity.

The primary appeal of fractional real estate investment lies in its accessibility. Investors can gain exposure to prime real estate assets by contributing as little as Rs 10 lakh or even lower, a far cry from the crores required to buy a full property in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, or Bangalore. Additionally, investors benefit from the rental income, appreciation of property value, and potential profits from the eventual sale of the property. One of the major barriers to



The future of fractional real estate investment in India looks promising. As the country's economy grows, demand for high-quality commercial and residential spaces is expected to rise, creating more opportunities for investors

entry into the real estate market has been the high capital requirement. Purchasing a property in a metropolitan city can be prohibitively expensive for retail investors. With fractional ownership, this barrier is significantly lowered, allowing individuals to invest in high-quality, income-generating properties with relatively small sums of money. Real estate has long been considered a stable investment, providing diversification against the volatility of equity markets. Fractional ownership allows retail investors to diversify their portfolios further by giving them access to different types of real estate assets, such as commercial spaces, warehouses, and residential properties, without the need to purchase entire properties.

One of the other attractions of real estate investment is the potential for a steady income stream through rental yields. Real estate is traditionally considered an illiquid asset,

meaning it can take a long time to sell a property and realize gains. However, fractional real estate investment platforms in India are addressing this issue by creating secondary markets where investors can buy and sell their fractional ownership stakes. This feature introduces liquidity into an otherwise illiquid asset class, allowing investors to exit their investments more easily when needed.

Despite its advantages, fractional real estate investment is not without risks. The real estate market is inherently cyclical, and investors may face periods of low or negative returns, particularly if the market experiences a downturn. Additionally, while fractional ownership provides some liquidity, it is still not as liquid as investments in stocks or mutual funds, and selling a fractional share may not always be instantaneous.

Moreover, investors need to be cautious about the platform they choose for their invest-

ments. With the surge in the popularity of fractional real estate, several platforms have emerged, and not all may operate with the same level of professionalism or transparency. It is crucial for investors to conduct thorough research, understand the fee structures, and review the track record of the platform before committing their funds.

The future of fractional real estate investment in India looks promising. As the country's economy grows, demand for high-quality commercial and residential spaces is expected to rise, creating more opportunities for investors. The increasing adoption of digital platforms for investment, coupled with a growing awareness of alternative investment options, is likely to drive the popularity of fractional real estate further.

Fractional real estate investment is proving to be a gamechanger for retail investors in India by lowering the entry barriers to a traditionally exclusive asset class. It offers an opportunity for portfolio diversification, steady income generation, and participation in the growing real estate market without requiring a substantial capital outlay. Although there are risks associated with this form of investment, the potential rewards, particularly in terms of accessibility and diversification, make it an attractive option for a new generation of investors. As the sector matures and regulatory frameworks evolve, fractional real estate is likely to become a key component of the investment portfolios of retail investors across India.

The writer is the founder and CEO of fintech startup FinCist.

SPECTRUM EMPLOYMENT

Overworked & underpaid



Dhurjati Mukherjee

62% OF INDIAN EMPLOYEES EXPERIENCE WORK-RELATED STRESS, WHICH IS TRIPLE THE GLOBAL AVERAGE OF 20%

The death of a young female professional of Ernst & Young has brought to light how overworked, underpaid and poorly rested workers are in India. It has also revealed that even educated people are prone to exploitation by corporate groups. If this is the case in the organised sector for professionals, it is not difficult to imagine the situation prevailing in the unorganised sector, operating in semi-urban and rural areas.

It may be pointed out that with an average of 48-50 working hours every week, India is seventh on the list of countries that work the most globally, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). Labour exploitation has become fairly obvious with recent trends of privatisation in society and the dignity of labour has been lost. A joint report by the CII and MediBuddy found that 62% of Indian employees experience work-related stress, which is triple the global average of 20%.

Earlier, trade unions helped harness the collective power of the workforce and allowed them some leverage for negotiating better terms. With the coming of the knowledge economy, the codes of the workforce have been

changing with the threat of 'hire and fire' policies being supported by the government. Thus, work has hampered one's leisure time, making the employed answerable all times and making the individual a cog in the wheel.

The controversy generated by the death in a high-profile company needs to be introspected by the authorities. It is not known what the government is thinking on the matter for there has been no response from it.

Now coming to the question why such pressure is created, the obvious answer is well-known. Why should cost structures be such that employees have to deliver more than what they are paid for?

The other aspect of the problem lies in the fact that jobs for the highly educated are very few in number, and there is intense competition. This is borne out by the shockingly high unemployment rate in the country as per the 'State of Working India 2023' that revealed that over 40% of graduates under the age of 25 are unemployed.

Delving into the issue, the first thing that needs to be mentioned is business houses are allowed to over-work their employees and there is no government monitoring. The government cannot raise its voice because lakhs

of vacancies, even in hospitals and educational institutions, remain unfilled for years together, not to mention office administration. The Indian Railways, which was once one of the biggest employers, has for the last few years outsourced most of the low-paying jobs to contractors. And the contract workers get meagre payment from contractors and there is no mechanism to check the salaries they receive. Though the government is well aware of the situation, it remains a mute spectator as contractors have some sort of understanding with top Railway officials.

The stress factor that leads to various diseases, especially cardiovascular ones, is on the increase among the young due to pressure of work in the private sector. Even in government, there are huge vacancies and the reason for not filling them up is not clear. While the government wants to follow the Western model in trying to privatise, it must take the responsibility to ensure that contract workers are adequately paid as is the case globally. It is distressing to note that there is no strict enforcement of rules regarding hiring from private contractors and people have to suffer, not just by putting in

long hours of work but also receiving poor payment.

Another aspect of the exploitation of the workforce is on Dalits and Adivasis, who have to suffer more. It is worth mentioning a very recent order of the Supreme Court which banned an unconstitutional all caste discrimination in Indian prisons where Dalits, Adivasis and OBC inmates are forced into degrading or manual jobs like scavenging or cleaning. The process of exploitation of these marginalised sections needs to end immediately.

In such a situation, it is quite obvious that labour exploitation will increase as long as the government is not serious about implementing rules and taking companies to task for violations. The politician-business nexus may further aggravate in the coming years unless steps are taken by the ruling dispensation to stop exploitation of the workforce. Starting from business houses in the organised sector to micro-level units in semi-urban areas, there is a need for a policy formulation and ensuring its strict implementation. It goes without saying that unless such steps are taken immediately, social harmony will be lost.

Communication backbone

Sir, Thanks to Orissa POST for publishing a wonderful write-up, "The Postal Evolution" (Oct. 9) on the World Post Day. As for India Post, which is the most widely distributed postal system and has the largest number of post offices in the world, it has lived through the change of times, connecting to the nook and corner of India through its last mile service. For over 150 years, India Post has been the backbone of the nation's communication network. Even after the advent of the internet, our postal service continues to remain largely relevant and important, and occupies a special place in the hearts of millions of Indians. When the COVID-19 pandemic was at its devastating peak, the department heroically stepped in to deliver medicines and PPE kits to health workers in the absence of private transportation facilities due to the lockdown. This proves how efficient, fast and reliable India Post services were even in trying times. There is absolutely no other organisation in India that has such a huge reach over the entire country with an army of well-trained postmen and post-women.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Flawed predictions

Sir, In spite of all predictions by exit polls, the Congress failed to return to power in Haryana. Overconfidence and inflated ego made the Congress leaders assume that it was a cakewalk in the state. This shows that they were far away from ground reality. The party committed a mistake by relying too much on Bhupender Singh Hooda. The BJP consolidated non-Jat voters and derailed the Congress' plans. In J&K the results were almost as predicted. The BJP's claim that it had transformed the state did not convince the voters. In spite of the fact that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra helped the Congress reconnect with the people, the party failed to put up a brilliant performance. The real winner is the National Conference. The governance in the two states will be entirely different. While Haryana will not face any problems in governance, given the support of the Central government, Omar Abdullah will face many challenges. He needs to combat the notion that J&K is governed by the LG.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

CBI cites 11 pieces of evidence

CBI MENTIONED THE PRESENCE OF SANJAY ROY'S DNA ON THE BODY OF THE VICTIM, SHORT HAIR, INJURIES ON HIS BODY, BLOOD STAINS OF THE VICTIM, THE CCTV FOOTAGE, AND THE LOCATION OF HIS MOBILE PHONE AS PER THE CALL DETAIL RECORDS AS EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 9: The CBI has listed 11 pieces of evidence, such as reports of DNA and blood samples, in its chargesheet to hold arrested Kolkata Police civic volunteer Sanjay Roy as the "sole accused" in the rape and murder of a woman doctor at the RG Kar hospital here.

The agency mentioned the presence of his DNA on the body of the victim, short hair; injuries on his body, blood stains of the victim, the CCTV footage and the location of his mobile phone as per the call detail records as evidence against Roy.

The chargesheet, a copy of which is with PTI, also mentioned that Roy suffered "blunt force injuries consistent with the marks of resistance/struggle by the victim".

Roy was arrested by Kolkata Police August 10.

"His (Roy's) presence in RG Kar Medical College & Hospital and also at the third floor of the emergency building where SoC (scene of the crime) lies, during the intervening night of August 8 and 9 is proved by way of CCTV footage. His presence is proved by way of the location of his mobile phone as per CDR," the CBI chargesheet said.

The central probe agency has referred to the deceased woman as 'V' in its chargesheet submitted before a local court here Monday.

"(There were) presence of his DNA on the reference DNA/questioned DNA detected from the dead body of the 'V' during autopsies... The presence of blood stains of 'V' on his jeans and



West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose interacts with junior doctors sitting on a hunger strike in protest against the alleged rape and murder of a woman medic at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata

footwear which were recovered by the local police August 12 in pursuance of his disclosure statement. The short hair found from the SoC has matched with accused Sanjay Roy," the chargesheet said.

The body of the 31-year-old woman doctor was recovered August 9 from the seminar room of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

"(There was) pairing of one bluetooth earphone found from the scene of crime (SoC) with the seized mobile phone of accused Sanjay Roy as per CFSL (Central Forensic Science Laboratory) reports. It is worth mentioning here that accused Sanjay Roy while seen moving towards SoC on the intervening night of August 8 and 9 was wearing one bluetooth earphone neckband but at the time of returning from SoC towards lift, the said earphone on his

neck was missing," the chargesheet added.

As per the Medico Legal Case (MLC) of accused Sanjay Roy, there is nothing to suggest that he was incapable of performing sexual intercourse at the time of his examination.

As per the report of CFSL Kolkata, the stitching threads of her kurti and undergarment, recovered from SoC, were found broken which could be due to sudden pull, the chargesheet said.

The central probe agency mentioned that the "cause of death was due to asphyxia as a combined effect of throttling (manual strangulation) and smothering".

"Rigor mortis was present all over the body at the time of conducting the post-mortem exami-

nation, which implies that this person died 12 to 18 hours prior to conduction of autopsy," it said.

The injuries in her private part clearly indicated that the victim had suffered forceful penetrative sexual assault. Roy's saliva was also found on the body of the victim, according to the chargesheet.

Roy has been charged under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Alleged attempts by then Tala police station officer in charge Abhijit Mondal and former principal of RG Kar hospital Sandip Ghosh to hush up the matter and destruction of evidence have surfaced and both were arrested, the chargesheet said.

The two are now in judicial custody.

Investigation against them on the aspect of larger conspiracy including possible involvement of others in the Commission of crime or its abetment is in progress w/s 193(9) of BNSS, 2023, the chargesheet mentioned.

After completion of further investigation, supplementary final report will be filed, the CBI stated.

During their investigation, the CBI talked to 128 witnesses including the parents of the victim doctor, it stated in the chargesheet.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Huge Airbus Beluga aircraft lands in Kolkata



The Beluga XL (Airbus A330-743L) is one of the large transport aircraft designed by Airbus to carry oversized cargo, primarily aircraft components such as wings and fuselages

Kolkata, Oct 9: Kolkata Airport has for the first time welcomed the biggest Airbus Beluga series aircraft - Beluga XL, an official said Wednesday.

Beluga XL is the upgraded and bigger version of Beluga ST. The overall length of the Beluga XL aircraft is 207 ft, its height is 62 ft and its wing span is 197 ft and 10 inches, according to the Airbus website.

"The BelugaXL performed its maiden flight in 2018, and received the type certification in November 2019 from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) airworthiness authority. This paved the way for the first BelugaXL's service entry in January 2020", the website said.

Earlier the NSCBI airport in Kolkata had accommodated its ST series aircraft but it was for the first time Tuesday night that Kolkata airport accommodated the XL series aircraft, an Airports Authority of India (AAI) spokesperson in Kolkata said in a statement Wednesday.

The aircraft landed here Tuesday at 10.43 pm. It arrived at the Kolkata airport from Bahrain International Airport. It was received with a water salute, the spokesperson said.

"For the first time, Kolkata's

NSCBI Airport welcomed the Airbus Beluga XL, the largest in its series, carrying essential aircraft components. The flight stopped in Kolkata for crew rest, FDTL and refuelling, as it's the only airport in Eastern India equipped to handle this aircraft," the Kolkata airport posted on X.

The aircraft originated its flight from Toulouse (LFBO/TLS) Airbus factory, and is transporting some equipment and parts to another unit based in Tianjin (ZBTJ), China, the spokesperson said.

The flight has arrived at

Kolkata for crew rest, crew flight duty time limitations (FDTL) and fuel stop as Kolkata is the only suitable airport in eastern India to accommodate this type of aircraft.

It has three pilots and 1 engineer. The Beluga XL (Airbus A330-743L) is one of the large transport aircraft designed by Airbus to carry oversized cargo, primarily aircraft components such as wings and fuselages.

The aircraft will be refuelled on Wednesday evening and the expected time of its departure is 5.50 pm. The huge aircraft is currently parked on J1 bay at Kolkata airport.

Animal husbandry: Reliable income source for Jharkhand farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Oct 9: Farmers and livestock rearers in rural Jharkhand are increasingly turning to animal husbandry as a promising source of additional income, an official said Wednesday.

It is providing them a safeguard from crop loss due to erratic weather patterns for the past few years.



Jharkhand suffered a drought-like situation in two consecutive years in 2022 and 2023. The state government had to declare 226 blocks as drought hit in 2022 and 158 blocks in 2023.

The state recorded normal rainfall this monsoon season after two years. The Hemant Soren-led government has been providing essential support to boost animal husbandry as a promising source of additional income.

For this, the government has launched Mukhyamantri Pashudhan Vikas Yojana (MPVY), which is aimed at boosting the production of milk, meat, and eggs, thereby narrowing the gap between demand and supply.

"Amid the change in climate, our farmers need to adopt diverse farming. The state has huge demand for milk and meat but they are imported from other states. Our government is working to meet the demand by promoting farmers," Chief Minister Hemant Soren said at Apke Yojana, Apki Sarkar, Apke Dwar event last month.

He said that farmers could grow their income through animal husbandry. The government is also

providing many support to them, he said.

The MPVY provides several valuable benefits including grants and subsidies for purchasing livestock, access to veterinary care and skill development programmes in animal husbandry.

Bhuvneshwar Singh, a beneficiary of MPVY from Ranchi's Mandar block, said that he received three cows under the scheme and the number of cattle rose to five now. "With an increasing number of animals, my income has also increased," he said.

Another beneficiary Sanatan Singh said that he used to sell milk locally but did not get the actual price. "Now I sell the milk to Medha dairy, owned by the Jharkhand Milk Federation, and get the actual price through direct benefit transfer," he said.

Under the scheme, over 1.56 lakh beneficiaries were provided grants and subsidies, while the process for the same for 90,226 farmers for 2024-25 is under process. The government has also drafted a policy to ensure insurance coverage for animals in the state, the official said.

In a bid to provide better animal healthcare services at the doorsteps of livestock farmers, Jharkhand Chief Minister September 10 launched 236 mobile veterinary units (MVUs).

The MVUs, which are modern ambulances, are equipped with primary medical services, test facilities and will have veterinarians and paramedics, an official said.

"The government is working for the uplift of the farmers of the state. While laying special focus on agriculture and allied sectors, the government has taken important decisions and made policies in the last four-and-a-half years," Soren said at the programme.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 26-KUR-TRD-OT-2024-25 NAME OF WORK: ONE MODIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF GIRDERS OF 02 NOS. (950P AND 950DN) IMPORTANT BRIDGES (BGML) IN GANJAM - CHHATRAPUR SECTION IN CONNECTION WITH MISSION-3000 MT UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Advertisment Value: ₹ 23,92,489.55. EMD: ₹ 47,900/-, Period of Completion: 180 Days. Bidding Start Date: 14.10.2024. Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1300 Hrs. of 28.10.2024. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website www.ireps.gov.in. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-611/P/24-25, Khurda Road

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ANANDAPUR INVITATION FOR BID E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Reference No.: AM-ANPD-01/2024-25 Dt.05.10.2024 No. C-761: The Executive Officer on behalf of Anandapur Municipality, Anandapur invites Percentage Rate Bids in conformity with Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) for the following works from registered contractors of Govt. of Orissa having experience in the similar nature of work. The bidders may submit bids for the following work:

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Name of the Work, Amount put to tender (in Rs.), EMD value (in Rs.) @ 1% of E.C., Paper Cost including GST 18% (in Rs.), Class of Contractor, Time of Completion

- 1. Tender documents containing specifications, the Schedule of quantities and the set of terms & conditions of contract & other necessary documents can be seen in the Orissa tender website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. 2. Bid must be accompanied by the financial instruments towards cost of tender documents as mentioned in column-4 in the above table only be received through Online payment and bidder shall attach scan copy of confirmation of payment through online. 3. The tenderer may please note that while quoting rates for the percentage basis tender, if rate quoted against the work found to be less than the estimated cost, in such case the LI bidder shall be required to deposit as APS (Additional performance Security) as mentioned below vide Order No. 4559/W, bbsr, Dt.05.04.2021 of Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Works Department, Govt. of Odisha.

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Range of Difference between the estimated cost put to tender and bid amount, Additional performance Security to be deposited by the successful bidder

The successful bidder shall deposit the required Additional performance Security within 7 days of receipt of the notice for the purpose positively failing which the bidder will not be allowed to participate in next tender to be invited by Anandapur Municipality in future and necessary action as per OPWD Rule will be initiated. The department till successful completion of the work shall retain the additional performance security deposit as above. (Amendment to Appendix-IX, Clause-36 of OPWD Code Vol.-II by inclusion) (Revised/substituted as per works Deptt. Office Memorandum No. 12366 Dt.08.11.2013) OIPR-13049/11/0006/2425 Sd./

Bank of India E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

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

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantor / Total Dues, Description of the Properties, Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount

Date & Time of E-Auction: 11.11.2024 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each. Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 11.11.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 08.11.2024 with prior appointment of the authorised officer. The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15/30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://ebkraj.in/eauction-psb/home. Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 10.10.2024 Authorised Officer Bank of India

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISION, CUTTACK

Mahanadivihar, Cuttack - 753004 Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. rwsstc-02/2023-24

No. O-347: The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites lump sum bid through e-procurement in Double Cover System according to norm of e-procurement.

- 1. Nature of Work: External Electrical works of PWS Schemes under RWS, Division, Cuttack. 2. No. of Tenders: 2 Nos. 3. Tender Paper Cost: Rs.6000/- 4. Value of Work: Rs. 10.64 lakhs to 13.71 lakhs 5. Class of Contractor: HT Electrical 6. Date and time of availability of bid document in portal: 11 hour of 15.10.24 to 25.10.24 upto 17 hours 7. Date & time of seeking tender clarification: 24.10.24 upto 17 hours 8. Date & time of opening of tender: 28.10.24 at 11.30 hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack 9. Time of Completion: 60 Days 10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Sd./ Superintending Engineer RWS&S Division, Cuttack OIPR-25022/11/0003/2425

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

1 Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2019) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Petition-1: Combined Asset under POWERGRID works associated with "ODCB lines under common transmission system for Phase-II generation projects in Odisha" in Eastern & Western Region, Petition-2: Interconnection between India and Bangladesh Electrical Grids for India portion in Eastern region.

Table with 4 columns: Petition no, Asset detail, DOCO RECOD, Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24

4. A copy of this notice and of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at the www.powergrid.in. 5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Narooji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram Date: 09.10.2024 Dy. General Manager (Commercial) Sd./

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise) Reg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016. Corporate Office: 'Saudamini', Plot No. 2, Sector 29, Gurugram - 122 001 CIN: L40101DL1989G0038121 A Maharatna PSU

of the day quote

The next logical step, of course, is to restore full statehood to J&K. This has been a commitment of the Government of India to the Supreme Court and I would urge that it be done without further delay while the political atmosphere is still vibrant

KARAN SINGH | CONGRESS LEADER

The biggest challenges are inflation and unemployment. We have to create opportunities for our youth

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

Now, don't blame EVM and Election Commission again. Learn to respect and accept the decision of the people

KIREN RIJU | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Prez Murmu to visit three African nations

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a state visit to three African nations -- Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi, starting October 13, which is a reflection of India-Africa "growing partnership", the MEA said Wednesday. Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Dammu Ravi, at a briefing here said the visit comes after the African Union became a member of the G20 at its summit last year under the Indian presidency of the grouping. "This visit should be seen in the context of Africa as a continent and how India wishes to engage, and is looking at having a stronger partnership with Africa. It's a reflection of India-Africa growing partnership," he said.

Four killed in wall collapse

Itanagar: At least four people were killed and three others were injured when the boundary wall of the central workshop of the Arunachal Pradesh State Transport Services (APSTS) at Karsingsa near here collapsed early Wednesday after heavy rainfall, police said. The incident took place around 1.30 am when the wall fell on some huts on the other side of the workshop, resulting in the fatalities. Four people died on the spot, and three others were injured and are currently out of danger, a police officer said.

Teenager raped, accused arrested

Gonda (UP): A teenager, working as a cook, was allegedly raped by a man when she was returning home from work, police said Wednesday. The accused was identified as Ishtiyak (26), police said. The incident occurred Tuesday night when the girl was returning home from work. "She works as a cook in a household in her locality" as per the statement of the In-charge Inspector of Kotwali Nagar police station Manoj Kumar Pathak.

Sex rackets busted

Thane: Thane police has busted two sex rackets and rescued nine women including two women from Thailand, officials said Wednesday. A total of four persons, including a woman from Thailand, were arrested in these cases, they said. Acting on a tip-off that a sex racket was being run from a spa located inside a mall, a team of the Anti-Extortion Cell of the crime branch raided the place Tuesday, said assistant police inspector Sunil Tarmale.



I am given to understand that the government of Maldives is interested in having partnerships with the leading IT industry of Bangalore

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

POLLUTION IN SAKHI LAKE

The National Green Tribunal has sought a reply from the environment ministry and others in a matter regarding the pollution, primarily due to the discharge of pharmaceutical waste, in Hyderabad's Sakhi Lake. The green panel was hearing a matter where it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a newspaper report regarding the lake being contaminated by untreated pharmaceutical waste



HARYANA RESULTS

Cong urges EC to conduct probe

The party has alleged "glaring discrepancies" related to some EVMs in the Haryana polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Congress Wednesday demanded a thorough probe into "discrepancies" found in some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes of the Haryana Assembly polls and demanded that such EVMs should be sealed and secured pending the inquiry.

A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former Chief Ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khera, besides Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials.

The delegation handed over a memorandum to the officials along with specific complaints from various constituencies in Haryana. Senior party leader Abhishek Singhvi joined the meeting online.

The Congress leaders alleged that there are at least 20 such complaints, including seven in writing, from as many Assembly constituencies, with many referring to EVMs functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity whereas the average EVMs were found to be operating at 60 to 70 per cent battery capacity during counting.

The party has alleged "glaring discrepancies" related to some EVMs in the Haryana polls and urged the EC to conduct a probe.

"There are doubts about vote counting as Haryana results are surprising. Everyone believed that the Congress would be forming the next government in Haryana. When the counting of postal ballots took place, the Congress was winning, but when



A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former Chief Ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khera, besides Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials

the counting of EVMs started, the opposite happened," former chief minister Hooda told reporters after the meeting.

He said the Congress will submit more complaints to the EC in the next few days.

"The EC has assured us of looking into the matter," Hooda said after meeting the CEC and other election commissioners.

Bhan also said that doubts have been created about the veracity of the counting exercise in Haryana and they should be cleared by the EC.

Khera said party leaders Maken and Singhvi have urged the EC to conduct a thorough probe, pending which it should ensure that the EVMs with discrepancies are sealed and secured till then. "We appraised the Election Commission about 20 complaints that have come to us, including seven written com-

plaints from seven constituencies with some EVM machines functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity, while some EVM Machines were functioning below 60-70 per cent battery capacity," he said.

"Maken and Singhvi have demanded that the EVMs for which complaints have been made be sealed and secured till the inquiry into the whole matter is completed. We also told the EC that in the next 48 hours, we will make available to them other complaints that are being compiled."

"All the machines for which complaints have been made should be sealed and secured till the inquiry is completed. The EC has told us that they will give a written reply to us on all constituencies after consulting the respective returning officers," Khera added.

Saini meets PM after BJP's win in Haryana



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Efforts began Wednesday for government formation in Haryana with Nayab Singh Saini meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders in Delhi ahead of his likely swearing-in as the head of the new dispensation in the state following the party's win in the Assembly polls.

The BJP had indicated during the elections that Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar in March and hails from the Other Backward Classes, will be its choice for the top post if it wins.

Meanwhile, the Congress Wednesday demanded a thorough probe into "discrepancies" found in some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes in Haryana and sought that such EVMs should be sealed and secured pending the inquiry.

A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khera, besides Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials here and handed over a memorandum along with specific complaints from various constituencies in Haryana.

The Congress, after its defeat in Haryana, was accused by several Opposition INDIA bloc parties of ignoring them that, they said, led to the loss.

They said this attitude should not be repeated in the future polls.



POLLUTION WOES: Fishermen row their boat through toxic foam in the Yamuna in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Delhi HC seeks cops' stand on denial to Wangchuk's protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Delhi High Court Wednesday sought the stand of Delhi Police on a plea for permission to climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and others to hold a protest at the city's Jantar Mantar.

A bench of justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma issued notice on the plea filed by Apex Body Leh to the police and the Delhi government and sought their responses. "Let response to the petition be filed," said the bench and posted the hearing October 22. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was representing Delhi Police, said there was no urgency in the matter and sought time to file a reply.

The petition was listed for hearing after the petitioner's counsel mentioned it for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice Manmohan.

The plea stated that Delhi Police had failed to provide any valid ground for denying the request for staging of the protest. Wangchuk and his associates from Ladakh, who were allegedly detained at a Delhi border by police September 30, marched to the national capital to demand the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The march was organised by the Apex Body Leh, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading an agitation for the past four years to demand statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, early recruitment process along with a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

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



Anxious about how history will judge my tenure: CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is set to demit office next month, turned philosophical, saying he had served the country with "utmost dedication" amid "fears and anxieties" as to how history will judge his tenure.

The 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI), his two-year tenure will end November 10. "I find myself pondering over questions -- did I achieve everything I set out to do? How will history judge my tenure? Could I have done things differently? What legacy will I leave for future generations of judges and legal professionals?" he said.

The CJI shared his thoughts while addressing the third convocation ceremony of Jigme Singye Wangchuk School of Law in Bhutan.

"The answers to most of these questions lie beyond my control,

and perhaps, I will never find answers to some of these questions. However, I do know that, over the last two years, I have woken up every morning with a commitment to give the job my fullest and gone to bed with the satisfaction that I served my country with utmost dedication," added CJI Chandrachud.

During the event, the CJI sought "pardon" for being "vulnerable" at a time when he was about to demit office and said he was "heavily preoccupied" with fears and anxieties for the future and past.

"As you navigate the complexities of your own journeys, do not be afraid to take a step back, reassess, and ask yourself: Am I running towards a destination, or am I running towards myself? The difference is subtle, yet profound.

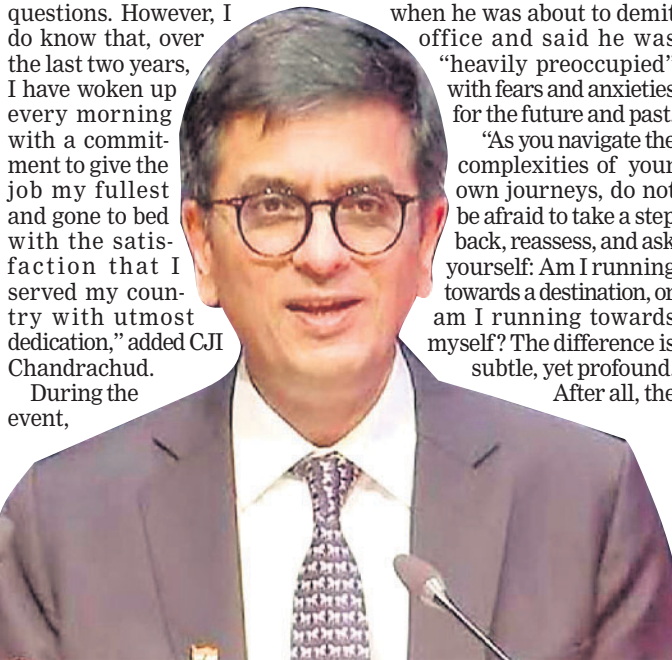
After all, the

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The CJI further reflected on an unrelenting passion to make a difference in the world, saying he often pushed himself to the extremes and worked long hours carrying a heavy load, as if the world's problems rested solely on his shoulders. The journey towards the goal should be enjoyed rather than getting caught up in the fear of reaching the destination, the CJI said.

CJI Chandrachud, known for speaking his mind, has pronounced verdicts on crucial issues affecting public life besides kicking off technological, administrative and infrastructural reforms to enhance the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

It was under his leadership that the apex court initiated steps to promote transparency and inclusion of members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the top court. CJI Chandrachud assumed office in the top court May 13, 2016.



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D Y CHANDRACHUD | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

world needs leaders who are driven by purpose and not just ambition," he said.

According to the CJI, once someone has a sense of faith in his/her intentions and abilities, it is easier not to obsess over outcomes but to value the process and the journey towards those outcomes.

national



My duty is to ensure no anti-national activities take place in the state. I have to inform the President about such activities. But, he (CM) is keeping me in the dark, when he is supposed to be briefing me on matters concerning the security of the nation

ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN | GOVERNOR, KERALA

NIA ARRESTS KEY HuT OPERATIVE

The National Investigation Agency arrested a key accused in the Tamil Nadu Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) case related to spreading disaffection and secessionism "by promoting the ideology of the anti-India outfit" in Pondicherry, officials said Wednesday. The central agency arrested Faizul Rahman, a 'nakib' or state 'amir' of HuT Tuesday from Tamil Nadu. He is the seventh accused in the NIA custody now



of the day quote

We will contest independently in Delhi Assembly polls. The AAP is capable of fighting against an overconfident Congress and an arrogant BJP on its own

PRIVYANKA KAKKAR | AAP CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

You (people) brought 'korivi deyyam' (devil) and made the chief minister twice in the past. He did not try to address the unemployment issue but only passed time

A REVANTH REDDY | CM, TELANGANA

The EVM has been tested time and again and has been successful every time. The Supreme Court has upheld its credibility. The Congress, however, cannot shy away from defaming the country

ANIL BALUNI | RAJYA SABHA MP

X POST OF THE DAY

90% of UPSC CSE aspirants struggle with understanding the fundamentals of economics. Here's how you can get ahead of 95% in your #UPSC journey by mastering 'Indian Economy':

1. Start with NCERTs: Build a strong foundation by thoroughly reading NCERT books on economics from classes 9 to 12.
2. Focus on Current Affairs: Link your theoretical knowledge with real-world economic events.
3. Understand Government Policies: Study key economic policies like GST, fiscal policy, and monetary policy in detail.
4. Master Diagrams: Use diagrams and flowcharts to simplify complex concepts for better retention.
5. Practice Answer Writing: Develop the habit of answering economics questions in a structured manner for both prelims and mains. Get the basics right, and you'll be miles ahead in your UPSC CSE preparation.

@ayushsanghi

Cabinet approves devet of NMHC at Lothal

New Delhi: The government Wednesday approved a proposal for the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat. The decision was taken at a Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Cabinet's approval for a National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat will significantly boost tourism and will also deepen interest in our rich history," the Prime Minister said in a post on X. According to an official statement, around 22,000 jobs are expected to be created in the development of the NMHC project, with 15,000 direct employment and 7,000 indirect employment. The development of NMHC will boost growth and immensely help the local communities, tourists and visitors, researchers and scholars, government bodies, educational institutions, cultural organisations, environment and conservation groups, and businesses.

Fortified rice supply extended till '28: Govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The rice fortification process involves the addition of FRK enriched with micro-nutrients (iron, folic acid, Vitamin B12) as per standards prescribed by food regulator FSSAI to regular rice

New Delhi, Oct 9: The government Wednesday decided to continue the supply of free fortified rice under the food law and other welfare schemes till 2028 with an outlay of ₹17,082 crore, a move aimed at reducing anaemia and micro-nutrient deficiency.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The rice fortification process involves the addition of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) enriched with micro-nutrients (iron, folic acid, Vitamin B12) as per standards prescribed by food regulator FSSAI to regular rice (custom milled rice).

Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the total financial implication to supply free fortified rice will be ₹17,082 crore, fully funded by the Centre. "The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the universal supply of fortified Rice under all schemes of the Government, including Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other welfare schemes etc in its present form, from July 2024 and up to December 2028," according to an official statement. The rice fortification initiative will continue as a central sector initiative with 100 per cent funding by the central government as part of PMGKAY (Food Subsidy), thus providing a unified institutional mechanism for implementation, it added.

In line with the Prime Minister's address on 75th Independence Day on the necessity of Nutritional Security in the country, the government said the initiative "Supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), other welfare schemes, Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), PM POSHAN (Erstwhile MDM) in all states and Union Territories (UTs)" was taken up.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in April 2022, decided to implement the rice fortification initiative throughout the country in a phased manner by March 2024. All three phases have been successfully completed, and the target of universal coverage of providing fortified rice in all government schemes was achieved by March 2024.

"According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) conducted between 2019 and 2021, anaemia remains a widespread issue in India, affecting children, women, and men across various age groups and income levels."

"Besides iron deficiency, other vitamin and mineral deficiencies, such as Vitamin B12 and folic acid, also persist, impacting the overall health and productivity of the population," the government said.

Food fortification has been used globally as a safe and effective measure to address anaemia and micro-nutrient malnutrition in the vulnerable population.



FESTIVE FERVOUR: An idol of Goddess Durga being taken to a 'puja pandal' on a boat during the Durga Puja festival in Nadia, West Bengal

SNIPPETS

UP DSP murder: 10 awarded life imprisonment



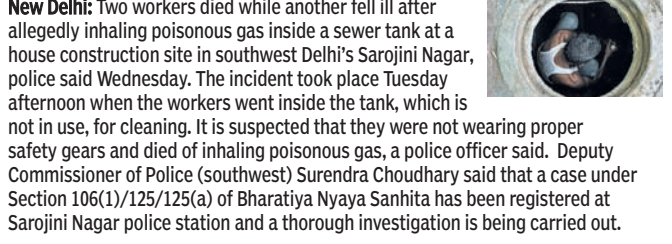
New Delhi: A special CBI court Wednesday sentenced 10 people to life imprisonment for killing Uttar Pradesh Police deputy SP Zia Ul Haq in 2013, officials said. The court of special judge Dharendra Kumar in Lucknow on October 4 convicted 10 persons in the case in which the alleged role of Kunda MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Baijaya was also examined. On Wednesday, the court also slapped a fine totalling ₹1,95,000 on the convicts. The incident took place March 2, 2013, when Haq, who was the then circle officer of Kunda, was murdered in the Hathigawan police station area in Pratapgarh district.

Vistara's flight receives bomb threat



New Delhi: A Vistara plane carrying nearly 290 passengers from London to Delhi Wednesday received a bomb threat, which turned out to be a hoax following a thorough inspection of the aircraft after it landed safely at the airport in the national capital, according to sources. The sources said that a piece of paper with a message about a bomb onboard the plane was found in one of the lavatories, and the relevant authorities were immediately informed. Delhi Police said standard security protocols were followed, and a thorough inspection was conducted. "No suspicious items were found," it said in a statement. The Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) at Delhi was informed about the bomb threat at 0845 hours and later the aircraft landed safely at the airport at 1145 hours."

Two workers die while cleaning sewer



New Delhi: Two workers died while another fell ill after allegedly inhaling poisonous gas inside a sewer tank at a house construction site in southwest Delhi's Sarojini Nagar, police said Wednesday. The incident took place Tuesday afternoon when the workers went inside the tank, which is not in use, for cleaning. It is suspected that they were not wearing proper safety gears and died of inhaling poisonous gas, a police officer said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Surendra Choudhary said that a case under Section 106(1)/125/125(a) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been registered at Sarojini Nagar police station and a thorough investigation is being carried out.

Delhi CM house row: AAP, BJP spar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: "Delhi Chief Minister's residence" at 6, Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines was forcibly vacated at the behest of the BJP as Lt Governor V K Saxena wants to allot it to a saffron party leader, the CMO alleged in a statement Wednesday.

The AAP should not be worried and this bungalow after preparation of inventory will be immediately allotted to the Chief Minister, the sources at the LG office said. "For the first time in the history of the country, the Chief Minister's residence was vacated. On the instructions of BJP, LG forcibly removed CM Atishi's belongings from the CM residence. LG is preparing to allot the CM residence to a big BJP leader."

"The BJP, which has been out of power in Delhi for 27 years, is now trying to occupy the CM residence," the Office of Chief Minister Atishi alleged in the statement.



Meanwhile, Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, in a post on X, alleged that the LG was "planting" in the media that CM Atishi's belongings were removed because she did not give its keys and it will be allotted to her after an inventory of items was prepared.

In another post, he questioned the LG if the keys of Raj Niwas were handed over by his predecessor to the PWD and if any inventory was prepared when he shifted there. Leader of

The BJP, which has been out of power in Delhi for 27 years, is now trying to occupy the CM residence

CMO

Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, in a statement, welcomed "sealing" of the bungalow by the PWD saying that it was inevitable.

The BJP has been accusing Atishi of "illegally" occupying the bungalow number 6, Flagstaff Road and demanding it be sealed.

The party claimed that the bungalow was not handed over to the Public Works Department (PWD) and its keys were still with Kejriwal.

There is no designated chief minister's residence in Delhi. In the past, different chief ministers in Delhi lived in bungalows in different parts of the city. The Flagstaff Road bungalow was occupied by Kejriwal since he became the Chief Minister in 2015.

UDF rejects 3-tier probe into Thrissur Pooram disruption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 9: The disruption of the iconic Thrissur Pooram festival ignited a heated debate in Kerala Assembly Wednesday, as the Opposition UDF alleged it occurred with the knowledge of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, while the ruling LDF dismissed calls for a judicial probe and said an comprehensive investigation is underway.

The Congress-led UDF Opposition alleged in the House that since the festival was disrupted with active knowledge of Vijayan, any probe ordered by him was untrustworthy.

It further claimed that the festival was "deliberately disrupted" with the intention of providing an opportunity to BJP leader Suresh Gopi to intervene in the issue "as a hero" and ensure his victory in the

Lok Sabha polls.

"Therefore, we have no faith in the three-tier investigation ordered by the CM and demand a judicial probe into the matter," Leader of Opposition in the Assembly V D Satheesan and senior Congress MLA Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan said.

The allegations and contentions by the UDF came during a debate in the House on a notice moved by the Opposition seeking adjournment of the Assembly proceedings to discuss whether a judicial probe was required into the festival disruption.

State Devaswom Board Minister V N Vasavan, rejecting the Opposition demand, said a comprehensive three-tier probe has been ordered by the government to ascertain what really happened during the festival and who was behind it.

J&K: NC legislature party to meet to elect leader today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 9: The legislature party of the National Conference will meet Thursday to elect their leader as party president Farooq Abdullah maintained that his son Omar Abdullah will be the first Chief Minister of the Union Territory.

The NC Tuesday emerged as the single largest party with 42 seats as results of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls were declared. The party is comfortably placed to form the government as its alliance with Congress and CPI(M) got 49 seats in the 95-member house.

"The National Conference legislature party will meet tomorrow at half-past 12 to elect their leader," the party vice president said. Omar Abdullah said the NC legislature party meeting will be followed by a meeting of the alliance partners to elect the leader of the alliance in the House.

"Then we will go to the Raj Bhavan to stake the claim for government formation and ask the LG to fix a time for swearing in," Omar Abdullah said, adding, "I hope the new government is in place in the next few days."

However, NC president Farooq Abdullah asserted his supremacy over the choice of person who will head the government. Reacting to his son's statement that the alliance will decide the chief minister, the NC patriarch said, "Whatever I have decided, only that will happen."

Farooq Abdullah said the aim of the NC-Congress government would be to minimise the differences between the two regions of the Union Territory and to build confidence among the Hindus. In an apparent reference to the BJP, he said, "We have to minimise the differences that they have created between Jammu and Kashmir."

Researchers sound alarm on 'irreversible climate disaster'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Researchers have sounded an alarm on a possibly "irreversible climate disaster" as 25 of the 35 planetary vital signs that help track climate change every year hit record levels.

Extreme weather events becoming more frequent, and intense, and emissions from fossil fuels are at an all-time high - these are a couple of the 25 vital signs, the international team, including researchers from the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research, Germany, said in a report.

Other vital signs they described included Earth's average surface temperature, ocean heat, global



sea levels and human population - all touching record highs. The human population has been increasing at roughly two lakh a day, they said.

Climate change made the experience of devastating heatwaves of 2024 across Asia, including the longest one ever in India, much more frequent and extreme, the authors said in the analysis, titled "The 2024 State of the Climate Report: Perilous

Times on Planet Earth' and published in the journal Bioscience.

Greenland and Antarctic ice hit record lows in terms of both mass and thickness, they added.

Emissions of methane and nitrous oxide - potent greenhouse gases - have reached unprecedented levels, they found. Nitrous oxide levels were found to have increased by roughly 40 per cent between 1980 and 2020.

Consumption of coal, oil and gas together rose by 1.5 per cent in 2023, compared to that in 2022, while use of fossil fuels remains roughly 15 times that of solar and wind energy, the researchers said.

In 2023, the team had shown 20 of the 35 vital signs to be touching record extremes.

"We are on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster. This is a global emergency beyond any doubt. Much of the very fabric of life on Earth is imperilled," the authors wrote.

A "critical and unpredictable new phase of the climate crisis" could be unravelling, they said and emphasised that current policies place the planet on track to achieving 2.7 degrees Celsius of warming by 2100 - far exceeding the Paris Agreement goals of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The authors highlighted several climate tipping points, or 'points of no return', that may be fast approaching and can potentially trigger irreversible catastrophic changes. Some of these points included the collapse of major

ice sheets and forest dieback - it refers to the slow, eventual death of trees which can threaten the resilience of a forest ecosystem.

Tree cover loss around the world was found to have increased from 22.8 mega hectares a year in 2022 to 28.3 mega hectares a year in 2023.

"We're already in the midst of abrupt climate upheaval, which jeopardises life on Earth like nothing humans have ever seen," lead author William Ripple, from the University of Oregon, US, said.

As the "future of humanity hangs in the balance", the researchers called for bold, transformative change, including measures targeted at reducing over-consum

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OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BHAWANIPATNA

AU/PO-Bhawanipatna, Dist-Kalahandi, Pin-766001, Odisha
Phone No.-(06670) 230424 Mail- eobptm@yahoo.com
No. 3791 /BPM Dt. 8.10.24

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

No. C-766- Bhawanipatna Municipality proposes to undertake "Preparation of Storm Water Drainage Master Plan and DPR for Bhawanipatna Municipality".

Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from Public Sector Undertakings/ Autonomous Bodies/ consulting registered firms that have requisite experience in preparation of drainage/ pipeline network plan and infrastructure. The details may be accessed and the RFP/Application forms can be downloaded from the website <https://www.kalahandi.odisha.gov.in> and www.Bhawanipatnamunicipality.in from dtd. 9.10.24, 11.00 AM onwards.

The complete application as per the instructions in the EOI document should reach the following address by Speed Post/ Registered Post by 5 PM of 28.10.2024. The undersigned reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Bhawanipatna Municipality

OIPR-13100/11/0010/2425

international



“We are on the verge of an all-out war in Lebanon, with already devastating consequences. But there is still time to stop”
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

BRAZIL LIFTS BAN ON X

Brazil's Supreme Court has authorised the social media platform X to resume operations in the country after being banned for over a month due to non-compliance with court rulings



of the day quote

One of the most important goals of this (new peace) summit is to reach a fair peace in Ukraine. We are not talking about a format here in which Ukraine and Russia sit across (from) each other and Ukraine listens to Russia's demands

Immigration is not just a question of humanitarianism, it's also necessary for the prosperity of our economy and the sustainability of the welfare state. The key is in managing it well

We hope Japan will establish an objective, rational and positive and friendly perception of China

SHORT TAKES

PM Ishiba dissolves Japan's lower house

Tokyo: New Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba dissolved the lower house of Parliament Wednesday to set up an October 27 snap election, asking people to trust the governing party's policies even as critics said the vote comes far too soon. Ishiba took office last week as Fumio Kishida resigned after leading the governing Liberal Democratic Party for three years while it was dogged by corruption scandals. The move has been criticised as prioritising an election rather than policies and for allowing little debate. But Japan's Opposition has remained too fractured to push the governing party out of power, which it has held almost without interruption in postwar times.

Turkish Airlines pilot dies mid-flight

New York: A Turkish Airlines jetliner headed from Seattle to Istanbul made an emergency landing in New York Wednesday after the captain died on board, an airline official said. Pilot İlçin Pehlivan, 59, lost consciousness at some point after flight 204 took off from Seattle Tuesday night, Turkish Airlines spokesperson Yahya Üstün said in a statement. Medical intervention failed to revive the captain, and the co-pilot decided to make an emergency landing, but the captain died before the plane landed, Üstün said. Data from the tracking site FlightAware shows that the Airbus A350 landed at John F Kennedy International Airport just before 6 am. Arrangements were being made for passengers to reach their destination from New York, the airline spokesperson said.

RETALIATION AGAINST IRAN

Biden, Netanyahu talk next move

Relations between Biden and Netanyahu have been tensed over the Israeli leader's handling of the conflicts

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 9: US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke Wednesday amid tensions with Iran while Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said an Israeli strike against Iran will be "lethal, precise and surprising." The call, confirmed by both countries, was the first known chat for Biden and Netanyahu since August and coincided with a sharp escalation of Israel's conflict with both Iran and the Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah with no sign of an imminent ceasefire to end the conflict with Iran-backed Hamas in Gaza.

The Middle East has been on edge awaiting Israel's response to a missile attack last week that Tehran carried out in retaliation for Israel's military escalation in Lebanon. The Iranian attack ultimately killed no one in Israel and Washington called it ineffective.

After describing Iran's October 1 missile attack as a failure, Gallant said in a video issued by his office: "Whoever attacks us will be hurt and will pay a price. Our attack will be deadly, precise and above all surprising, they will not understand what happened and how it happened, they will see the results."



“Whoever attacks us will be hurt and will pay a price. Our attack will be deadly, precise and above all surprising, they will not understand what happened and how it happened, they will see the results”

YOAV GALLANT | DEFENCE MINISTER, ISRAEL

Netanyahu has promised that arch-foe Iran will pay for its missile attack, while Tehran has said any retaliation would be met with vast destruction, raising fears of a wider war in the oil-producing region which could draw in the United States.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment. Relations between Biden and Netanyahu have been tense, strained over the Israeli leader's handling of the war in Gaza and the conflict with Hezbollah. Gallant canceled a Wednesday

visit to the Pentagon, the Pentagon said. Gallant said in a statement he had postponed the visit at Netanyahu's request until after the Prime Minister spoke with Biden.

Tensions have increased in recent weeks as US officials were repeatedly blindsided by Israeli actions, according to a person familiar with the matter. These included Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and the detonation of pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah mem-

Hamas, Palestine discuss post-Gaza war plans

Doha: Leaders from Islamist group Hamas and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement discussed plans for cooperation after the war in Gaza in a new round of talks in Cairo Wednesday, a Hamas official told Reuters. The talks are the first since the two groups met in China in July and agreed steps to form a Palestinian unity government for Gaza and the occupied West Bank. They are also part of long-running and previously unsuccessful efforts to heal a schism that hardened when Hamas seized control of Gaza in a brief conflict with Fatah in 2007. The Hamas delegation is led by Khalil Al-Hayya, the group's Qatar-based second-in-command and chief negotiator, Hamas media official Taher Al-Nono said. "The meeting will discuss the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, and the challenges facing the Palestinian cause," Nono said.

bers in Lebanon that Israel has neither confirmed nor denied carrying out.

Israel has also been slow to share details of its planning for retaliation against Iran's ballistic missile attack, the person said.

SNIPPETS

'Haiti gangs recruiting more child soldiers'



PORT-AU-PRINCE: Haiti's armed gangs are increasingly recruiting children into their ranks, a report by Human Rights Watch warned Wednesday, as near-famine conditions push boys to pick up guns while girls are sexually abused and forced into domestic work. The group, which advocates for human rights globally, said it had spoken to six children recently involved with gangs, all of whom said they wanted to leave and had joined because they were hungry and gangs were often the only source of food, shelter or money. Boys are often used as informants, trained to use weapons and ammunition, and deployed in clashes against the police, HRW said. It cited the case of a boy called Michel, an orphan who was recruited six years ago when he was 8 and living on the streets and was given a loaded Kalashnikov. Girls are raped and forced to cook and clean for gang members, the report said, and often discarded once they become pregnant.

Nepal teen breaks record

KATHMANDU: An 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer Wednesday broke the record for the youngest person to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre peaks, his team said. Nima Rinji Sherpa reached the summit of Tibet's 8,027-metre-high Shisha Pangma Wednesday morning, completing his mission to stand on the world's highest peaks. "He reached the summit this morning. He had trained well and I was confident he would do it," his father Tashi Sherpa told AFP. Summiting all 14 "eight-thousanders" is considered the peak of mountaineering aspirations. Climbers cross "death zones" where there is not enough oxygen in the air to sustain human life for long periods. "This summit is not just the culmination of my personal journey, but a tribute to every Sherpa who has ever dared to dream beyond the traditional boundaries set for us," Sherpa said in a statement.



SCO SUMMIT

REUTERS

Islamabad, Oct 9: Pakistani authorities are seeking to curb movements of Chinese citizens during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting next week because of a security risk from militant groups targeting them, according to three security officials and an internal security note. The decision has come after the killing of two Chinese engineers in a bombing near Pakistan's Karachi international airport Sunday claimed by separatist militant group Baloch Liberation Army (BLA).

The meeting of the SCO, which comprises nine full members, including China, India, Iran and Russia, is scheduled for October 15 and 16 in Islamabad. Chinese Premier Li Qiang is expected to arrive in the city prior to the meeting.

"Orders have been received from concerned authority that Chinese move of all types including intra-city/ inter-city/ airport etc to be ceased from 14 to 17 Oct 24 in connection with SCO summit and various delegations visit," the alert, shared with several Pakistani security agencies and seen by Reuters, said.

Three top security officials who received the alert said it had also been conveyed to

Pak to curb Chinese nationals' movement



Chinese authorities.

"All concerned to make sure that Chinese are conveyed it in advance so that important moves are adjusted before that. No violations will be accepted during this period," the alert said.

The bombing was the latest in a string of attacks against Chinese nationals in Pakistan over the last four years, including a March suicide bombing that killed five Chinese engi-

North Korea vows to block border with SK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Oct 9: North Korea said Wednesday it will permanently block its border with South Korea and build frontline defense structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and US forces, while not announcing an expected constitutional revision to formally designate South Korea its principal enemy and codify new national borders.

While the moves were likely a pressure tactic, it's unclear how they will affect ties with South Korea since cross-border travel and exchanges have been halted for years.

North Korea's military said it will "completely cut off roads and railways" linked to South Korea and "fortify the relevant areas of our side with strong defense structures," according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

The North's military called its steps a "self-defensive measure for inhibiting war and defending the security" of North Korea. It said that "the hostile forces are getting ever more reckless in their confrontational hysteria." It cited what it called various war exercises in South Korea, the deployment of US strategic assets and its rivals' harsh rhetoric.

South Korea's military said later Wednesday that it won't



tolerate any attempt by North Korea to change the status quo. It said South Korea will "overwhelmingly punish" North Korea if it launches provocations. A South Korean military statement said North Korea's nuclear and missile programs have threatened peace on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korean officials earlier said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers and reinforcing roads on its side of the border since April in a likely attempt to boost its frontline security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea.

Kim's order stunned many North Korea watchers because it was seen as breaking away with his predecessors' long-cherished dreams of achieving a unified Korea on the North's terms. Experts say Kim likely aims to diminish South Korea's voice in the regional nuclear stand-off and seek direct dealings with the US. They say Kim also likely hopes to diminish South Korean cultural influence and bolster his rule at home.

'ISIS-inspired' Afghan man arrested in US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 9: The FBI has arrested an Afghan man who officials say was inspired by the Islamic State militant organisation and was plotting an Election Day attack targeting large crowds in the US, the Justice Department said Tuesday.

Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City told investigators after his arrest Monday that he had planned his attack to coincide with Election Day next month and that he and a co-conspirator expected to die as martyrs, according to charging documents.

Tawhedi, who arrived in the US in September 2021, had taken steps in recent weeks to advance his attack plans, including by ordering AK-47 rifles, liquidating his family's assets and buying one-way tickets for his wife and child to travel home to Afghanistan, officials said.

The arrest comes as the FBI confronts heightened concerns over the possibility of extremist violence on US soil, with Director Christopher Wray telling The Associated Press in August that he was "hard pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once."

"Terrorism is still the FBI's number one priority, and we will use every resource to protect the American people," Wray said in a statement Tuesday.

An FBI affidavit does not reveal precisely how Tawhedi came onto investigators' radar, but cites what it says is evidence from recent months showing his determination in planning an attack. A photograph from July included in the affidavit depicts a man investigators identified as Tawhedi reading to two young children, including his daughter, "a text that describes the rewards a martyr receives in the afterlife."

Officials say Tawhedi also consumed Islamic State propaganda, contributed to a charity that functions as a front for the militant group and communicated with a person who the FBI determined from a prior investigation was involved in recruitment and indoctrination of people interested in extremism. He also viewed webcams from the White House and the Washington Monument in July.

WORLD'S FIRST HYPERSONIC JET SET FOR TEST FLIGHT

THE JET CAN TRAVEL FROM LONDON TO NEW YORK CITY IN JUST ONE HOUR

A revolutionary hypersonic jet which is capable of flying from London to New York in just one hour is set to take to the skies for its inaugural test flight in 2025. Developed by startup engineering company Venus Aerospace, this futuristic plane will reach astonishing speeds of up to Mach 6 (3,600mph/5,795km/h), which is six times the speed of sound. According to a report by Metro, the Venus Detonation Ramjet 2000 lb Thrust Engine, or VDR2, is the powerhouse behind this breakthrough, enabling hypersonic flight.

craft, utilising conventional jet engines for takeoff before transitioning to rocket propulsion at altitude. Passengers will witness breathtaking views of the Earth's curvature and the darkness of space above, although it will not technically reach the edge of space.

Unveiling the new engine at the Up Summit, Venus Aerospace co-founder Andrew Dugdale said, "This engine makes the hypersonic economy a reality. We are excited to partner with Velontra to achieve this revolution in high-speed flight, given their expertise in high-speed air combustion."

Eric Briggs, Velontra's Chief Operating Officer, said, "We can't wait to dig in, make the first one fly, and ultimately perfect an en-



Currently, supersonic flight over land is banned in many countries due to noise concerns

gine concept that has lived mostly in textbooks but never as a production unit in the air. We couldn't think of a better partner than Venus. Rocketry pioneers in their own right, and ready to tackle the hard problems, we are eager to fly the same path with them."

The hypersonic aviation landscape is heating up, with multiple players racing to develop revolutionary aircraft. Sierra Space and Hermes are also joining Venus Aerospace in the pursuit of Mach 6-capable planes. Meanwhile, China's Space Transportation is working on a "rocket with wings" for space

“We can't wait to dig in, make the first one fly, and ultimately perfect an engine concept that has lived mostly in textbooks but never as a production unit in the air”

ERIC BRIGGS | VELONTRA'S CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

tourism and intercity travel. These innovative aircraft will transform the flying experience, offering unprecedented speed and efficiency. However, challenges remain, such as managing sonic boom noise and ensuring safety.

Currently, supersonic flight over land is currently banned in many countries due to noise concerns. Researchers are working to develop quieter sonic booms. The development of hypersonic aircraft could revolutionise air travel, offering faster

and more efficient transportation options. The technology could also change wars.

Rotating detonation rocket engines (RDREs) The technology behind the upcoming hypersonic travel is known as RDRE, which has rapidly evolved through contributions from various researchers.

Various companies and research labs have contributed to the development of RDREs, including NASA as well as Russian and Chinese academic institutions.

While the development of RDREs continues to be an ongoing process, researchers are working to overcome challenges and improve their performance.

In 2007, unconfirmed reports surfaced suggesting that Lockheed Martin was developing an aircraft for the US Air Force capable of reaching speeds of Mach 6.



The peak power demand this fiscal year is expected to be at 270 GW, while by 2035, it is expected to reach 446 GW by 2035

GHANSHYAM PRASAD | CHAIRPERSON, CENTRAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

FRESH BOOST FOR DRONES

The government plans to come out with a new Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the drones sector that will be more effective in terms of implementation, documentation and other aspects. The first PLI scheme for drones, introduced in 2021 with an outlay of ₹120 crore for three financial years starting from 2021-22, has ended



of the day quote

While there is a need to raise awareness about the importance of getting more and more GI tags from India, the government should ensure a focus on mandatory quality standards for GI-tagged products, especially food items

KAVITA BHATNAGAR | CEO, KANEGRADÉ FLAVOURS & INGREDIENTS

In today's digital landscape spam calls and suspicious texts have become a major concern for customers. To address this, Airtel introduced an innovative AI-powered solution integrated into the Airtel ecosystem

TARUN VIRMANI | CEO (TAMIL NADU), BHARTI AIRTEL

We have been analysing the export trends in the recent data. Even though there is a general slowdown in exports globally, the good news is that the Indian pharmaceuticals, biotech, and bulk drug exports have grown double-digit over the last year

ARUNISH CHAWLA | SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

Personal data of about 3 crore Star Health customers up for sale online

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 9: Personal data like mobile numbers, PAN, addresses and pre-existing medical conditions of about 3.1 crore customers of Star Health Insurance is allegedly available on a website created by a hacker identified as xenZen.

The hacker claimed that Star Health's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) sold all the data and later tried to change the terms of their deal.

According to the details shared by the UK-based researcher Jason Parker September 20, a hacker by the name of xenZen has published a website with sample data of Star Health Insurance Company and an email communication with a top official responsible for handling and managing the digital network of the company.

"I am leaking all Star Health India customers and insurance claims sensitive data. This leak is sponsored by Star Health and Allied Insurance Company, who sold this data to me directly,"

xenZen claimed.

Clarifying on the matter Star Health Insurance in a statement said, a thorough and rigorous forensic investigation, led by independent cybersecurity experts is underway, and the company is working closely with government and regulatory authorities at every stage of this investigation.

The company categorically mentioned that the CISO has been duly co-operating in the investigation and has not arrived at any finding of wrongdoing by him till date.

The hacker has created Telegram bots to access data of 31,216,953 customers updated till July 2024 and 5,758,425 claims of the company available till early August.

The deal was initially finalised for \$28,000 but later the official demanded \$150,000 on the pretext that he has to pay a share to senior-level management for continuation of the data leak, the hacker alleged.

Any leak of personal details of people makes them vulnerable to online scams.

Part corporate titan, part philanthropist

RATAN TATA'S PASSING MARKS THE END OF AN ERA—A MAN WHO BUILT A LEGACY OF RESILIENCE, GROWTH, AND UNMATCHED VISION

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 9: He was one of the world's most influential industrialists yet he never appeared on any list of billionaires. He controlled over 30 companies that operated in over 100 countries across six continents yet lived an unpretentious life.

Ratan Naval Tata, who died at a Mumbai hospital Wednesday night at the age of 86 years, enjoyed a perhaps unique status - a corporate titan who was considered a 'secular living saint' with a reputation for decency and integrity.

Tata joined the family firm after acquiring a BS in architecture from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, in 1962. He initially worked on the shop floor, gaining experience in a number of Tata Group businesses before being named director in charge of one of them, the National Radio and Electronics Co in 1971.

He became chairman of Tata Industries a decade later and in 1991, took over as the chairman of the Tata Group from his uncle, JRD, who had been in charge for more than half a century.

This was the year when India opened its economy and Tata soon turned the group, which began as a small textile and trading firm in 1868, into a global powerhouse with operations stretching from salt to steel, cars to software, power plants and air-



lines.

He was the chairman of Tata Sons, the group's main holding company, for more than two decades during which the conglomerate aggressively sought to expand, acquiring London-based Tetley Tea in 2000 for \$431.3 million, buying truck-manufacturing operations of South Korea's Daewoo Motors for \$102 million in 2004, paying \$11.3 billion to take over Anglo-Dutch steel manufacturer Corus Group and spending \$2.3 billion to purchase elite British car brands Jaguar and

Land Rover from the Ford Motor Company.

Along with being one of India's most successful business tycoons, he is also known for his philanthropic activities. His personal involvement in philanthropy began early. In the 1970s, he initiated The Aga Khan Hospital and Medical College project, laying the foundation of one of India's premier healthcare institutions.

After his appointment as the chairman of Tata Sons in 1991, Tata's philanthropic efforts gained new momentum. He actively steered the Tata Trusts, established by his great-grandfather Jamsetji, towards addressing vital social needs and set up institutes of excellence like the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and funded educational initiatives across India.

Despite being the embodiment of class and elegance, Tata was not untouched by controversies. Though the group was not implicated directly in the 2008 scam in the allocation of second-generation telecom licences, he was drawn through the leaked recordings of purported phone calls he made to lobbyist Nira Radia. He was not implicated in any wrongdoing.

ECONOMY SLOWING

RBI signals rate cuts ahead

D-St reverses gains on fog-end selling

Reserve Bank MPC panel unanimously decides to change the policy stance to 'neutral' - in a first since June 2019 - from 'withdrawal of accommodation' amid signs of a slowing economy. The change of stance signals a possible move to cut interest rates in forthcoming MPC meetings, the next being due in early December

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 9: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged Wednesday for the tenth straight time, but took the first step towards a rate cut as it eased its relatively hawkish policy stance to 'neutral'.

The monetary policy committee (MPC), which included three RBI officials and an equal number of new external members, voted five-to-one to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

The panel, however, unanimously decided to change the policy stance to 'neutral' - the first since June 2019 - from 'withdrawal of accommodation' amid signs of a slowing economy.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the committee changed the stance but will remain unambiguously focused on the durable alignment of inflation to target while supporting growth.

Food inflation, he said, may ease in coming months, while the core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy costs, appears to have bottomed out.

India's economic growth out-

look remained intact, with private consumption and investment growing in tandem.

RBI will join other central banks in a policy pivot that was led by the US Federal Reserve easing rates last month.

Annual retail inflation eased below the central bank's target of 4 per cent for a second consecutive month in September and will, as per RBI expectation, rebound again this month, largely due to base effects.

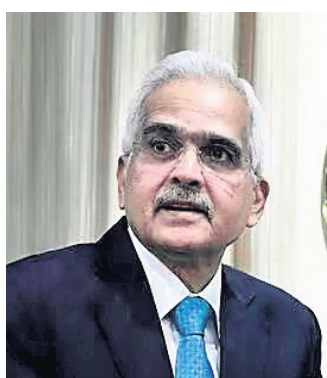
RBI kept its inflation forecast unchanged at 4.5 per cent for the 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) fiscal year. It also kept its GDP forecast unchanged at 7.2 per cent in view of

prospects of robust private consumption and investment growth.

Das said the prevailing and expected inflation-growth balance has created conditions for a shift in the monetary policy stance as there now is greater confidence on the last mile of disinflation.

RBI also highlighted concerns about the geo-political risks and the weather-related shocks along with its adverse impact on commodity prices particularly crude oil where India's import dependence is very high.

Agricultural output is expected to improve with rains favourable



during the kharif season and prospects for the rabi season improving because of better water reservoir position.

Globally, risks and uncertainties persist, with escalating tensions in the Middle East, weather uncertainties and outcome of US elections in focus - reasons why the RBI took a cautious approach and kept its powder dry.

The monetary policy action of Wednesday reflects the MPC's assessment that, at the current juncture, it would be appropriate to have greater flexibility and optionality to act in sync with the evolving conditions and the outlook.

WARNING FOR NBFCs

The RBI Governor sounded a warning to the NBFC sector.

Aggressive growth in some asset classes among NBFCs and specifically in the microfinance sector can pose risks for financial stability going forward, he warned.

RBI is also closely monitoring likelihood of stress buildup in a few unsecured loan segments like loans for consumption purposes, microfinance loans and credit card outstandings, Das said adding the central bank may take measures as may be considered necessary.

Inflation is on a declining path, although we still have a distance to cover. We are, however, not complacent, especially amidst rapidly evolving global conditions

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

HIGHLIGHTS

- Benchmark short-term lending rate (repo) kept unchanged at 6.5%
- Status quo on rate since February 2023
- GDP growth projection for FY25 retained at 7.2%
- GDP growth forecast for Q2 at 7%; Q3 at 7.4%; and Q4 at 7.4%
- Inflation projection for FY25 retained at 4.5%
- UPI123PAY (for feature phone) per transaction limit doubled to ₹10,000
- UPI Lite wallet limit increased to ₹5,000 and per-transaction limit hiked to ₹1,000
- Next meeting of MPC scheduled during December 4 to 6

continued attention to potential risks from inoperative deposit accounts, cybersecurity landscape and mule accounts.

Experts hail RBI's 'neutral' stance

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to change its stance to 'neutral' from 'withdrawal of accommodation' is significant and appropriate, experts said Wednesday. "The status quo on the repo rate was no surprise. The change in stance to 'neutral' after a more hawkish stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation' is significant and appropriate," Bandhan Bank Chief Economist Siddhartha Sanyal said. The MPC has "rightly decided to wait for critical information" regarding geo-political developments, commodity price trends and domestic growth-inflation dynamics in the coming months, he said. HDFC Bank Chief Economist Abheek Barua said, "Today's policy announcement emphasised the centrality of domestic conditions in monetary policymaking." The apex bank acknowledged the durable disinflationary trend underway although highlighting lingering domestic and global risks, he said. "Given this, if conditions evolve favourably over the coming months, a rate cut in December is not off the table," Barua said. Credit National President Boman Irani said, "As RBI remains cautious regarding potential inflationary pressures, the central bank's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent - albeit with a revised neutral stance - seems somewhat like a missed opportunity, especially with the festive season around the corner".

Samsung workers continue strike

Employees reject settlement offer as protest enters second month

REUTERS

Chennai, Oct 9: A group of more than 1,000 striking workers at the Samsung Electronics factory in southern India has rejected a settlement offer made by the company on wage hikes, with the sit-in protest entering its second month Wednesday.

The strike is the biggest such labour dispute in recent years in India and has cast a shadow over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to lure investors to set up local manufacturing. Tamil Nadu state, where many foreign companies including Foxconn operate, has been unsuccessful in resolving the



- Over 1,000 workers are striking since Sept 9
- Samsung proposes wage raise, other benefits
- Government asks strikers to return to work

matter so far.

The strikers have disrupted production and protested in a makeshift tent close to the factory near the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu since September 9, demanding higher wages and union recognition. The plant is critical to Samsung's ambitions and accounted for roughly one-fifth of its \$12 billion India sales in 2022-23.

Samsung this week made a proposal to provide a monthly in-

centive of ₹5,000 (\$60) until March, more air conditioned buses, a diversified cafeteria menu and a gift card of \$24 in case of a child birth, according to the settlement document seen by Reuters.

But the labour group backing the protests, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), has rejected the agreement as it doesn't recognise their union, A Soundararajan, its state president said Wednesday.

"We will continue striking. We will intensify our protest to

put pressure on the government," he told Reuters.

Samsung said in a statement it signed an agreement and will engage with workers to address their concerns, but it did not comment on the strike still continuing. State industries minister TRB Rajaa said Tuesday Samsung had agreed to fulfill 14 demands and was willing to discuss more, but the "workers should return to work" and all their demands, including union recognition, will be considered.

Samsung workers earn ₹25,000 (\$300) on average each month and are demanding a raise of ₹36,000 a month spread over three years, according to the CITU. Samsung has said the average monthly salary of full-time manufacturing workers at the plant is nearly double that of similar workers in the region.

BIZ BUZZ

HMSI's lucky draw for Malaysia trip

Cuttack: This Durga Puja festival has brought good news for those buying any Honda 2-wheeler in Odisha. Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) is celebrating 'Vijay Mahotsav' from October 1 to November 3. There is an assured gift through scratch and win offer for every customer. In addition to this offer, the Honda dealers of Odisha are providing a mega offer for its loyal customers. Every week one lucky draw will be done for the buyers of Honda 2-wheeler wherein the winner shall get a Malaysia Couple Trip. Accordingly, the first week lucky draw was done at SGBL Honda, Cuttack October 8, in the presence of Sunil Gupta (MD, SGBL Honda), Akhil Poddar (Partner, Utikal Honda), and Sivendu Mohanty (Partner, Durga Honda) which was live streamed on YouTube. The winner of the first lucky draw for 'Malaysia Couple Trip' is Soumya Ranjan Nayak of Sambalpur. Similarly, another four events will be conducted at four different locations every week.



Emergency mock drill at PPL

Bhubaneswar: Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) successfully conducted a mock drill on Ammonia Safety Valve Leakage Scenario from Ammonia Supply Line recently. On the direction of officials of Factories & Boilers, the exercise was conducted at plant site. Safety and fire officials from Kujang Fire Station, NDRF, Paradip Port, Coast Guard Trust, Dock Safety, IFFCO, IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, Essar Power, Arcelor Mittal Steel and Adani Wilmar attended the drill as observers. Manoj Panda, Deputy Director (Factories & Boilers), Cuttack Zonal office congratulated PPL management for showing extraordinary team work of rescue during the drill. Chandra Sekhara Behera, Assistant Director (Factories & Boilers) emphasised on the importance of such drills. The PPL team led by Palanisamy Velusamy, Chief Manufacturing Officer & Unit Head displayed a brilliant procedure to be followed in the wake of an ammonia leakage scenario. Local sarpanchs and various NGO representatives also appreciated PPL's effort in conducting such exercise to spread the safety message for the people residing nearby villages.



Nitish show sinks Bangla

INDIA CLINCH T20I SERIES AGAINST BANGLADESH WINNING THE 2ND GAME BY 86 RUNS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 9: Nitish Kumar Reddy's all-round show (74, 24b, 4x4, 7x6 and 2/23) and Rinku Singh's (53, 29b, 5x4, 3x6) helped India defeat Bangladesh by 86 runs here Wednesday in the second T20I international. Put into bat by the opposition India put up a huge score of 221 for nine and then restricted Bangladesh to just 135 for nine. India thus clinched the three-game T20I series by building up an unsailable 2-0 lead.

Hardik Pandya (32, 19b, 2x4, 2x6) and Ryan Parag (15, 6b, 2x6) also played small cameos in the last four overs of the Indian innings to take the hosts past the 220-run mark.

Chasing a mammoth target, Bangladesh kept on losing wickets at regular intervals and by the seventh over, the writing was clear on the wall with the scoreboard reading 46 for four. Only Mahmudullah (41, 39b, 3x6) offered some resistance, but then lacked support. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy (2/19) once more caught the eye with controlled bowling.

Earlier the Indians lost three early wickets and at one point of time the score was 41 for three with the power play yet to be completed. However, after that Reddy and Rinku launched a counter-attack which the Bangladesh bowlers could not handle. The two put on 108 runs for the fourth wicket in just eight



POWER HITTING: Nitish Kumar Reddy hits the ball out of the ground during his innings Wednesday

overs, taking the opposition bowlers to the cleaners.

Such was the onslaught that the Bangladesh bowlers, especially the spinners were at their wits ends. Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz went for 46 runs in his three overs while leg-spinner Rishad Hossain, even though he picked up three wickets, went for 54 in four overs. All his wickets though came when the Indian batters were trying to accelerate in the last couple of overs of the

innings. The only bowler who escaped wrath at the hands of the Indian batters was Taskin Ahmed (2/16).

Such was the dominance of Nitish and Rinku batters that four of the Bangladesh bowlers among the six used went for more than 12 runs per over. Reddy was quick to latch on to anything slightly short and hit it out of the ground. On the other hand, Rinku mixed deft touches with some power hit-

ting to keep the scoreboard galloping. By the time Reddy was dismissed by Mustafizur, the match had already slipped out of the grasp of Bangladesh.

BRIEF SCORES

India 221 for 9 (Nitish Kumar Reddy 74, Rinku Singh 53, Taskin Ahmed 2/16) beat Bangladesh 135 for 9 (Mahmudullah 41, Varun Chakravarthy 2/19, Nitish Kumar Reddy 2/23) by 86 runs.

Indian eyes script facile victory

MASSIVE BOOST FOR NET RUN RATE WITH 82-RUN HAMMERING OF SRI LANKA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 9: The seasoned duo of Smriti Mandhana (50, 38b, 4x4, 1x6) and Harmanpreet Kaur (52 n o, 27b, 8x4, 1x6) was back to its sizzling best as India gave a massive boost to their net run rate (NRR) with an 82-run hammering of Sri Lanka in the Women's T20 World Cup here Wednesday.

The 98-run stand between Shafali Verma (43, 40b, 4x4) and Smriti set the tone for the innings after India opted to bat at the Dubai International Stadium. Harmanpreet then got welcome runs in the death overs to push India past 170, the highest total of the competition thus far.

Sri Lanka, who had got the better of India in the Asia Cup, could never really get going in the run chase and were all out for 90 in 19.5 overs. It was Sri Lanka's third loss in as many games, effectively putting them out of the semifinals race. Leg-spinner Asha Sobhana (3/19) and pacer Arundhati Reddy (3/19) were the pick of the bowlers for India.

With their second win in three games, India remain in the hunt for a last four spot from Group A. The loss to New Zealand had put a severe dent to India's net run rate and they needed a big win to make amends, something they managed Wednesday. India's current NRR stands at 0.576, the first time that they are out of the negative zone. India's last group game is against defending champions Australia.



Richa Ghosh stumps a Sri Lankan batter off the bowling of Asha Sobhana

the innings with substitute Radha Yadav taking a stunning catch to get rid of Vishmi Gunaratne. Then Reddy and Sobhana got into the act to completely decimate the Sri Lankans.

Brief scores: India Women 172 for 3 (Harmanpreet Kaur 52 n o, Smriti Mandhana 50) beat Sri Lanka 90 in 19.5 overs (Asha Sobhana 3/19, Arundhati Reddy 3/19) by 82 runs.

LEGENDS LEAGUE CRICKET

WATCH LIVE ACTION TODAY!

INDIA CAPITALS VS MANIPAL TIGERS

7:00 PM ONWARDS

Streaming on STAR SPORTS FANCODE FC

SHORT TAKES

Women paddlers bag historic medal

Astana (Kazakhstan): The Indian women players created history Wednesday by winning their first-ever medal, a bronze, at the Asian Table Tennis Championships here after losing to Japan 1-3 in the semifinals. This is India's maiden medal in women's team event at Asian Championships. Even though Ayhika Mukherjee lost to Japan's Miwa Harimoto 2-3, the highly-rated Manika Batra levelled the scores after notching up a 3-0 win over Satsuki Odo in the second match. However, after that Sutirha Mukherjee and Batra lost their next two matches to give Japan a winning lead.

IOA declares dates for National Games

New Delhi: The 38th edition of the National Games will be held in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14 next year, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced Wednesday. It said that the schedule is subject to approval from the IOA's general assembly later this month. The IOA General Assembly is scheduled to be held October 25. "We are thrilled to bring the National Games to Uttarakhand, a state which has shown remarkable enthusiasm and commitment to hosting this prestigious event," IOA president PT Usha said in a press release. The Games will feature competitions in 38 disciplines and over 10,000 athletes.

New assignment for Jurgen Klopp

London: Former Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp is returning to soccer after a shorter than expected break. Energy drinks manufacturer Red Bull announced Wednesday that the German mentor is to become its head of global soccer from January, overseeing its international network of clubs. "He will not be involved in the clubs' day-to-day operations, but will provide strategic vision, supporting individual sporting directors in advancing the Red Bull philosophy," the statement said.

Heart-breaking loss

Ranchi: Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand advanced to the final after victories in their respective last four stage matches on the ninth day of the Junior Women's National hockey championships here Wednesday. Madhya Pradesh confirmed their spot in the final after a 1-1 (5-4 shootout) win against Odisha. Bahala Surekha (18th) scored to give Odisha the lead but Patel Sneha's (59th) equaliser for MP in the penultimate minute of the game.

Williamson to miss part of India tour

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auckland, Oct 9: Senior batter Kane Williamson is set to miss the initial part of the upcoming three-Test series in India starting October 16 due to groin strain, with New Zealand naming Mark Chapman as his cover in the 17-man squad announced here Wednesday. Williamson, who is dealing with a groin strain, will delay his departure to India. New Zealand will play three Tests at Bangalore, Pune and Mumbai.

While senior batting all-rounder Michael Bracewell has been roped in only for the first Test, spinner Ish Sodhi will be available for the second and third Tests. Tom Latham will be leading the Kiwis after Tim Southee stepped aside from the leadership role a few days ago.

"Williamson experienced groin discomfort during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle and will require a period of rehabilitation before joining the Blackcaps Test squad in India," New Zealand Cricket said on their website.

New Zealand selector Sam Wells said the decision to delay Williamson's departure to India



was to give the former skipper more time to rest. "The advice we've received is that the best course of action is for Kane to rest and rehabilitate now rather than risk aggravating the injury," said Wells.

"We're hopeful that if the rehabilitation goes to plan Kane will be available for the latter part of the tour. While it's obviously disappointing to not have Kane available from the start of the tour, it provides an opportunity for someone else to play a role in an important series," Wells added.

Chapman averages above 42 in first-class cricket in 44 matches but is yet to make his Test debut. "We believe Mark (Chapman) is one of our best players of spin and has a proven track-record in the sub-continent," said Wells.

THE SQUAD

Tom Latham (Captain), Tom Blundell (wicket-keeper), Michael Bracewell (1st Test only), Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi (2nd & 3rd Tests), Tim Southee, Kane Williamson and Will Young.

Root breaks Cook's record

ENGLAND BATTER BECOMES ALL-TIME HIGHEST TEST RUN-SCORER FOR COUNTRY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Multan (Pakistan), Oct 9: With an exquisite straight drive for four, Joe Root took another of Alastair Cook's records by becoming England's highest run-scorer in Test cricket. Root surpassed the retired Cook's total of 12,472 runs by reaching 71 during England's first innings on Day 3 of the first Test against Pakistan here Wednesday. At stumps Root was unbeaten on 176 (277b, 12x4).

The 33-year-old Root moved to fifth place on the all-time list of Test run-scorers, behind India's Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Australia's Ricky Ponting (13,378), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (13,289) and India's Rahul Dravid (13,288). All four above Root are retired and within reach of a batter who said ahead of the tour to Pakistan that he had plenty left in the tank.

"The only reason



- ROOT HAS SCORED 1,000 OR MORE TEST RUNS IN A CALENDAR YEAR 5 TIMES
- ROOT HAS 35 TEST CENTURIES, THE MOST BY AN ENGLAND BATTER

it (Cook's record) is on my mind because people keep asking me about it, to be honest," Root said. "I see myself playing Test cricket for a lot longer. It's not like I'm going to get to a certain mark or a number and say, 'Right, I'm done now'. I just want to keep enjoying the game, keep playing."

Root, who is technically excellent and owns pretty much all the shots, overtook Cook's record of 33 Test centuries by an England batter last month when he made hundreds in both innings against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

Ben Stokes, the England Test captain who is sitting out the first match of the series because of injury, praised Root's character and achievement in a video released by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). "The selflessness that he has is an incredible attribute for him," Stokes said. "He always puts the team first, and the fact that he's got so many runs is just a bonus for us. He's an incredible player. It's going to take a long, long time for someone to come in and break that record. A great bloke and an unbelievable feat to score that many runs," Stokes said.

Odisha finish runners-up



Athletes and coaches of the Odisha team pose with the trophy and dignitaries

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: West Bengal pipped Odisha to the second position and emerged champions in the 35th East Zone Junior Athletics Championships which concluded at the Kalinga Stadium here Wednesday. West Bengal scored 255 points to emerge team champions while Odisha with 219 finished as runners-up.

However, in the junior boys category, Team Odisha emerged champions with 126 points while West Bengal secured 102 points. In the girls' segment Odisha earned 93 points to finish second behind West Bengal (153 points).

It was this difference which enabled West Bengal to emerge overall champions of the meet.

CEO, Hockey Promotional Council of Odisha Deepankar Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, DSYS, BK Swain, Joint Secretary DSYS, Sailendra Jena graced the closing ceremony and felicitated the medal-winners. "I am sure with their performances in the East Zone meet, our athletes will perform even better in the upcoming junior athletics nationals. We are happy to have hosted young athletes from 10 states and we hope everyone had a great experience here," Mohapatra said in his address.

SAWAN TO LEAD UNDER-23 SQUAD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 9: The Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) announced Wednesday a 16-member squad that will play the first two games of the U-23 Col CK Nayudu Trophy. Odisha will take on Uttarakhand in the first match at Dehradun (Oct 13 to 16) and in the second game they will face Maharashtra (Oct 20-23) at Bargarh.

The squad will be led by Sawan Pahariya who is also the wicket-keeper. Former Odisha pace bowler Basant Mohanty has been appointed as the head coach of the team while Suresh Kumar will be his deputy.

The squad: Sawan Pahariya (captain, wicket-keeper), Biswa Baibhav Mudulu, Debabrata Pradhan (wicket-keeper), Subham Nayak, Sujal Singh, Om T Minde, Saideep Mahapatra, Swoop S Bhuyan, Swamy Srivastav, Ayush Barik, Sambit Baral Ashutosh Chhuria, Vimal Kumar, Ashutosh Marndi, Badal Biswal and Binayak Sahoo.

Padmini emerges sole leader in national chess

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karaikudi (Tamil Nadu), Oct 9: Defending champion IM Padmini Rout of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) shot into sole lead with 6.5 points at the end of the seventh round of the 50th National Chess Championships for Women at Managiri, near this town.

Padmini defeated Wednesday fellow overnight leader Velpula Sarayu (5.5 points) of Telangana in the seventh round to brighten her prospects of winning the title.

Padmini is being followed in joint second position by four Tamil Nadu players - PV Nandhidhaa, Rakshitta Ravi, J Saranya and K Priyanka - all of whom moved to six points by winning their respective games.

In the top board clash, Padmini opted for Alapin Variation against Sarayu's Sicilian defense. An error in opening by Sarayu allowed Padmini to sac-

rifice a pawn on the seventh move and gain a decisive advantage. Padmini invaded the black's King side and finished with a rook sacrifice. The game ended in 31 moves with Padmini taking full points with white pieces.

Following in close pursuit are Nandhidhaa, Rakshitta, Priyanka and Saranya, who all defeated their opponents.

Nandhidhaa, the former Asian Continental Champion, opted for an advanced variation of Caro Kann defense against Chitlange Sakshi of Maharashtra. Though both went for the opponent's King, Nandhidhaa was threatening mate with her Queen and Knights. The game ended in 48 moves when Sakshi missed a move.

In other games, Rakshitta got the better of seasoned IM Nisha Mohota while Priyanka overcame WGM V Varshini on the fourth board.

2nd loss for OFC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 9: Odisha FC suffered their second defeat in the AFC Women's Champions League going down to hosts Ho Chi Minh City 1-3 in a game played Wednesday. However, unlike the first game when the women's team had conceded 17 goals, this time the players showed a lot of pluck against the Ho Chi Minh City.

The hosts however, struck in the first minute of the game when Thi Kim Yen headed in a corner. Despite the early setback, the OFC players showed more intent and had a chance to restore parity in the 12th minute. However, Jennifer Yeboah's shot was saved the rival keeper.

The hosts had more ball possession while OFC depended on counter-attacks. Just before half time, Ho Chi Minh City doubled their lead when Hynuh Nhu scored after the OFC defenders had failed to clear a long ball.

In the second half, OFC looked a more determined team and their efforts bore fruit when Yeboah scored latching on to a through ball provided by Malati Munda.