At a time when ties between India and Canada have hit rock bottom

over the alleged Indian role in the

assassination of pro-Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the



FOR A CAUSE: Members of the Bishnoi community protest against cutting of trees, near the Collector's office, in Bikaner, Friday

SC guidelines on child marriage prevention

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday said the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) cannot be stunted by traditions under any personal law and observed marriages involving children violate the free will to choose a life partner. A bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued guidelines for effective implementation of PCMA. P8





Commission should take over umpiring duties

Minor boy 'sacrificed'

rest of a villager, Dolamani Rana,

whom they accused of sacrific-

ing the boy. Khaprakhol Tehsildar

Aditya Prasad Mishra, Patanagarh

SDPO Sadananda Pujhari, a dog

squad from Bhawanipatna and a

forensic team started an investi-

gation. The villagers attacked ASI

Jatindra Badhei when he shouted

at the agitators. After a lot of effort,

the police managed to rescue the

Police registered a case and de-

tained the accused for questioning.

SDPO Pujhari said that after pre-

liminary investigation it is sus-

pected that the boy has been mur-

dered. The exact reason behind

the death will be ascertained after

arrival of the post-mortem report,

Pujhari added.

ASI from the angry villagers.

POST NEWS SERVICE

Lathor, Oct 18: In a suspected case of human sacrifice, the body of a minor boy who was missing since Thursday afternoon was recovered by the police from a hillock near Jhalialiti village under Lathor police limits in Bolangir district, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Somanath Bemal, 11, son of Tapan Bemal, a resident of Jalpankel. According to reports, Somanath went out to play Thursday afternoon but did not return home. His family launched a frantic search but could not trace him. The boy's grandfather lodged a missing complaint at Lathor police station. Meanwhile, some youths of the village who were also searching for the child found the body lying on the hillock.

Lathor IIC, Rakesh Behera, along with a team initiated an investigation. The angry villagers staged a blockade on Karuanjhar-Lathor road demanding the ar-



Pannun on American soil. This comes against the backdrop of the ongoing narrative in India that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was playing vote-bank politics by bringing out such serious accusations against New Delhi. Canada is home to over seven lakh Sikhs, the highest population of the community outside India. It is pertinent to note here that in a robust democracy like Canada where the prime minister himself is answerable to probe panels, it is never easy to play vote-bank politics on issues concerning national security. Meanwhile, the US indictment of the former Indian government official on murder-for-hire and money laundering charges is said to be an indication of the collapse of India's foreign policy apparatus and its inept handling of issues that make or break foreign relations.



US takes Canada path

Vikas Yadav released by the FBI

AGENCIES

Washington/New York, Oct 18: A former Indian government official has been charged by the US authorities for his alleged role in a foiled plot to assassinate Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil around the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vikas Yadav, 39, was employed by the Cabinet Secretariat, which houses India's foreign intelligence service, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), the federal prosecutors claimed Thursday in an indictment filed in a US court in New York.

Yadav faces murder-for-hire and money laundering charges in connection with his role in directing a foiled plot to kill

He "remains at large", the Department of Justice said.

Yadav had been identified only as "CC-1" (co-conspirator) in the first indictment. Thursday in New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, responding to a query on the person identified in the indictment of the US Department of Justice (DoJ) in connection with the case, confirmed that the person is "no longer an employee of the government of India.

His co-conspirator Nikhil Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic last year and is languishing in a US jail after ex-"Today's charges demonstrate

that the Justice Department will not tolerate attempts to target and endanger Americans and to undermine the rights to which every US citizen is entitled," US Attorney General Merrick B Garland said.

State key player in chemicals: CM



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said the state is emerging as a key player in chemicals and petrochemicals sector, supported by increasing demand from core industries like steel and aluminum.

Addressing the 'India Chem 2024' in Mumbai, Majhi said the PCPIR, Paradeep, is driving Odisha's ambitions in this sector.

The CM said the chemicals and petrochemicals sector in Odisha is ready for exponential growth. "At the same time, we are diversifying into further high-potential areas," he said.

The state is also actively promoting investments in technical textiles and recycling of byproducts, plastics and packaging, and specialty chemicals, which are seeing increased demand from domestic and international markets, the CM said.

234mn Indians living in poverty, says UN report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Oct 18: India is among the five countries globally with the largest number of people living in poverty, according to a UN report that said 1.1 billion people, over half of them minors, live in acute poverty worldwide.

The latest update of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index

(MPI) was released Thursday by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) based at the University of Oxford.

It said that 1.1 billion people live in acute poverty worldwide, with 40 per cent living in countries experiencing war, fragility and/or low peacefulness, according to at least one of the three widely used datasets of conflict settings.

India has 234 million people living in poverty, which is medium Human Development Index, placing the country among five globally with the largest number of people living in poverty.

'The other four countries are Pakistan (93 million), Ethiopia (86 million), Nigeria (74 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (66 million), all low HDI," it said.

Together, these five countries account for nearly half (48.1 per cent) of the 1.1 billion poor people," it said.

The report added that a "staggering" 455 million of the world's poor live in countries exposed to violent conflict, hindering and even reversing hard-won progress to reduce poverty.





621, Saheed Nagar

BHUBANESWAR



309, District Centre

BHUBANESWAR

Exchange



Soubhagya Nagai

BHUBANESWAR



BHUBANESWAR



Venkatraju Arcade Sano Bazar

BERHAMPUR



Sarbahal Road

JHARSUGUDA



PURI



ROURKELA



khimjijewellers.com

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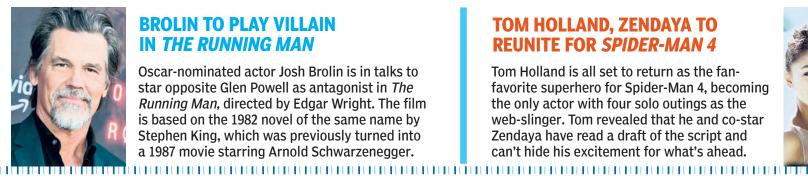
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eisure



BROLIN TO PLAY VILLAIN IN THE RUNNING MAN

Oscar-nominated actor Josh Brolin is in talks to star opposite Glen Powell as antagonist in The Running Man, directed by Edgar Wright. The film is based on the 1982 novel of the same name by Stephen King, which was previously turned into a 1987 movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

TOM HOLLAND, ZENDAYA TO **REUNITE FOR SPIDER-MAN 4**

Tom Holland is all set to return as the fanfavorite superhero for Spider-Man 4, becoming the only actor with four solo outings as the web-slinger. Tom revealed that he and co-star Zendaya have read a draft of the script and can't hide his excitement for what's ahead.



GaneshaSpeaks.com

Today you will be focussed and unshakable in your work, The results will be noticeable by mid-day. In the evening you will meet one of your admirers and this will take a load off your shoulders. Ganesha predicts that if you are unmarried, you will meet someone remarkable

TAURUS

You analysis, estimates and decisions, your planning and implementation is likely to be wayward and error prone. You could, thus, fall short of your targets today, warns Ganesha. Every thing you do is likely to be misplanned and misdirectand stick to the basics.

GEMINI

Ganesha warns that those around you could harbour feelings of enemity against you today. These people will try to malign your name and slander your reputation. However, in front of you these people will act like your well-wishers. You will taste the sweet fruit of success after much hard work, post noon, says Ganesha

CANCER

A new friend will join your circle or you establish friendship with someone. You will be spending the day in entertainment or party with friends. But tension will prevail in the office. Yet, says Ganesha, a sense of joy will thrive on the domestic front

LEO

You will take some important decisions regarding personal or professional matters today, says Ganesha. The later half of the day will be spent enjoying with vour family and friends. An extremely

Heart-break kid - this is the new epithet for you today. Your pockets will empty faster than you can save. Expect marital bliss to blossom and bloom Bond with the best, rather, your better

LIBRA Sharing is the key to joy,

and today, you shall be unlocking many doors with that key as you reveal your innermost feelings. Share them unabashedly with with high energy levels that will soar as the day proceeds. This will enable you to show that special interest while interact ing with peers at work.

SAGITTARIUS Your mood is high on expectations today. You shall plan meticulously before noon,

CAPRICORN

today! From meeting some reliable people to taking commendable initiatives at work, you will be at the centre of everything, and will bag the appreciation of your mentors for your good work. Given that all this will boost your morale and selfconfidence by afternoon, you will go a step further to bring perfection to what has already been approved and kept aside, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You will transform abstract ideas into practical and tangible strategies today, and deserve all the credit. You will also appreciate and understand life a little more, says Ganesha.

PISCES

stress you will be labouring under at the workplace today, you can expect to excel in all the activities that you choose to pursue. On the domestic front, the support that your family members extend will prove to be invaluable, says Ganesha.

Malaika on dealing with negativity

Mumbai: Malaika Arora is always in the headlines either for her stunning fashion choices or her per-She further said, "I have also sonal life. Recently, she grabbed everyone's attention when

it was reported that she and Arjun Kapoor had broken up. A few days back, in an interview, she addressed the trolling related to her rela-

tionships. Malaika discussed how she has learned to handle the negativity surrounding both her personal and professional life. The

chhaiya chhaiya girl. when asked how she handles criticism about her relationships and life choices, said, "In the

best way

There are times when you feel things don't bother or affect me, but of course they do.'

> figured out a way to deal with it, get strong about it and not let it pull me down, govern me or get the better out of me. I have figured out a way to insulate me to all of it. Yes, it's part and parcel of our lives, there is constantly something, criticism, trolling but you just need to block out the noise, the negativity and move on with whatever is positive in your life. . Malaika and

Arjun started dating in 2018. She was previously married Salman Khan's brother and actor Arbaaz Khan. They share a son: Arhaan. Meanwhile, Arbaaz recently tied the knot with Sshura Khan.



I don't curate my image: Sara

Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan has been a subject of discussion since her debut with Kedarnath in 2018. While some appreciate her humour and wearing non-designer clothes, others call it fabricated and PR work, considering her background as the daughter of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh.

In a recent interview, Sara defended herself, claiming that her image is anything but 'curated'. When asked if it was a 'conscious decision' to be seen

as relatable, Sara replied, "I don't think I've spent any energy, to the dismay of some people, curating an image of myself. That's something I would do for the camera, where I curate characters. In real life I am just who I am whether that's somebody who goes to the gym with five pairs of shorts and alternates them with crop tops, or someone who goes to the airport in athleisure but can also go in jeans and a t-shirt.

She further added, "It's important to surround yourself with real people so that you're not dependent on the phone screen. It's easy to get caught up and lose focus on what the bigger things in life are. Choosing internal peace and traveling help me see what truly matters.'

On the work front, Sara was last seen in



Mumbai: In the upcoming episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati 16, Amitabh Bachchan reflected on his illustrious career and expressed a heartfelt regret about never having the opportunity to work with the legendary actress Meena

Kumari. During a conversation with Vidya Balan and Kartik Aaryan, Amitabh voiced his regret at not having worked with Meena Kumari while discussing the 1962 cult movie

Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam. Big B shared, "I never got the opportunity to work with Meena Kumari ji. In *Sahib* Biwi Aur Ghulam, there's a song - Na jaao saiyaan where

so gracefully that I found my self watching her continuously. The art of sitting in one place quietly, singing the song and coupled with her radiance, the effects used to be

The Baghban actor went on add,



back then and I think that was the beauty of it all. Unlike today, every shot ends in just a few words.



Ananya Panday and Aditya Roy Kapur reportedly ended their relationship a few months ago after being together for nearly Meanwhile, on the work front, Aditva

> s set to star in Anurag Basu's *Metro In Dino* alongside Sara Ali Khan. On the other hand, Ananya Panday s an exciting lineup of projects, in cluding Call Me Bae Season 2 and an

> untitled film featuring Akshay Kumar and R Madhavan.

SCORPIO

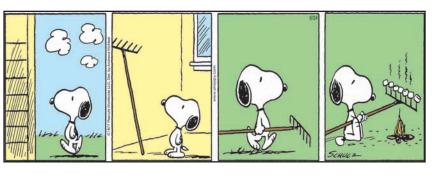
History beckons you, and unknown destinations stir up the adventurer in you, predicts Ganesha. At work, the spotlight shall be on you as you steal the show with your brilliant performance. Business will be fun and exciting for you, hopes Ganesha.

and then in the afternoon, your plans shall fall in place, and deliver expected results. The opposite sex will find you intellectually stimulating and attractive

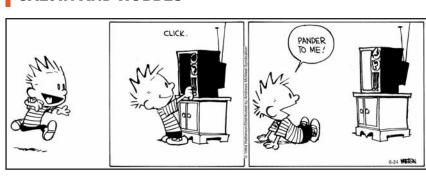
A dazzling day awaits you



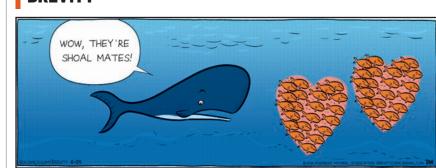
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

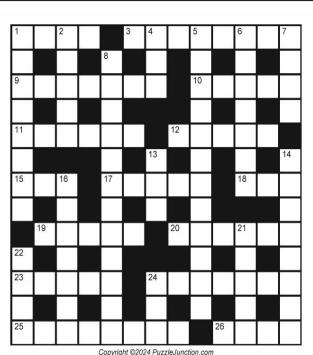


BREVITY



FUN POST

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Roman god of
- 3 Sleds
- 9 Renaissance man (2,5)
- 10 Blow one's top
- 11 Large European flatfish
- 12 Lukewarm
- 15 Make lace
- 17 Chubby

18 Samuel's teacher,

in the Bible

- **Down**
- 1 Do Zen

19 Ziti, e.g.

crust

20 Entree with a

23 Post-op time

24 Cut of meat

26 Foreboding

25 Assassin

- 2 Aare, for one
- 4 Sapporo sash 5 Type of sound system
- harmonious

6 Hard to pin

down 7 Fill to the gills

8 Not

- 13 North Sea
- diver
- 14 Alfred
- Hitchcock, e.g. 16 Educator 21 Type of tea
- 22 Streetcar 24 Social
 - gathering

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

	7	6	8				4	
9			25	5	d	2	57	6
		1						3
	5						1	4
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		7	1	4				
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SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

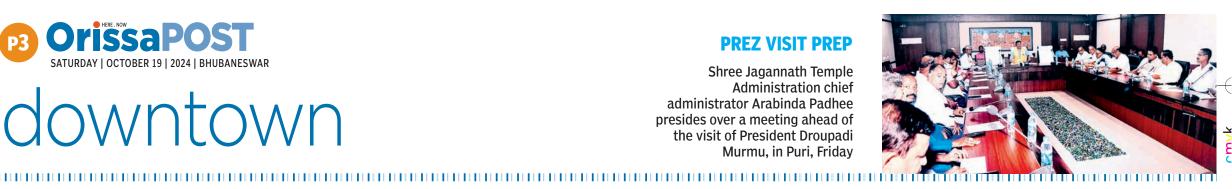
2 9 6 8 3 6 SUDOKU 5 9 2 1 6 2 5 3 7 5 8 6 1 4 2 9



downtown

PREZ VISIT PREP

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration chief administrator Arabinda Padhee presides over a meeting ahead of the visit of President Droupadi Murmu, in Puri, Friday



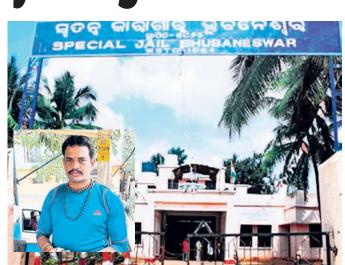
Prisoner dies in Jharpada jail, family alleges murder

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: An under-trial prisoner died under mysterious circumstances at the controversy-ridden Jharpada Special Jail here Friday, even as the family of the deceased alleged that he succumbed to custodial torture by prison staff. An officer at the Laxmisagar

police station said Bidvadhara Guru, 48, who was lodged in the jail in connection with a NDPS case October 5, complained of chest pain in the morning and was rushed to the Capital Hospital by jail authorities. He was pronounced 'brought dead' by doctors at the state-run hospital at around 9 am. Bidyadhara, a native of Daspalla in Nayagarh district, worked as an auto-driver in the City. He lived with his family at Behera Sahi under Maitri Vihar police limits.

However, dismissing the police claims, Bidyadhara's wife Jhunu Guru said the former's body bore signs of torture and assault. "My husband had suffered deep injuries on the back of his head and left eye, ostensibly after he was severely beaten up. Besides, we were informed about his death almost four hours after his passing away. None of the police officers have yet clarified about the cause of his sudden death since he was not suffering from any serious ailment, Jhunu alleged.

Sources at Capital Hospital said the autopsy of the body has been postponed till Saturday



due to the controversy surrounding the case.

Meanwhile, DG of Prisons and Correctional Services, Arun Kumar Ray told OrissaPOST that Bidyadhara was an alcoholic and drug addict. "Taking the families concerns into consideration, the entire process of autopsy will be videographed to eliminate any doubt," he said.

Ray said if need arose, a special committee will be formed to probe the case under the mandated guidelines of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), "So far, a case of an unnatural death has been registered at Laxmisagar police station in this regard," he added.

Nevertheless, Friday's development came close on the heels of the murderous attack on an under-trial prisoner by dreaded mobster Munna (and his hench-

men), September 1, after the former exposed the nexus between jail officials and influential inmates. In a letter to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Soumyakant Mohanty, the undertrial prisoner, had stated that the nexus was ensuring the unabated supply of contrabands and provision of luxurious accommodation inside the jail for those who could afford.

He also brought to light a 'rate chart' which has been prepared for peddling of contrabands and tobacco-related items to inmates in the jail. He claimed that while Bidis were sold for Rs 200 per piece, mobile phones could be accessed at a monthly payment of Rs 5,000. Moreover, luxurious accommodation is being provided at a monthly charge of Rs 50,000 inside the jail, his letter

Bharatpur: HC seeks status report from govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 18: The Orissa High Court Friday asked the state government to file the status report of and case diary related to the alleged assault of an Army officer and his female friend at Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar September 15.

Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo gave the directive while hearing the anticipatory bail pleas filed by now suspended Bharatpur inspector in-charge Dinakrushna Mishra, sub-inspector Baisalini Panda, two women ASIs Salilamayee Sahoo and Sagarika Rath and constable Balaram Hansda.

While the court is yet to hear

the plea of Mishra, it did not give any relief to four others.

The court posted the next hearing for October 28.

Inquiry Commission holds 2nd meet

Meanwhile, the Commission of Inquiry set up by the state government to probe the alleged assault of an Army officer and his female friend at the Bharatpur police station, conducted its second meeting Friday.

Sources said during the meeting, which was attended by Home Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, Special Secretary of Home department Radha Krishna Sharma, Crime Branch ADG

Vinaytosh Mishra and two Investigating Officers, DSP Nilima Panda and Narendra Behera, shared details about the Crime Branch investigation so far with the Commission, led by

Justice Chitta Ranjan Dash.

Vinaytosh Mishra said that lie detection tests of all the police officials were conducted at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. He said brain mapping and

Emerging from the meet-

ing, Crime Branch ADG

narco-analysis of former IIC of Bharatpur Police Station Dinakrushna Mishra have been conducted and the reports are awaited.

"The Commission was in-

formed about the development of the Crime Branch investigation into the incident in the meeting." the Crime Branch ADG said.

Commission Secretary Subhendu Mohanty said that information was collected from the Crime Branch officials about the developments in the investigation. "As the Crime Branch has received no reports from Gandhinagar, the officials could not inform anything about it,' he said.

Sources said the statement of the victim has been recorded before a Magistrate. The Crime Branch ADG informed that the statements of the accused police personnel are yet to be recorded before a Magistrate.

CM congratulates tribal youth for clearing UGC-NET

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday congratulated Ajay Kumar Kadraka, a tribal youth from Rayagada district, for successfully clearing the UGC-NET 2024 conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Ajay, who belongs to the Dongria Kondh tribe - a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) in the Bissamcuttack, Kalyansingpur and Muniguda blocks has qualified as an assistant professor after clearing the UGC-NET 2024 due to his strong determination and hard work, which is a matter of pride for all, Majhi

Ajay, a native of Kurli panchayat in Bissamcuttack block, did his higher studies from a private institute in



SUITS . JEWELLERY

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'HARDSHIPS' FACED BY HABISHYALIS

JD slams govt, BJP hits back



Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The BJD Friday slammed the state government over alleged hardships faced by elderly women (habishyalis) who came to Puri Srimandir to observe 'Kartik Brata', alleging that the BJP dispensation 'failed' to make adequate arrangements for them.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi instructed officials and the Puri District Magistrate to take measures for women pilgrims.

BJD spokesperson Lekhashree Samantsinghar claimed that the elderly pilgrims had to spend nights on the streets in the coastal town due to 'lack of lodging facilities'.

"Many women suffered as they were denied accommodation and other facilities. They spent the nights on the streets. This government has hurt the religious sentiments of people," she alleged.

Minister and BJP leader Prithiviraj Harichandan denied the charge and claimed that the administration had made elaborate arrangements for those who were coming to the coastal town to observe 'Kartik Brata'.

A large number of women, mostly above 70 years of age, used to visit Srimandir and observe 'Kartik Brata'. "Previously, our government used

all facilities by the previous BJD government for observing the 'Kartik ' she said. "With the change of government, the elderly women suffered a lot. This was due to lack of arrangements,"

to make elaborate arrangements of

lodging and food for habishyalis. We

had also made arrangements for their

transportation from the places of

stay to the temple. Last year, around

3200 habishyalis were provided with

Samannsinghar added. Taking to X, Majhi, who is on a tour to Mumbai, said, "After knowing about the plight of women pilgrims, I have instructed officers, the administration of the Sri Mandir and the district magistrate to take all kinds of measures. The government is committed to providing all kinds of facilities to the habishyalis who come from outside the district and observe habishyabrat at Sri Jagannath Dham in Puri. Let Lord Jagannath ful-

fil all your wishes. Jai Jagannath.' The BJD spokesperson also alleged that the 'failure' to provide adequate facilities to habishyalis by the BJP government has 'hurt Odia Asmita (pride)'. "The BJP government has been exposed. The saffron party pledged to uphold 'Odia Asmita' and protect the state's culture, tradition and heritage. Habishyalis faced hardships in the holy month of Kartik due to the BJP government's failure. The state government has hurt the faith of habishyalis," she alleged.

Samantsinghar said that the previous BJD government had made arrangements at Brundabati Niwas, a seven-storey building, to accommodate the visiting habishvalis in Puri. Earlier, arrangements were also made at other places in Puri for these pilgrims, she said.

'This year, only 2,500 women are provided with the facilities while a large number of habishyalis were denied accommodation. In a welfare state, it is the responsibility of the government to provide basic facilities to the people observing the month-long 'Kartik Brata'," she said.

Puri Collector Siddharth S Swain said the administration has started making efforts to address the issues like providing accommodation to the pilgrims who have not registered themselves so far. "As per the ongoing procedure, the government makes arrangements for the habishyalis who register their names. However, some more people have come without making any registration. The district administration is also taking care of these people, Harichandan said.

Earlier in the day, some habishyalis fell ill at the Brundabati Niwas and were admitted to a hospital there.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj attended the inauguration of 'Habishyali Kartik Brata' at Brundabati Niwas in Puri Friday evening.

"Habishyali mothers are the messengers of our culture and tradition. Due to their dedication to the Lord, every Odia is blessed and this will make our Odisha prosperous," Parida said, assuring the women that the government will provide all possible facilities to them.

CONCLAVE 2024

CLIMATE CHANGE: BUILDING RESILIENCE

DHARITRI CLIMATE GRANT

Inviting young people and youth organisations of Odisha deeply engaged in climate action with local communities.

Kindly send us entries of your work with simple bio description (250-300 words) and 4 high resolution photos/ a video of your climate action activities to get a chance to win the Dharitri Climate Grant.

You can also nominate someone else by following the same process.

Selected entries will be awarded the **Dharitri Climate Grant** as encouragement and impetus for their climate action work at Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024 to be held in November at Bhubaneswar.

Chosen entries will also get invited to attend the Conclave with young climate warriors and experts in the field.



dharitriyouthconclave@gmail.com Visit: www.dharitriyouthconclave.com for details





2 detained for misbehaving with senior ICG officer

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Police Friday detained two youths in a road rage incident involving a senior Indian Coast Guard (ICG) officer and his wife near

Kalinga Stadium here. According to Police Commissioner SD Singh, the youths were detained based on a FIR and an investigation is on. The altercation occurred

Thursday night when ICG DIG Satya Ranjan Das and his wife were travelling in their car. Allegedly inebriated. the two youths blocked the officer's

UNSAFE CITY ROADS

vehicle while waiting near a traffic post. They refused to allow the couple to take a U-turn and reportedly misbehaved when asked to clear way, police said. Sources claimed that the pillion rider attempted to open a door of the DIG's car. The traffic police later took the youths into custody.

The DIG subsequently filed a complaint with Nayapalli police. "I asked them to give passage to my car, but they misbehaved with us. As a responsible citizen, I felt it necessary to lodge a complaint, Das told reporters.



PADDY PROCUREMENT

Install tracking device in trucks by Nov 15: STA



In order to avoid discrepancies in paddy procurement, the STA recommended presence of a representative of the miller at the designated mandi during loading

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 18: The State Transport Authority (STA) has advised the owners of the trucks transporting paddy to install location tracking devices in the vehicles by November 15, in order to ensure seamless transport of paddy during the procurement process

According to reports, the state government has set a target of procuring 86 lakh tonne paddy this year. In order to streamline the transport system during the paddy procurement process and

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Artisans

of Orissa Art and Craft Samiti

(OACS) and from different parts

of the country are exhibiting

their creations in traditional

pure silk and cotton products, in

order to cater to the demands

of the festival season with the

theme 'Silk India - Wedding

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MARKET WATCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

address the significant delays in loading paddy at mandis and unloading at mills, the STA has proposed several recommendations.

Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur held discussions with the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd (OSC-SCL), Truck Owners' Association and transport contractors at the STA office here Friday, to streamline the transport system for paddy procurement. The transport commissioner has advised that all truck owners should install vehicle location tracking

Silk India exhibition & sale begins

Collection'. The exhibition was

inaugurated by actress Archita

Speaking at the event, Archita

praised the craftsmanship, saying, "These weaves represent

India's rich cultural heritage. I

encourage everyone to visit and

explore the incredible variety

of silk and cotton products avail-

continue till October 27. The

stalls will remain open from

10:30am to 8:30pm at the Hotel

Artisans from 14 handloom

weaving states including Assam,

Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh,

Karnataka, Bihar, Odisha,

Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu

The exhibition-cum-sale will

Sahu here Friday.

able under one roof."

New Marrion here.

Thakur provided suggestions to ensure smooth transportation of paddy as the procurement process is set to begin by the end of November.

The OSCSCL is set to issue a tender for paddy transportation soon.

The meeting was convened to take proactive steps in involving more truck owners in the process. Various issues faced by truck owners during transport of paddy were discussed in threadbare.

Chief Manager of OSCSCL, Sudhakar Sahu, highlighted several aspects of the tender.

Thakur also suggested that in order to avoid discrepancies in paddy procurement, a representative from the miller should remain present at the mandi during loading, and that the paddy should be covered with tarpaulin and sealed after

The installation of vehicle location tracking devices on trucks was proposed as a solution to the delays in unloading.

The transport commissioner recommended that the OSCSCL should amend the tender rules by reducing the earnest money deposit (EMD) ratio to 3 per cent and lowering the transport experience requirements

and Kashmir, West Bengal, along

with designers from many parts

of the country are displaying

their works. More than 50,000

varieties of works including

Uppadas, Banarasi silks,

Gadwals, Dharmavaram,

Jamdanis, Jamawars and

Sambalpuri are up for display.

Organiser of Silk India -

Wedding Collection exhibition,

Manas Acharva said the social ob-

jective of the handloom exhibi-

tion was to promote weavers, en-

courage them and provide a

market to the handloom industry.

customers access pure silk and cot-

ton products direct from weavers

without the intervention of the

merchant," Acharya said.

"Our main objective is to make

vice-chancellor of Utkal University Binavak Rath will be conferred with the Orissa **Environmental Society (OES)** 'Lifetime Achievement Award for his remarkable contributions to the field of environment protection.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Former

Binayak Rath to

POST NEWS NETWORK

receive OES Lifetime

Achievement Award

The award will be conferred on Rath on the occasion of 43rd foundation day of OES October 25.

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia and principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) and head of forest force (HoFF) Debidutta Biswal will grace the award ceremony

The resolution passed by the executive committee of the OES, under the chairmanship of its president Sundara Narayana Patro states that former vicechancellor of Utkal University Binavak Rath will be conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his overall contribution to the field of environment.

Similarly, former advisor to MoEF&CC Veerendra Pratap Upadhyay will be bestowed with 'Excellence in Environment Award', while former head of Zoology department at Utkal University Ajay Kumar Patra will be presented 'Environment and Science Communication Award'. Similarly, Bivash Pandav of

Dehradun will receive the 'Nature Conservation Award'. In addition, Sarat Kumar Palita, VP Upadhyay, Nabin

Wildlife Institute of India.

Kumar Dhal and Puspanjali Parida will be awarded with 'OES Fellows'. Krishna Chandra Sahu, Puspanjali Parida, Parsuram Panda and Tapas Ranjan Mallick will receive the recognition as the 'Patrons of OES'.

State to implement Ayushman Bharat by end of current fiscal

COLLECTIVE EFFORT: Bystanders move a car to safety after a decorative structure erected for Durga Puja at Khannagar Road in Cuttack collapsed Friday op PHOTO

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Avushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) will be implemented in the state by the end of this financial year, said Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling Friday.

Around 3.5 crore individuals will be benefitted from the merger of the Centre's flagship health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat and state's Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (G-JAY), said the state Health minister, adding that 'a single card' will be issued to the beneficiaries.

When asked about the deadline for the integrated scheme's rollout in the state, the minister said he is hopeful of doing the same by the end of 2024-25 fi-

Regarding inclusion of people in AB-PMJAY who have already been covered under the existing state-run insurance schemes. Mahaling said that the process is on to prepare a comprehensive database of the beneficiaries. A



Ayushman Bharat and state's Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana clear picture will emerge after

merger of the Centre's

flagship health

insurance scheme

completion of e-KYC verifica-

integrated scheme, male beneficiaries will receive health insurance cover of up to ₹5 lakh and female beneficiaries ₹10 lakh. The initiative also includes special provisions for senior citizens, who are above 70 years.

The minister said that 27,000 hospitals would be empanelled under the integrated scheme. Earlier, only 900 hospitals were empanelled under the state run health scheme.

The Majhi government had renamed Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana as Gopabandhu Jan

IAA holds 20th annual conference in City

Bhubaneswar. Oct 18: The 20th annual conference of Indian Arthroplasty Association (IAA), and Technologies' was inaugurated at a city hotel here Friday.

Organised under the leadership of senior consultant, Orthopaedics and joint replacement surgery in Apollo Hospitals Debabrata Padhy, the event will conclude October 20.

For the first time in the state. a cadaveric pre-conference workshop on joint replacement tech-



Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here. Over 600 doctors, including 50 senior specialists participated in live demonstrations of nine advanced surgeries.

Speaking at the event, chief guest Padma Shri Krishna Mohan Pathi lauded the initiahas set a new benchmark in terms of knowledge-sharing and skill development in joint replacement.

emphasised the significance of the event, stating, "This conference marks the culmination of a year-long effort to advance joint replacement practices across the country." Secretary Rajkumar Natesan added, "Our association now has over 1,000 active members working to elevate the standard of treatment nationwide.'

ECoR cautions against inflammable items in trains

Rainfall **FORECAST**

Max Temp

Min Temp

Humidity

PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit No.- 42AA 558851, dated-02.06.2018, sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhanjanagar, I Manobina Sabat, Wife of Sudhansu Kumar Padhy, daughter of Ratikanta Sabat, At/P.O.-Pandarakhalli, P.S. Purushottampur, Dist.-Ganjam, declare that Manobina Padhy & Manobina Sabat both are one & same person that is myself and Henceforth shall be known as

Manobina Sabat for all

purpose in future.

POST NEWS NETWORK

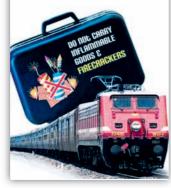
Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: With Diwali fast approaching, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has launched a special drive to prevent illegal transportation of firecrackers and other inflammable items on trains

ECoR has reiterated that carrying dangerous goods, such as firecrackers, gas cylinders, acid, petrol, kerosene and similar materials on passenger-carrying trains is a punishable offence under Railways Act, 1989, which can result in imprisonment for up to three years

To ensure safe train journeys during the festive season, ECoR has appealed to the passengers to exercise caution and avoid carrying any inflammable or explosive items while travelling.

Co-passengers are also encouraged to remain vigilant and report violations, if any,

The **Luggage** you carry will decide vour safety



by informing onboard staffers, including Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, Government Railway Police (GRP), TTEs, coach attendants, or station managers.

All three divisions under ECoR - Khurda Road, Sambalpur, and gas cylinders, acid, petrol, kerosene and similar materials on passenger-carrying trains is a punishable offence under Railways Act, 1989

Carrying dangerous goods like firecrackers,

Waltair - have been instructed to conduct a special safety drive involving stringent checks and continuous surveillance to prevent the transportation of firecrackers or other hazardous goods during Diwali.

ECoR has urged passengers to immediately report transport of inflammable objects by call-Railway Helpline Number 139.

In addition to these security measures, ECoR has initiated a comprehensive awareness campaign through public announcements at railway stations to educate passengers about the dangers of carrying firecrackers. Special teams will also ensure the safe handling of parcels and luggage loaded in parcel vans.

To enhance safety, Train Escorting Teams and 'Meri Saheli' Teams have been assigned to closely monitor both passengers and luggage for any signs of inflammable items.

Adequate fire extinguishers and firefighting equipment have been strategically placed at stations, goods sheds, guard vans, AC coaches, pantry cars and locomotives.

ECoR remains committed to ensuring safety of all passengers during this festive season and urges everyone to cooperate by adhering to the safety guidelines

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Manipal Hospital here successfully treated a premature baby born with congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection. The baby born in 28th week was weighing less than 900 gm, said the hospital sources.

The relentless efforts by consultant in Paediatrics and Neonatology Janaki Ballava Pradhan, along with his dedicated team, including consultant in Neonatologist and Pediatrician Abhilipsa Acharva, conducted a series of comprehensive blood tests which confirmed that the baby was suffering from congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection—a rare but serious condition capable of impacting newborns

Congenital CMV infection is a viral disease transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, with potential repercussions including fatal liver failure, growth failure, and even death,

Manipal Hosp treats baby with CMV

Pradhan said. With their expertise and swift

intervention, the baby overcame the infection and was discharged from the hospital in good health. Over the course of two years,

ular follow-ups to monitor the baby's progress "This case highlights the in-

the medical team conducted reg-

dispensable role of prenatal screening in detecting potential health risks early on.

Our ability to identify and treat congenital CMV infection in this baby was crucial in ensuring a positive outcome and we are overjoyed to see the child flourishing," Pradhan added.

Manipal Hospital here offers advanced Level-3 NICU and PICU facilities, 24-hour emergency care with a retrieval system, transport incubators and ventilators, peritoneal dialysis, and a Kangaroo Mother Care unit.

BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347 Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE: Artistes stage a play 'Murasura Darabar' on the occasion of Gajalakshmi Puja at Mursundhi village under Birmaharajpur block in Subarnapur district, Friday

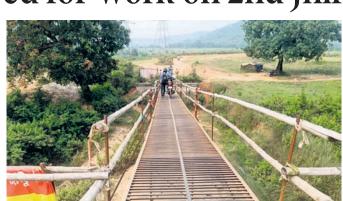
Decks cleared for work on 2nd Jhirpani bridge

WITH THE LAST **PERSON RECEIVING HIS COMPENSATION PACKAGE, ALL ISSUES REGARDING LAND ACQUISITION HAVE BEEN SETTLED**

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Oct 18: Work on the final pier of the much awaited second Jhirpani bridge will begin once the water level recedes in the Koel and Deo rivers, departmental sources said Friday.

Work on this vital bridge connecting Jhirpani to Mitkunuduri and thereby facilitating easy communication for people of more than 20 panchayats and



the residents of Biramitrapur began in 2018. However, since then the project has faced much opposition over land acquisition and timely completion, while politicians of all hues have added colour to it, de-

laying completion of the bridge. The main reason for the delay was hurdles in land acquisition. Supposed to be constructed at a cost of Rs 7 crore at the time of its proposal, the cost has now

escalated to Rs 15 crore, according

to departmental sources. One Mangu Oram, who had to give away 52 decimals of land on the other side of the river for the project, stopped the work a vear back as he did not receive

his compensation worth Rs 1.46 crore. Ever since the bridge was proposed and construction started, the land prices shot up.

However, Mangu has received the cheque September 6 and it was handed over to him in the office of Panposh Sub-Collector by the Rural Development de-

Five pillars on the river bed were finished and four piers had been laid on them. The laying of the fifth pier, however, had to

Decks cleared, the Rural Development department is getting ready to complete the bridge construction at the earliest.

"As soon the water level particularly in the Deo river recedes we will begin the work on fifth pier. Our main objective will be to finish it as soon as possible," executive engineer

Hospital blunder leaves 25 kids sans birth certificates

As per norms, a hospital or private nursing home has to forward the birth slip or provisional certificate of every child to the birth and death registration section of the local civic body within 21 days of birth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 18: Fate of over 25 kids in this district has been pushed to uncertainty after the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) denied them birth certificates as the hospital where they were born allegedly lacked the record of their births.

Meanwhile, two years have passed since the birth of these kids but their parents have failed to get a birth certificate for them because the hospital established by the Rotary Club at Dhanupali has failed to put forward the birth slip or provisional certificate to the birth and death registration section of SMC.

Consequently the parents have failed to enrol the names of their kids in any government scheme and are losing out on the benefits. The parents apprehend whether they will be able to admit their children to a school in coming days in the absence of birth certificate.

As per norms, a hospital or private nursing home has to forward the birth slip or provisional certificate of every child to the birth and death registration section of the local civic body within 21 days of birth. Basing on these inputs, the office provides the birth certificate of the child after receiving application from the concerned parents.

However, parents have to undergo undue suffering if the hospital provides wrong inputs in the birth slip or makes ious government schemes due inordinate delay in providing the details.

The hospital established by the Rotary Club at Dhanupali has committed the blunder in failing to maintain the records of more than 25 babies born in the hospital and provide the details to SMC According to the worried par-

ents, while applying for birth certificate in SMC's birth and death registration section, they were informed that the civic body has no information regarding the birth of their kid on a particular date in the concerned hospital. As a result, their applications were automatically rejected.

Raja Sahu of Saraswat Colony and Bishikesan Sahu of Mudipara in the western Odisha town alleged that they have failed to get any benefit of varto lack of the birth certificate of their children.

Dr Ashok Singh, who is in charge of the Rotary Hospital at Dhanupali, said that after construction of the health facility its management was handed over to a private hospital. However, the private hospital failed to maintain a proper record of the births in the hospital, he said adding that they have hired a legal expert to resolve the problem and will be providing the birth slips of the children very soon.

Health officer Dr Mahendra Nanda of SMC said that the Rotary Hospital was not registered in 2022. Therefore, the details of the children born in the hospital cannot be accepted as proof of their birth, which is why the applications for birth certificate have been rejected, he added.

ROURKELA: In a shocking incident, police here Thursday evening arrested a man for sexually abusing his 13year-old daughter for years. The arrest was made after the minor girl with the help of her uncle and elder sister filed a police complaint against her father at Sector 15 police station here. Sources said, the accused is an employee with a PSU in Rourkela. Police said, the accused lost his wife a few years back. He has two daughters. While the elder one is studying outside, the younger girl was staying with her father at his quarters. The girl has alleged that she was being molested by her father regularly. She narrated her ordeal to her elder sister who in turn disclosed this to their uncle. "We have booked the man under 75/115 (2) of BNS and Section 8 of POCSO Act. He has been forwarded to court Friday," Sector 15 PS IIC Srikanta Khamari said.

Leopard skin seized; 5 poachers held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada/Khariar, Oct 18: Forest department officials Friday arrested five wildlife poachers from Dabri village under Khariar block in Nuapada district and seized a leopard skin and teeth along with other wildlife parts.

The seized items include sambar horn, quill of kite, a country made gun, fire crackers, bows and arrows and wooden planks, informed Khariar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Aziz Khan addressing a presser in his office Friday.

The accused persons have been identified as Birachana Majhi, 26, Jayaram Majhi, 44, Gorekh Lal, 65,



Purna Majhi, 23, and Sachindra Majhi, 19. Two others are absconding, informed the DFO.

According to information, some villagers of Dabri had killed and skinned a leopard after it was caught in a snare atop a hill near Dabri village. The Forest department was investigating the matter for long and acting on a tip off, conducted a search operation at two houses in the village Friday.

tion here that poaching of wild animals has been on rise at Khariar and Sinapali areas in the district. Special

attention will be given towards protection of the wild animals, the DFO said. ACF Prasanjit Naik, Ranger Sanskruta Badnaik and Forest department employees were present during the press conference.



REGIONAL OFFICE: 108 - B. Unit-VII. Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph.: 0674-2397551, 2397199

that Our Bhadrak Branch is proposed to be shifted to new premises w.e.f. 28.10.2024 & the Branch will function at the new premises at:

Central Bank of India, Bhadrak Branch, Plot No.: 840/5936/6392/7293, At: Samaraipur, Near Nehru Stadium, PO: Bhadrak, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha, PIN-756181

Hence, all customers are requested to visit Bank for banking 28.10.2024. To avoid any inconvenience during the period of shifting to the proposed location, all the customers having lockers at the Branch are requested to operate their lockers by 25.10.2024, so that no damage is caused to their belongings while shifting the locker. For further assistance, Branch Head, Bhadrak Branch over Mobile No.: 7381001489 may be contacted. Inconvenience caused is deeply regreted

Assuring you of our best services and looking forward to your continued patronage.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 18.10.2024

Sd/- Chief Manager



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, KALINGA (Under the aegis of The Delhi Public School Society, New Delhi)

REQUIRES PRINCIPAL

Candidates having brilliant academic record upto Post Graduation level including B.Ed. and minimum 15 years of teaching experience in Senior Secondary Classes, including 5 years in an administrative capacity only in English medium Schools may only apply.

Salary, perquisites & other benefits shall be as per the rules of the DPS Society. Higher emoluments will not be a constraint for a deserving candidates

Application comprising comprehensive resume and a passport size photograph be sent to The Secretary, Delhi Public School Society, F-Block, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065 with a copy to Pro-Vice Chairperson, DPS Kalinga on trustee.pvc@dpskalinga.edu.in within ten days of the date of the publication. Please mention Application for the post of PRINCIPAL DPS Kalinga' on the top of the envelope. Only short listed candidates will be invited for interview.

Mine expansion gets conditional support during public hearing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Woman found

dead in bathroom

BALIGUDA: The body of a 24-

vear-old woman was recovered

from the bathroom of her house

at Panasapadi village under this

police limits in Kandhamal dis-

trict, Friday. The deceased has

Pattnaik, According to informa-

tion received, Ipsita along with

her family was residing in a rent

ed house at Panasapadi village.

When the family members found

Insita dead in the bathroom.

they informed Baliguda police.

been identified as Ipsita

Keonjhar, Oct 18: People of Joda area have put forth their opinion and extended conditional support to the expansion of Dalpahal iron and manganese mines of DC Jain in a public hearing meeting that was held Thursday near the mines.

The public hearing was organised for the increase of annual production capacity of the iron and manganese mine located in Baitarani reserve forest under Barbil tehsil of Champua sub-division of Keonihar district from 0.31 million tonne to 2.99 million tonne and the production of man-

ganese to 0.094 million tonne as before. The meeting was presided over by Regional Officer of SPCB, Keonjhar Prashant Kumar Kar and attended by Keonjhar Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Alok Kumar Pradhan. Samarendra Mahanta on behalf of the company read out the environmental report for approval in the meeting.

"Around 300 people, including representatives of MPs, intellectuals and environmentalists, were present. Out of these, 61 supported the spirit, while 15 participated through representation and expressed their views," said Prasant Kar, Regional Officer of SPCB, Keonjhar.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NAME OF WORK: SHIFTING OF ONE NO. 21.6MVA, 132/25KV, MAKE-ALSTOM POWER TRANSFORMER FROM BHADRAK/TSS TO KENDRAPARA TSS AND COMMISSIONING OF THE SAME AT KENDRAPARA/TSS

Advertised Value: ₹ 18,33,165.68, EMD: ₹ 36,700/-, Period of Completion : 90 Bidding Start Date: 22.10.2024

Tender Closing Date and Time At 1300 Hrs. of 05.11.2024.

fanual offers are not allowed against this ender, and any such manual offe eceived shall be ignored. omplete information including e-Tende ocuments and corrigendum is available website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) Khurda Roa R-631/P/24-25

Annexure-A

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF HONORARY VISITING SPECIALISTS (HVS) AT DIVISIONAL RAILWAY HOSPITAL, KHURDA ROAD

Notice No. CMS/KUR/MED/HVS/2024/Khurda Road, Applications are invited for engagement of "Honorary Visiting Specialist" at Divisional Railway Hospital, Khurda Road (Jatni) for a period of One year from the date of engagement. Willing Doctors, who fulfil the Qualification/eligibility criteria may apply for the above engagement. The engagement will be offered purely on Contract basis for a period of one year which can be renewed as a fresh contract on year to year basis or till the scheme is available, whichever is earlier.

Name of the Specialty: (1) Ophthalmology, (2) General Medicine NB: For application format, Educational qualification & Experience Eligibility, Age Limit, Working Timings, Rate of honorarium, No. of Posts and other terms & conditions, please refer to website www eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in C About us C Division C Khurda Road Division S Recruitment

Chief Medical Superintendent / Khurda Road

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान खड्गपुर INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY **KHARAGPUR**

Advt. No.: R/12/2024

The Institute invites Online Applications from Indian Nationals for position of Safety Officer. For details regarding educational qualification, experience and updates visit:

http://www.iitkgp.ac.in/non-teaching-positions CBC-21255/12/0011/2425 कुलसचिव / Registrar

र्ली डेक ©**DAC** ■ INCENTIVE DESIGN LINKED क्या इतक्यानिकी एवं स्वना प्रोठोगिकी गांजातव ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Bangalore (A Scientific Society of the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India)

Bangalore - 560 038 Phone: +91-80-25093400

The ChipIN Center established at C-DAC Bangalore

No.18-7/2023-A&A Government of India Ministry of Culture

Subject: Re-advertisement for filling up of the post of Additional Director General (Information Technology) by deputation (including short term contract) in the National Archives of India under Ministry of Culture- regarding

Applications are invited from the officers of the Central Government or State Government or Union territory Administration or Autonomous or Statutory Organisation or Public Sector Undertaking or recognized University or Institute or Research Institution for appointment to 01(one) post of Additional Director General (Information Technology) in level 14 (Rs.144200-218200) in the pay matrix [General Central Service, (Group 'A') Gazetted, Non Ministerial] by deputation (including short term contract) in the National Archives of India under Ministry of Culture, New Delhi

Other details such as eligibility conditions, educational qualifications and experience application form etc. are available on the website of the Ministry of Culture at www.indiaculture gov.in & www.nationalarchives.nic.in.

The applications in duplicate in the prescribed proforma typed on plain paper furnishing complete curriculum vitae with detailed educational, professional qualification and experience may be sent to Assistant Director of Archives (Estt.), National Archives of India, Janpath New Delhi- 110001 through proper channel within a period of 45 days from the date (excluding the first date of the publication) of publication of advertisement in the Employment News. The applications received after the last date or otherwise incomplete will not be considered and stand rejected.

CBC-09108/12/0008/2425

No.O-377 Government of Odisha Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jharsuguda

Email: eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643 Bid Identification No. Online - SEJSG - 05 of 2024-25 NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR BUILDING WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the work Building Works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in 25 (Twenty five) Nos. Rs. 1.26 Lakh to 30.08 Lakhs Total No. of Work Estimated Cost Period of completion 01 (One) & 6 (Six) Calendar Period and Time of Dt. 23.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to availability of bid documer 05.11.2024 upto 05.00 P.M. in the portal for bidding Dt. 06.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M. Date and Time of bid opening Name and address of the S.E., R.W.Division, Jharsuguda officer inviting Bid

1) Other details can be seen from Detailed notice Inviting Tanders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website

Sd./- Superintending Engineer OIPR-25104/11/0005/2425 R.W. Division, Jharsuguda

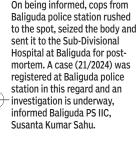


C-DAC Knowledge Park, No. 1, Old Madras Road, Byappanahalli,

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST EOI NO.: C-DAC (KP)/EOI-TOT/2024-2025

serves as a one-stop centralized hub for providing access to chip design and fabrication services for Domestic Startups, MSMEs and Academia across the country. The ChipIN Centre invites applications from eligible service providers for empanelment to offer services such as MPW prototyping, packaging, postsilicon validation and more to startups and MSMEs under the Design Infrastructure Support initiative, as part of the DLI program. For more details and to apply, please visit : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and tender/EOI section at https://www.cdac.in https://chips-dli.gov.in/ https://cdac.in/

CBC 06113/12/0001/2425













To listen to some devout people, one would imagine that God never laughs.

SRI AUROBINDO



Punjab Power Play

ith Arvind Kejriwal now out on bail and the no-show in the Haryana assembly elections, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) seems to be shaking things up in Punjab, where it holds power alongside Delhi. One of the biggest recent changes is the appointment of KAP Sinha as Punjab's new Chief Secretary, replacing Anurag Verma, who had only been in the role since June 2023. Sinha, a 1992batch IAS officer, previously served as Special Chief Secretary for the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Water Conservation—a background that should serve him well in his new position.

As for Verma, he's been reassigned as Additional Chief Secretary, taking charge of multiple important portfolios, including Revenue, Rehabilitation, and Disaster Management. For the past couple of weeks, there had been speculation about a potential leadership change at the top administrative level in Punjab, and now it's confirmed.

In another interesting twist, it appears that AAP's leadership from Delhi has sent representatives to Punjab, with reports indicating that these envoys have been camped out in Chandigarh. Insiders suggest this might be a power play by the central AAP leadership to reassert their influence over Punjab's administration. It's a move that some see as a way to curtail the authority of Punjab's Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, realigning the power dynamics within the state.

These changes hint at a strategic recalibration within AAP, especially as the party tries to maintain a delicate balance between the central and state leadership. Whether clipping Mann's wings will strengthen AAP's hold in Punjab or create new tensions remains to be seen, but it's certainly something to watch closely.

Andhra, Telangana officers in limbo

The recent directive by the Centre to enforce cadre reallocations between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana has stirred up discontent among IAS and IPS officers. Over a decade since the states' bifurcation, around ten officers are being told to return



BABUDOM BYTES Dilip Cherian

to their original cadre states. Initially allotted to Andhra or Telangana in 2014 under the Pratyush Sinha Committee recommendations, these officers had been granted interim relief by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to stay where they preferred. Now, following a Telangana High Court ruling, the Centre's Department of Personnel and Training

(DoPT) has rejected these officers' appeals, ordering them to relocate. Sources have informed DKB that the issue goes back to the 2014 bifurcation, when hundreds of officers were distributed between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. However, some officers objected to their placements, citing concerns over domicile and procedural fairness. CAT's relief allowed them to continue in their chosen states, but the recent High Court order criticizes CAT's overreach and supports a return to the initial allocations.

Officers like Vani Prasad and Ronald Rose from Telangana must now report to Andhra Pradesh, while Andhra Pradesh officers like Chevvuru Hari Kiran are being sent to Telangana. Many of these officers are resisting the move, citing their established roles and deep ties to their current states. Some are even considering renewed legal action or lobbying state leaders for support.

This situation also highlights administrative challenges for both states, which face IAS shortages. The enforced transfers could disrupt continuity in local governance, further complicating the transition. The question remains: how will these officers, after years of service in one state, adapt to this sudden shift? As these officers navigate their uncertain paths, the outcome could reshape administrative dynamics in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Inexplicably road-blocked

In a rather awkward twist, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to block Rakesh Asthana's bid to join the board of Religare Enterprises (REL). For those not in the know. Asthana is a former Delhi Police Commissioner and CBI Special Director, not to mention his stint as the ad-hoc Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau. Quite the résumé, but despite his impressive credentials, he's facing some roadblocks in this new venture.

Back in November 2023, the REL board appointed him as an additional director, hoping to eventually elevate him to a full-time director position. Sounds straightforward, except for one catch: the appointment required shareholder and regulatory approvals. Now, here's where things get sticky. One shareholder raised concerns that Asthana's appointment was illegal, citing that the approval process had hit a snag after the mandatory three-month period expired without the RBI giving it a green light

This recent decision from the RBI not only prevents Asthana from stepping into his new role but also serves as a strong reminder about the necessity of adhering to regulatory guidelines when it comes to board appointments. It's not just about having the right qualifications; it's about playing by the rules, especially in a sector as tightly regulated as finance.

You have to feel for Asthana a bit. After years of serving in high-profile positions in law enforcement, he finds himself in a rather peculiar situation, stuck in limbo while trying to transition into the corporate world. Asthana's experience reflects a broader trend where high-ranking officials often face scrutiny when they move to the private sector. While it's crucial to have experienced leaders at the helm of companies like REL, the path isn't always smooth.

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WISDOM CORNER

The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge. We all want to be famous people, and the moment we want to be

something we are no longer free.

The cleverest of all, in my opinion, is the man who calls himself a fool at least once a month

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1781: Britain's Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, handing a huge victory to American General George Washington and effectively ending the American Revolution and assuring America's independence.
- **1789:** John Jay, a Founding Father of the United States, was sworn in as the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- **1812:** Napoleon began his disastrous retreat from Russia.
- 1914: During World War I, the First Battle of Ypres began in western Flanders; the Allies and Germans settled into the trench warfare that would characterize the remainder of the war on the Western Front.
- **1987:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted nearly 23 percent, the largest one-day percentage drop in the stock market's history.

FOCUS ECONOMY

WHY NATIONS FAIL



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS ARE CRUCIAL FOR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

person's living standards are mostly determined not by talent or hard work but by when and where they were born. Historically, most models of economic growth focused on the accumulation of factors of production, labour, capital, and, more recently, technology, research, and innovative ideas. The greater the capital stock per worker and the more productive its use, the richer a coun-

Yet that still left a vicious gap triggering questions: why some countries are rich while some are poor, why some nations are prosperous and some are plagued by extreme poverty, why some nations succeeded while others failed. Those are some questions that puzzle many economists and planners today.

However, this year's Nobel laureates in economics, Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson, delved into the world's colonial past, especially European colonisation, to trace how gaps emerged between nations. They found that it is the institutions that shape a nation's prosperity. Their research emphasises the interplay between politics and economics in understanding development and inequality.

Some time ago, a little-known Scottish philosopher wrote a book on what makes nations succeed and what makes them fail. The Wealth of Nations of Adam Smith is still being read today. With the same perspicacity and historical perspective. Acemoglu and Robinson have written the 2012 bestseller, Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty, which argues that manmade problems were responsible for keeping countries poor.

Similarly, Johnson had collaborated with Acemoglu and Robinson to produce an influential paper in November 2002 titled Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World



According to the Oxfam report 2023, the richest one per cent bag nearly twice as much wealth as the rest of the world put together over the past two years

Income Distribution.

According to them, the concentration or dispersion of political power can lead to the establishment of either inclusive or extractive institutions. They argue that inclusive political and economic institutions lead to prosperity, while extractive institutions lead to poverty and failure. Inclusive institutions are characterised by property rights protection, the rule of law, a level playing field for economic competition, and broad political participation. These institutions provide incentives for innovation, entrepreneurship, and productive economic activities, leading to sustained economic growth.

By contrast, extractive institutions concentrate power and wealth in the hands of a few elites, suppress political and economic competition, and hinder economic progress. They discourage investment, innovation, and productivity, leading to a stagnant or declining economy. The authoritarian 'extractive' institutions like the ones that drive growth today in any country are bound to run out of steam.

The introduction of inclusive institutions would create long-term benefits for every-

one, but extractive institutions provide short-term gains for the people in power. As long as the political system guarantees they will remain in control, no one will trust their promises of future economic reforms. According to the laureates, this is why no improvement occurs.

Extractive institutions create severe wealth gaps and impoverish nations as a whole. Societies with a poor rule of law, in addition to institutions that exploit the population, do not generate growth or change for the better. This confirms core moral values regarding humanity. Jeffrey Sachs, another Nobel prize-winning economist, had found that geography is a determining factor of a nation. But this year's Nobel laureates have debunked this notion and argue that the fate of nations is determined by the quality of their institutions, not by geographic or cultural factors or ignorance of what the right policies are.

The Nobel laureates trio underscores that nations succeed when institutions foster fairness, accountability, and growth and fail when they only serve the interests of elites, perpetuating inequality. They believe that an effective way to help move bil-

lions of people from the rut of poverty to prosperity is not more philanthropy from the wealthy nations but appropriate economic institutions.

However, they argue countries are more likely to develop the right institutions when they have an open pluralistic political system with competition for political office, a widespread electorate, and openness to new political leaders. Without inclusive institutions, sustainable growth is impossible, because only a truly free society can foster genuine innovation and the creative destruction that is its corollary.

Broadly speaking, the work they have done favours democracy. However, according to Acemoglu, democracy is not a panacea and it can be hard to introduce, and when you introduce elections, that sometimes creates conflict, and there are pathways to growth for countries that are not democracies, including rapidly tapping a nation's resources to ramp up economic progress.

While noble laureates have helped us understand differences in prosperity between nations, especially under the colonial era, they have failed to discuss the inequality in neocolonialism, which maintains the same oppressive system but operates under the guise of economic and cultural dominance. They also failed to discuss inequality within the country that poses a serious threat to the wellbeing of society. They have not studied even the role of democracy properly in ensuring an equitable society. They have not studied the detrimental impact of today's exploitative system, including capitalistic society, which strives on deceit, fraud, greed, and hedonism and thereby perpetuates mass impoverishment and rampant inequality.

> The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

Unlocking AI-powered learning



Justina Nixon-Saintil

ONE SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLE TO NARROWING THE AI SKILLS GAP IS THE BLISTERING **PACE OF** INNOVATION

to implement new tech solutions in their industries. But AI could also be applied to broader and more complex problems, especially in education. This vision is on its way to becoming a reality, with the technology already helping to enhance student learning, create new pathways to rewarding careers, and align today's education with tomorrow's jobs.

A recent report found that around half of the teachers and school administrators surveyed in the United States who are currently using AI in their work are optimistic about its potential. But a lack of training is hindering widespread adoption.

Fortunately surmounting this barrier is relatively straightforward. For starters, business leaders and policymakers should work together to provide teachers with free training on the fundamentals of AI and its practiapplications. train-the-trainer model can be delivered through low-cost or free online learning and customized to specific education levels or local curricula. This approach allows educators to gain confidence with the new technology

rtificial intelligence has and begin experimenting with rently equipped to meet this (ICT) Workforce Consortium,

Moreover, teachers trained

in AI are better equipped to help students who want to learn more about the sector. An IBM survey shows that many learners want to pursue well-paying tech jobs, but believe that they are unqualified because they lack the academic credentials. Others say they simply do not know where to begin. That is where generative AI comes in: it can recommend coursework that matches learners' levels and interests, and offer realtime feedback as they move through the material. AI-powered solutions can even pair students with mentors who can advise them on higher education and career progression. This results in a more personalized and immediate educational experience than the online learning of yesterday.

One significant obstacle to narrowing the AI skills gap is the blistering pace of innovation, which has led to substantial unmet demand for expertise. According to the World Economic Forum, half of the global workforce needs to upskill or reskill, but the training market is not curofferings are being rolled out across the AI ecosystem, from coursework on ethics and prompt engineering to creative experiential resources for students. As the lifespan of technical skills continues to shrink, both young students and lifelong learners must be encouraged to invest in AI training.

At the same time, AI is driving sweeping change across industries and markets, and the broad scope of this transformation requires an equally comprehensive response – individual efforts will not be enough. The first step in helping learners find their way to tomorrow's jobs is ensuring that these positions exist. Corporate executives and policymakers must work together to create jobs that offer higher-value work to qualified candidates, who, in turn, will be better able to provide for their Equally important are multi-

sector collaborations like the AI Alliance, which aims to encourage openness about these systems and accelerate knowledge sharing, and the AI-Enabled Information Communication Technology

captured the imagination practical applications in their need. It is encouraging that new which directs workers to relecollective action is creating opportunities to harness the excitement around AI to build common frameworks and develop a skills-first approach that can identify and nurture tomorrow's tech leaders.

But the work has only just begun. Industry leaders and policymakers must continue to develop a shared approach to education and job creation in the age of AI and encourage more widespread training in the technology's fundamentals. As IBM's Chief Impact Officer, I will be asking how my organization can ensure that students, teachers, employees, and job-seekers are benefiting from these advances. Although we have taken a step in that direction with IBM Skills Build, shaping the industries and jobs of the future requires a host of AI-powered features and programs that can provide learners with personalized educational experiences over the course of their lives.

The writer is Vice President and Chief Impact Officer at IBM.

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Once and for all

Sir, The Supreme Court's judgment on the validity of Section 6-A of the Citizenship Act Thursday not only put an end to concerns about an old issue reviving, but it also shed light on numerous factors that can help shape the current debate. In this regard, the ruling confirms the methodology established in the Assam Accord to address the issue of illegal immigrants in Assam. The apex court's five-member constitutional bench ruled Section 6A of the Citizenship Act statutory, clearing the door for the implementation of the 1985 accord reached by the Rajiv Gandhi government and the All-Assam Students Union (AASU). The verdict made it plain who's citizenship is safe, who can obtain citizenship, and who must be identified as illegal migrants and returned properly. In this sense, there is no room for ambiguity. The verdict also indicates that additional prudence is required when dealing with such important and sensitive matters. Politics driven by immediate interests can be more harmful in this situation. The decision may have been made in the context of Assam, but the issue of illegal immigration is significant in many other locations. Let us hope that, because of this decision, all parties involved in other sectors will take a resolution-orientated approach rather than provoking disagreements.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Lasting effect

Sir, Hamas Chief Yahya Sinwar's killing will have a lasting impact on the fate of Israeli hostages, the region, and the Islamist militant group he once led. With Sinwar's killing, Israel has dealt a significant blow operationally to the organisation in the short term. Israel has had a long history of successfully killing Palestinian leaders, including several Hamas leaders who preceded Sinwar. And yet with each killing of a Hamas leader over the years, their life story of armed resistance becomes folklore that fuels another generation of leaders who are, in some cases, more extreme, hard-line, and militant. While Sinwar's death reduced the immediate threat to Israel, neither Israel would withdraw from Gaza nor would it put an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinians and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Therefore, although Israel has achieved a tactical victory today, the fundamental nature of the conflict remains unchanged.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON





MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY POLLS SEA CHANGE IN COASTAL BELT

ONCE A CONGRESS CITADEL, NOW A BATTLEGROUND FOR RIVAL SENAS

workers from Konkan came to

Mumbai to work so their fami-

lies in Konkan also supported the

In the mid-1980s, the Shiv Sena,

which started out as a son-of-

the-soil party, adopted Hindutva

and became a key rival of the

Congress which was guided by

By the 1980s, Shiv Sena had

made major gains in Mumbai,

and by 1990, it formed an al-

liance with the BJP on the com-

mon platform of Hindutya. In

1995, the Shiv Sena-BJP formed

the politics of the region, where

the Shiv Sena continued to grow

Stalwarts like Hashu Advani,

Ram Naik, and Ram Kapse played

pivotal roles in the BJP's suc-

cess. Shiv Sena leaders like

Chhagan Bhujbal, Leeladhar

Dake, and Pramod Navalkar

helped the party grow during

In 2014, riding on the "Modi

wave", the BJP made inroads

into Mumbai and its surround-

Data shows the Congress's

slide in Konkan began in 1978.

at the expense of Congress

This partnership reshaped

Sena," said Purandare.

'secularism"

a government.

ing regions.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 18: Maharashtra's coastal belt, stretching from Mumbai to the southernmost district of Sindhudurg, was once a Congress citadel, but the party lost ground to the undivided Shiv Sena over the years.

The coastal Konkan belt's economy was known to be dependent on money orders sent from Mumbai, where most of its residents migrated for work and business after Maharashtra achieved statehood in 1960. But the situation is no longer the

The region accounts for 75 of the total 288 state Assembly seats, including 36 in Mumbai, and is expected to play a key role in deciding which coalition - ruling Mahayuti or Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) governs Maharashtra after the November 20 polls.

Former CM and BJP Lok Sabha MP from Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Narayan Rane, who hails from the picturesque region, told PTI that Konkan has now become self-sufficient, thriving on exports of fish, mangoes and cashews

"Youths are embracing entrepreneurship. Infrastructure has also expanded with enhanced air and rail connectivity. There is sufficient electricity and water. The region has seen tremendous economic transformation," said Rane, who won as Shiv Sena MLA from Malwan in Sindhudurg for the first time in 1990

State minister Chhagan Bhujbal, who was the lone Shiv Sena MLA to get elected on "mashal" (flaming torch) symbol from Mumbai (Mazgaon seat) in 1985, said the political realignments of the last five years would have a greater impact on urban areas than on rural ones.



Bhujbal, now with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, pointed out that the undivided Shiv Sena and the Congress were once bitter rivals in the region.

But after the 2022 split in the Shiv Sena, Thane district, part of the Konkan division and political turf of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, will see a clash between the rival factions,

"I feel more than 30 Independents will be elected (all over Maharashtra) and they will hold the key to the next government formation," Bhujbal

Journalist Vaibhav Purandare, author of the book 'Bal Thackeray and the Rise of the Shiv Sena', explained that the regional saffron party, founded in 1966, grew in Mumbai and Konkan at the expense of Communists and Socialists, who once had significant influence in the region.

"The Shiv Sena took on Communists with the support of the Congress. Once Communists were decimated, mill workers of Mumbai, earlier aligned with Communists, shifted their lovalty to the Shiv Sena. These mill

RISE OF SENAS

- In the mid-1980s, the Shiv Sena, which started out as a son-of-thesoil party, adopted Hindutya and became a key rival of the Congress which was guided by 'secularism'
- By the 1980s, Shiv Sena had made major gains in Mumbai, and by 1990, it formed an alliance with the BJP on the common platform of Hindutva
- In 1995, the Shiv Sena-BJP formed
- This partnership reshaped the politics of the region, where the Shiv Sena continued to grow at the expense of Congress

The Shiv Sena expanded itself at

the cost of Communists and

other smaller parties opposed

to the Congress to emerge as a

In 1962, the coastal belt had 57

From 1962 to 1978, the Congress

held sway in Mumbai and other

parts of Konkan, while non-

Congress space was occupied

by the Peasants and Workers

Party (PWP), Praja Socialist

Party, RPI and Socialist Party

Literary stalwart Acharya

Pralhad Keshav Atre was elected

from Dadar in Mumbai as an

independent. In 1972, Pramod

Navalkar of the Shiv Sena won

from Girgaum in Mumbai with

Congress support, while Mrinal

Gore was elected on a Socialist

Party of India ticket from Malad

The Bharatiya Jana Sangh

(predecessor of BJP) won an

Assembly seat for the first time

in Mumbai in 1967. In the same

vear, trade union leader Datta

Samant won on an RPI ticket

and again in 1980 as an

in the metropolis.

Assembly seats, a number which

rival to the Grand Old Party.

has now gone up to 75.

Independent.

The Congress's decline started in the 1978 Assembly elections, the first since the Emergency was lifted, and it was wiped out in Mumbai.

DECLINE OF CONGRESS

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However, in the subsequent

years, the Congress recovered

some lost ground in the region

was wiped out in Mumbai

■ The NCP came into

existence in 1999 when

veteran politician Sharad

Pawar walked out of the

weakened in the belt,

■ The Congress got further

especially in the Thane district

However, in the subsequent years, the Congress recovered

Congress. The Congress got further weakened in the belt, es

In 2019, political dynamics shifted yet again, with the oncerivals Shiv Sena and Congress becoming allies. This was followed by a split in the regional saffron party with the Shiv Sena (UBT) coming into existence.

All eyes are now on the Sena factions, led by CM Shinde, backed by the BJP, and his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray, and their performance in the coastal belt in the November 20 polls. Votes will be counted on

Congress

some lost ground in the region.

The NCP came into existence in 1999 when veteran politician Sharad Pawar walked out of the

pecially in the Thane district. Since 2014, the BJP has emerged as the dominant force in the coastal belt.

Dhami receives draft of rules for implementing **UCC** in Uttarakhand

CHIEF MINISTER SAYS ITS OBJECTIVE IS TO GIVE EQUAL TREATMENT TO EVERY **SECTION OF SOCIETY AND EMPOWER WOMEN**



CC in Uttarakhand is meant to govern and regulate the laws relating to marriage and divorce, succession, live-in relationships and related matters

states have expressed their intention to adopt it as a model

everal RIP-governed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Oct 18: The final draft of rules and regulations for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand was submitted to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Friday.

The nine-member government appointed committee headed by former chief secretary Shatrughna Singh handed over the become the first state document to Dhami at the secretariat. Talking to re-

porters soon after receiving the draft, the chief minister said its objective is to give equal treatment to every section of society and empower women.

Submission of the draft on UCC to the state government paves the way for its implementation in Uttarakhand.

The state government will now study the draft and bring it before the Cabinet. The UCC will be brought into force after

being cleared by the Cabinet. implemented. Once Uttarakhand will become the first state in Independent India to implement the law.

The draft of rules is divided into four parts -- laying down procedures to be followed for registration of marriage and divorce, succession, live-in relationships and birth and death, Dhami said.

"It (UCC) is not being brought to target any section. It is for the equality for all and security and empowerment of women,' he told reporters.

The UCC will soon be imple-

mented after discussion with the state Cabinet, he said.

Officials and employees to be involved in the process of its implementation will also need to be trained, he said.

UCC in Uttarakhand is meant to govern and regulate the laws relating to marriage and divorce, succession, live-in

relationships and related matters. implemented, Several BJP **Uttarakhand will**

governed states have expressed their intention in Independent to adopt it as a model. India to implement Implementation

the law of the UCC was a major poll promise made by CM Dhami in the 2022 Assembly elections.

In a bid to fulfil his promise soon after assuming office for a second time as the chief minister, Dhami constituted a committee chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice

Ranjana Prakash Desai to pre-

pare a draft of the UCC May

The panel of which Shatrughna Singh was also a part submitted its draft to the state government February 2

A special session of the state Assembly was summoned soon after that to pass a legislation on the UCC February 7.

President Droupadi Murmu gave her ascent to the legislation in March.

A panel headed by Singh was constituted after the presidential assent to the bill to draft the rules for its implementation which submitted its final report to the Chief Minister

Uttarakhand govt issues guidelines to stop 'spit jihad'



Dehradun, Oct 18: The Uttarakhand government Wednesday issued detailed guidelines for preventing instances of people spitting in food, announcing a fine of upto ₹1 lakh. mandating police verification of hotel and 'dhaba' staff and installation of CCTV cameras in their kitchens.

The state police and the Health department issued separate guidelines days after Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami termed such incidents "thook (spit) jihad", and said stern action will be taken against the offenders. Two men were recently ar-

rested in Mussoorrie for allegedly spitting into fruit juice glasses before serving them to tourists. A video from Dehradun had also gone viral in which a cook could be seen allegedly spitting while making dough for rotis.

Health Minister Dhan Singh Rawat said safety and purity of food is top priority of his government during the upcoming festival season. Any kind of impurity or anti-social activities will not be tolerated during the festivals, Rawat said.

Director General of Police Abhinav Kumar issued the guidelines to district police chiefs in keeping with the chief minister's warning to offenders.

A 100 per cent verification of people working in business establishments like hotels and dhabas should be done, the guidelines said, adding business managers should be encouraged to install CCTV cameras in their kitchens.

According to the guidelines issued to district police, they can take the help of local intelligence units to prevent such incidents in open spaces like kiosks and pushcarts. Special attention should also be paid to this during patrolling, the guidelines said.

Police can also take the help of the Health and Food Department for random checks at hotels and dhabas, according to the provisions.

The DGP said the offenders should be booked under Section 274 of the Bhartiva Nyava Sanhita (adulteration of food and drink intended for sale) and section 81 of the Uttarakhand Police Act (arrest without warrant for creating public nuisance, knowingly spreading rumours or causing false alarm to mislead police, fire brigade or any essential service).

If the act has an adverse effect on religion, ethnicity, language etc., then action should also be taken under relevant section 196 (1) (B) (promoting enmity between different groups based on religion, race, language, place of birth, or residence) or 299 of BNS (deliberate and malicious acts that are intended to insult the religious beliefs or religion of any class of citizens in India).

A public awareness campaign should also be run in coordination with the Health and Food Department, Municipal Corporation/District Panchayat, Municipal Councils and local

people, the guidelines said. Health Secretary and Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration Department R Rajesh Kumar also issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which mandates strict action against offenders including a fine ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh.

Maha dealers gain authority to register light commercial vehicles

This move aims to save time and costs, although some officials express concerns about adherence to vehicle safety standards during registration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 18: Automobile dealers across Maharashtra can now register commercial vehicles like tourist taxis, goods-carrying autorickshaws, pickups and tempos without taking them to the Regional Transport Offices (RTOs), officials said Friday.

The state government earlier this month brought out a circular to facilitate registration of "fully built" commercial vehicles, including those with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of less than 7,500 kg, at the dealers' end, they said.

Though transporters welcomed the move, saying it would save them time and money and provide relief from the "unnecessary" troubles they face at RTOs, officials from the Transport department wondered if dealers would diligently adhere to vehi-



cle safety norms.

Until now, dealers in the state were only authorised to register non-transport vehicles like private cars and two-wheelers - with white number plates.

According to the latest circular by the Transport department, "As per the provisions of the said rule, the authority to register tourist taxis (excluding metered taxis), three-wheeled fully built goods vehicles, and four-wheeled fully built goods vehicles with a GVW of less than 7,500 kg is also

being granted to the operators." The circular excludes metered

taxis, which means RTOs will continue to play a role in their reg-

For "Dealer Registration", the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed an online application as part of the VAHAN 4.0 system, which stores the registration details of vehicles across the country. Dealers in the state will use this system to register the light commercial vehicles at their end. Annually, over 2 lakh commercial vehicles are registered at RTOs in Maharashtra. In 2023. more than 23.63 lakh vehicles were registered across the state, of which 2.45 lakh were commercial vehicles, including taxis, autorickshaws, buses, and heavy trucks.

Some senior RTO officials, however, are upset with the decision of the Transport Commissioner's office to hand over the registration of commercial vehicles to the dealers.

Stranded at 12,000 ft, CEC Rajiv rescued after 17 hrs

INDIA'S CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER RAJIV KUMAR AND UTTARAKHAND'S ADDITIONAL CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER VIJAY KUMAR JOGDANDE WERE RESCUED AFTER THEIR HELICOPTER MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT RALAM VILLAGE DUE TO BAD WEATHER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pithoragarh, Oct 18: Stranded in a deserted Uttarakhand village at a height of 12,000 feet for 17 hours in sub-zero temperature, it was an experience Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar may never forget for the rest of his life.

The top election official was en route Milam to visit some remote polling stations in the Pithoragarh region Wednesday afternoon when his chopper with the pilot and two others on board was forced to make an emergency landing at Ralam village, around 42 km from Munsyari, due to dense cloud and poor visibility.

Incidentally, Ralam is inhab-

ited only during summer as its residents migrate to the lower areas during the harsh winter which has already started to set

Accompanied by Additional Chief Electoral Officer Vijay Kumar Jogdande, the pilot of the chopper and one poll staff. Kumar waited for hours in a field till 5 pm before two trekkers from Bangalore spotted the stranded team, ITBP sources

The two trekkers offered them instant noodles and dry fruits for food, opened an uninhabited house, and lit a bonfire for them to spend the night amid freezing temperature with no quilts or adequate warm clothes for pro-

"The CEC informed us about



their chopper making an emergency landing at around 1 pm Wednesday. He also told us that all of them were safe.

'We immediately alerted the ITBP posts at Milam and Lilam and told the troopers to reach the spot where the chopper made the emergency landing," Pithoragarh District Magistrate Vinod Girish Goswami said.

In the meanwhile, the villagers from the surrounding areas also came to know about the chopper landing in Ralam, following which Ishwar Singh Nabiyal, the pradhan of Pato village, reached the spot along



with others after covering a distance of 8 km, Goswami said. "Nabiyal was the first person

Incidentally, Ralam is inhabited only during summer as its residents migrate to the lower areas during the harsh winter which has already started to set in

to reach the spot at 1 am Thursday. He also offered the CEC and others dry fruits which he brought with him," the offi-

Finally, at around 5 am Thursday, ITBP teams reached the spot with life-saving medicines and food. They also prepared tea for the stranded team after which the CEC and others left for Munsyari at around 6 am, Goswami said.

After resting for a while at the ITBP rest house in Munsyari, Kumar left for New Delhi, he

Nabiyal said the CEC praised the locals for helping them in an emergency situation, saying thepeople of "Devbhoomi" are all helpful by nature.

national



The TMC destroyed the future of the youths to reap political dividends. Because of the Singur agitation, not a single major industrial unit has come up in the state during the 13-rule of the TMC SUVENDU ADHIKARI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

RELIEF FOR SADHGURU

The Supreme Court Friday closed the proceedings in a habeas corpus petition filed by a man who had alleged that his two daughters were held captive on the premises of spiritual leader Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud noted that the sisters -- aged 39 and 42 -- are adults and have stated that they are residing at the ashram voluntarily and without any coercion



introduce a ful fledged budget in the Assembly, fearing that people will demand the super six promises made (by TDP) during the polls

YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY YSR CONGRESS PARTY CHIE





VIJAY KUMAR SINHA DEPUTY CM, BIHAR





SIDDARAMAIAH CM, KARNATAKA

SHORT TAKES

WB: Docs threaten to go on strike Oct 22

Kolkata: Agitating doctors in West Bengal, who have been seeking justice for their deceased colleague at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, Friday threatened to hold a strike by all medics in the state October 22 if their demands are not met. Stating that they are in talks with their colleagues in other states, the medics said there may also be a country-wide strike by doctors Tuesday over the issue. The junior medics said that they, along with senior doctors, were giving a deadline to the state government till October 21 to fulfil their demands.

2 killed in fire in Shahdara house

New Delhi: A fire broke out in a house in Delhi's Shahdara area in the early hours of Friday, resulting in the deaths of a 16-year-old boy and her mother and injuries to four other members of the family, officials said. A call regarding the blaze was received at around 5:25 am and six fire tenders were pressed into service, an official of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said.

UPSC postpones **ESE-2025**

New Delhi: The Union Public Service Commission Friday postponed the Engineering Services Examination-2025 to give "sufficient time" to the aspirants to prepare for the recruitment test, according to an official statement. "In order to give sufficient time to the aspirants of ESE 2025 to prepare for the examination, the Commission has also decided to postpone the ESE (Preliminary) and ESE (Main) Exam, 2025.'

India sends aid to Lebanon

New Delhi: India Friday sent 33 tonnes of humanitarian supplies, including medicines. to Lebanon. The supply of aid came amid Israel's continuing military offensive targeting Hezbollah strongholds

Leopard shot dead

Jaipur: A leopard "suspected" to have turned man-eater was shot dead Friday by a joint team of forest department and police in Rajasthan's Udaipur district, an official said. In Udaipur district, humans were hunted by leopards September 18, 19, 20, 25, 28 and 30. In the above incidents, the place of attack by leopard were Gram Panchayat Chhali, Bagdunda, Majavad and Madar under the jurisdiction of Deputy Forest Conservator Udaipur (North).

SC: Child marriage cannot be There is such an inefficient government in the state that they are not able to SC: Child marriage cannot be stunted under personal laws

The top court opined child marriages needed an intersectional approach towards the vulnerabilities experienced by children, especially girls from marginalised communities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Terming the prevalence of "social evil" of child marriages as "sobering", the Supreme Court Friday passed a slew of directions to the Centre, states and other authorities to eradicate the malaise.

In a 141-page judgment, a bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, therefore, issued several directions to the stakeholders under nine heads, including for appointment of officers solely responsible for discharging the functions of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO) at the district level in the country.

The court further said, "Child marriage is a social evil, and its commission is a criminal offence. Despite the near-universal agreement on the ills of child marriage, its commission and prevalence have been sobering. Child marriage is the phenomenon of children being married before they attain the minimum legal age under the law.

Dealing with the contentious issue whether the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 would prevail over personal laws gov-

Jolt to Ram Rahim

on sacrilege cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

as top court lifts stay

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Supreme

Friday paved way for the trial in

the 2015 sacrilege cases of Punjab

against Dera Sacha Sauda

A bench of Justices B R Gava

and K V Vishwanathan lifted

the stay imposed by the Punjab

and Haryana High Court on the

trial and directed Ram Rahim to

Noting the matter required

scrutiny, the apex court

issued a notice to Ram Rahim and

sought his response within

In February, 2023, the top court

had transferred the trial against

him and his followers in these

cases from a court in Faridkot to

four weeks

Chandigarh

chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim.

erning marriage, it said the Centre had failed to provide con-

flicting judgements of various high courts on the issue as claimed

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amending) Bill 2021 was introduced in Parliament on December 21, 2021. The Bill was referred for examination to the Department Related Standing Committee on education, women, children, youth and sports. The Bill sought to amend the PCMA to expressly state the overriding effect of the statute over various personal laws. The issue, therefore, is pending consideration before Parliament," said the bench.

Under the title of "Legal Enforcement", the top court said, "State governments and Union

Child marriage is a social evil, and its commission is a Child marriage is a social evil, and its committee criminal offence. Despite the near-universal agreement on the ills of child marriage, its commission and prevalence have been sobering. Child marriage is the phenomenon of children being married before they attain the minim age under the law APEX COURT toll rises to 35 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Patna, Oct 18: Ten more people

Territories (UTs) must appoint

officers solely responsible for

discharging the functions of

CMPO at the district level. These

officers should not be burdened

with additional duties that could

impede their focus on prevent-

Observing the term child mar

riage was an "oxymoron", the

bench said, "A child implies a per-

son whose capacity to make legal

decisions is not fully developed.

On the other hand, marriage is

an institution with legal

standing... Marriage dictates

the framework rules of per-

missible and impermissible

social behaviours. However, a

child is incapable of under-

standing the broad and serious

obligations expected from mem-

Such marriages often deprive

children of intellectual, social

and psychological development

and carry life-threatening risks,

it underscored. The top court

opined child marriages needed an

intersectional approach towards

the vulnerabilities experienced

by children, especially girls from

sidering factors like gender, caste.

socioeconomic status, and geog-

raphy, which often increase the

risks of early marriage.

Preventive strategies should

therefore be tailored to the unique

needs of various communities

and focus on addressing the root

causes of child marriage, such as

poverty, gender inequality, lack

of education, and entrenched

SNIPPETS

cultural practices," it said

Bahraich victim's wife demands 'death' to killers

Lucknow/Bahraich (UP): The wife of the man shot dead in Bahraich Friday said

a notice to one of the accused to remove the "illegal" construction. Roli Mishra

also accused the authorities of taking bribes to deny "justice" to her. The wife

in a message on social media said, "We want justice, but we are being denied

it. Authorities have taken bribes." She said her husband's killers, though nabbed,

she will get justice only when her husband's killers are dead, while the PWD served

of 22-year-old Ram Gopal Mishra, who was killed in a gun attack in Bahraich Sunday,

"Intersectionality involves con-

marginalised communities.

bers of a marital union.

ing child marriage.

died after allegedly consuming illicit liquor in Bihar's Siwan and Saran districts, taking the toll in the hooch tragedy to 35, an official said Friday.

BIHAR HOOCH TRAGEDY 10 more die;

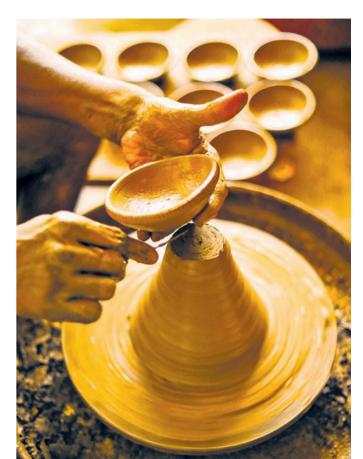
Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Saran range, Nilesh Kumar said Friday that while Siwan accounted for 28 fatalities, seven deaths have been reported from Saran.

"As many as 28 people in Maghar and Auriya panchayats in Siwan district have so far died after consuming suspected illicit liquor. Seven people in Ibrahimpur area under the jurisdiction of Mashrakh police station in Saran district also died after consuming suspected spurious liquor", the DIG told PTI Friday.

The suspected hooch tragedy has triggered a political blame game with Opposition parties questioning the efficacy of the ban on sale and consumption of liquor, imposed by the Nitish Kumar government more than eight years ago. Locals in both districts claimed that people lost their lives after "consuming illicit liquor"

On the condition of anonymity local police officials claimed that more than 25 people from both districts are still battling for their lives at different hospitals in Siwan, Saran and Patna districts.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examinations and the exact cause of the incident can only be known after receiving the autopsy reports, the DIG said. Officials have so far not disclosed the identity of the deceased and those under



A potter makes 'diyas' (earthen lamps) ahead of the Diwali in Hyderabad,

BABA SIDDIQUE MURDER CASE

Five arrested for providing firearms



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 18: Five more persons were held Friday for allegedly providing firearms and logistical support to the shooters in the Baba Siddique murder case, a Mumbai police official said.

The total number of arrests in the sensational case now stands at nine, while three key persons are on the run.

Siddique was shot at and grievously injured October 12 near his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Nirmal Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area. The Congress-turned-NCP leader died some time later in nearby Lilavati Hospital.

Prima facie, the five arrested accused were in touch with conspirator Shubham Lonkar and mastermind Mohammed Zeeshan Akhtar, both absconding at present, the official said.

As per police, Akhtar's links were earlier established with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and he is allegedly one of the masterminds of the politician's murder.

"Based on human intelligence and technical analysis, an operation was conducted by Crime Branch in various parts of the state, including Panvel and Karjat in neighbouring Raigad district, leading to the arrest of these

Salman gets fresh threat

Mumbai: The Mumbai traffic police received a threat message demanding ₹5 crore from Hindi film industry actor actor Salman Khan, an official said Friday. A case was registered at Worli police station under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for threat and extortion after the city's traffic control room received the message on its WhatsApp helpline Thursday afternoon, he said. The case has been registered on the complaint of a traffic police personnel, the official added.

five persons for conspiracy related to the crime and its execution," he said.

The official identified the five as Nitin Gautam Sapre (32), Sambhaji Kisan Pardhi (44), Pradeep Dattu Thombre (37), Chetan Dilip Pardhi and Ram Fulchand Kanoujia (43).

Sapre is from Dombivali, while Pardhi, Thombre and Pardhi (27) are from Ambernath in Thane district. Kanoujia is a resident of Panvel in Raigad.

They were produced before court, which sent them in police custody till October 25. As per the interrogation of the accused, we have found that Sapre and and Kanouiia are key members of this module.

file his response. hearings of all benches The top court passed the order New Delhi: The on a plea of the Punjab government challenging the order of Supreme Court is planning to start the high court. During the hearing, Advocate

were yet to be killed.

General of Punjab Gurminder Singh sought a stay on the high court order which had stayed of all benches were the trial in the three cases regstreamed live Friday. istered at Bajakhana Police The apex court has Station at Faridkot in Punjab.



Top court plans to start

live-streaming of regular

for cases before Constitution benches and matters of public interest such as the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata. In a unanimous decision made during a full-court meeting led by former Chief Justice of India U U Lalit, the court had resolved to live-stream all Constitution bench hearings, following a landmark ruling on the issue in 2018



the ruling BJP's first poll promise. Addressing a press conference after presiding over the first meeting of his cabinet, the Chief Minister said his government will also implement the Supreme Court's decision empowering states to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes for granting reservation "today itself". Saini, who was sworn in as chief minister for a second time Thursday, said the people of Haryana defeated the Congress' narrative of lies and efforts to

provoke farmers and the poor by bringing the BJP back to power for a third time. By giving a big mandate to the BJP, people put their stamp of approval on the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.



J&K govt seeking restoration of statehood only: Oppn

WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD FROM EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE NC, A JAMMU-BASED NEWSPAPER 'DAILY EXCELSIOR' CARRIED A REPORT THAT THE CABINET HAD PASSED A RESOLUTION URGING THE CENTRE TO RESTORE J&K'S STATEHOOD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 18: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir Friday described the reported resolution by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led cabinet seeking restoration of statehood only and not Article 370 as an "utter surrender" and a departure from the stand of the ruling National Conference (NC).

While there has been no word from either the government or the NC, a Jammu-based newspaper 'Daily Excelsior' carried a report that the cabinet had passed a resolution urging the Centre to restore J&K's statehood.

The report also said the Chief Minister will travel to Delhi to handover the draft of the reso-

lution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Efforts to reach out to the Chief Minister, his cabinet colleagues or the ruling party leaders for a comment on the report did not fructify.

Various political parties, including the People's Democratic Party (PDP), People's Conference (PC) and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), denounced the move, reminding the NC of its poll promise to "strive to restore (Articles) 370-35A and statehood as prior to August 5, 2019", and saying it was a departure from the pre-election stand. In its manifesto, the NC had promised that in the interim period, "we will endeavour to redraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and the Transaction of



Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019".

The manifesto promised that the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, in its first list of business after elections, will pass a resolution against the Centre's

decision to strip the region of its statehood and special status. Iltija Mufti. PDP leader and daughter of party president not a squeak about restoring J&K's special status. PDP youth wing president Waheed Para said Abdullah's first resolution on statehood is nothing less than ratification of

Mehbooba Mufti, asked whether

it bodes well for J&K when the

first cabinet meet is shrouded in

secrecy about a resolution on

restoring statehood but there is

the August 5, 2019 decision.

Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid said the reports of the resolution passed by the J&K government seeking restoration of statehood only and not Article 370 were "very painful" and a "departure" from the principled stand of the ruling NC.

People's Conference chief Sajad Lone wondered why the resolution on statehood reportedly passed by the cabinet was "shrouded in mystery and secrecy that only one newspaper publishes it". Lone, who is an MLA-elect from Handwara, however, said the resolution should have been passed in the Assembly rather than the cabinet.

The separatist-turned-mainstream politician said he would have loved to see which way the BJP and other parties vote on statehood and on Article 370 resolution when it is presented in the Assembly.

Reminding the NC of its prepoll commitment, Lone said, "We are not demanding or expecting anything extraordinary. Do what you promised the people of J&K in your manifesto."











national



Haggling among allies must not be allowed to reach a breaking point UDDHAV THACKERAY SHIV SENA (UBT) PRESIDENT

SC REJECTS PLEA OVER DEFENCE PRODUCTION

The Supreme Court Friday dismissed a plea concerning the defence production policy noting it was a matter in the Centre's domain. "These are matters which are purely in the policy domain of the Union government," a bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoi Misra told the petitioner appearing in person



Adani, Chairman of Adani Group of Companies met with courtesy. A donation of ₹100 crore was handed over to Young India Skills University from Adani Foundation in

the form of a cheque A REVANTH REDDY T'GANA CM

Will (Sena-UBT leader) Sanjay Raut and (NCP-SP's Maharashtra chief) Jayant Patil take any final decision without consulting Uddhav Thackeray and

Sharad Pawar respectively?

focusing on developing religious and tourist destinations to boost tourism and create more iobs









Elon Musk said 'Elections should not be done through EVM, it can be hacked. Paper ballot is the

Technologist & I understand that" Now some Sanghi with expertise in Gobar will reply him how EVM hacking is impossible

SHORT **TAKES**

Pralhad Joshi's brother booked

Bangalore: The Bangalore police have filed an FIR against Union Minister on a complaint of cheating lodged by a former JD(S) MLA's wife. The Minister clarified he had separated himself from his brother Gopal Joshi more than three decades, and said he had filed an affidavit in the court and also published a public notice saying that anyone claiming to be his brother, relatives or friends and indulging in any financial business will not be a binding on him.

Bullet-riddled body of labourer found

Srinagar: A bullet-riddled body of a labourer hailing from Bihar was Friday recovered in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district. officials said. The body was recovered from Wachi area of Zainapora in the south Kashmir district, they said. They labourer identified as Ashok Chauhan was living in Sangam area of Anantnag. One of Chauhan's colleagues told PTI Videos they left their rented room at 7 in the morning and he was with them for about an hour.

Delhi HC dismisses Madhu Koda's plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday rejected a plea by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda seeking a stay on his conviction in a coal scam case to enable him to contest the upcoming assembly elections in the state. Koda's application was opposed by the investigating agency, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), on grounds of maintainability. "Application dismissed," said Justice Neena Bansal Krishna.

Satyendar Jain walks out of Jail

The AAP said in a post on X, "Satyamev Jayate. Another conspiracy of BJP failed as Satyendra Jain ji, who brought about health revolution in Delhi by building magnificent Mohalla Clinics, got bail from the court. The real face of BIP has been exposed again now in front of the entire country"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: A court here Friday granted bail to AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case, citing "delay" in trial and "long incarceration", while also saying the Enforcement Directorate can "no longer be permitted to wish away" precious years of the life of an accused.

Jain, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) May 30, 2022 on the charge of laundering about ₹4.5 crore money through four companies allegedly linked to him. walked out of the Tihar Jail Friday evening after spending more than 18 months in judicial custody.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne rejected the ED's request to deny the bail, saying the relief granted under Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution supersedes stringent twin conditions of section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Under the twin conditions of the PMLA, the accused has to prove in court that he/she is prima facie innocent and fur-

SC grants bail to

MLA Abbas Ansari

politician and former MLA

Mukhtar Ansari, who died in

jail a few months ago. A bench

of Justices M M Sundresh and

Pankaj Mithal gave the relief to

Ansari. The apex court had

August 14 issued notice to the ED

and sought its reply on the appeal

filed by Ansari challenging an

order of the Allahabad High

Court, which rejected his bail.

court had granted bail to Ansari in a separate case registered

against him for allegedly using

his wife's cellphone during her

jail visit, to threaten the wit-

nesses and officials, who were

connected to the prosecution

that the investigation is com-

plete, chargesheet has already

been filed and the petitioner has

been in custody for more than 1.5

years in the instant case. Keeping

in view the fact that the con-

clusion of trial will take some rea-

sonable time, however, without

expressing any opinion on the

merits of the case, the petitioner

is directed to be released on

bail subject to his furnishing

bail bonds to the satisfaction

of the trial court," the

Ansari was lodged in Chitrakoot

District Jail when his wife along

with the driver and co-accused

Nivaz visited him and he allegedly

used a cellphone to threaten

witnesses and extort money.

"Having regard to the fact

against him.

bench said.

Another bench of the top

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Directorate (ED).



ther convince the judge he/she would not commit any offence while on bail.

'The grounds relating to delay and long incarceration are, in effect, constitutional and plenary twin conditions sourced from Article 21 of the Constitution and therefore superior to the twin conditions under Section 45 PMLA," the judge said. The judge further observed that the decisions in AAP leader Manish Sisodia's bail order from the Supreme

HUNDREDS OF AAP WORKERS GATHERED OUTSIDE THE TIHAR
AIL TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE
F THE FORMER HEALTH MINISTER

Court in an alleged excise scam money laundering case, and other subsequent cases, have mandated the reading of delay and long periods of incarceration into the exercise of meeting the twin conditions under Section 45 PMLA. The judge said that the CBI had not arrested Jain in the predicate office-related case, and it was the ED, which lodged the case based on a CBI FIR, that 'lent a twist to the tale by arresting him in the allegations pertaining to Section 4 (money laundering) PMLA'

The ED, as an agency bound by the rule of law and the settled principles governing liberty in the context of bail, can no longer be permitted to wish away precious years of the life of an accused by simple pleading that it has the prerogative to arrest,' the judge said. He added that while the CBI would ordinarily not arrest an accused, the arrest by the ED in the same case creates an awkward and unreasonable scenario.

An accused may not be either considered a flight risk or a threat or influence upon evidence or witnesses in the CBI case, but is condemned to indefinite imprisonment by the operation of the twin conditions under section 45 of the PMLA, said the judge

The judge also noted in many investigations by the CBI and the ED, divergence has appeared as far as arrest of the accused is concerned.

The judge, who also issued a release warrant for Jain, granted the relief on a personal bond of ₹50,000 with one surety of like amount. The court also imposed various conditions on Jain, including that he will cooperate with the investigation and not try to influence or hamper the probe, and directed him to appear before the investigating officer, as well the court whenever required. The moment judge pronounced the order, Jain's wife Poonam and daughter Shreya, who were present in the courtroom, broke down.

ISRO gears up for space docking mission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Hyderabad-New Delhi, Oct 18: The Supreme based Ananth Technologies Court Friday granted bail to Friday handed over two 400 kg MLA Abbas Ansari in connection class satellites to ISRO, which will with a money laundering case be part of the Space Docking Experiment planned by the space registered with the Enforcement agency later this year. The satellites will be launched Ansari is the son of gangster-

onboard the PSLV-C60 mission slated for a December launch and considered a stepping stone for future missions such as the Indian space station and Chandrayaan-4 mission that aims to bring lunar rock and soil samples back to earth.



The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket for the mission is also being built at a facility of Ananth Technologies Private Limited (ATL) in Thiruvananthapuram.

The satellites were handed

over at ATL's facility at KIADB Aerospace Park in Bengaluru in the presence of M Shankaran, director of ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre.

'This achievement is a testament to ATL's vision and commitment towards India's space sector," said Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri, chairman of ATL.

Pavuluri said ATL has been manufacturing electronic subsystems for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) since 2000 and has been an integral part of every Indian space programme over the last

ED CONDUCT



THE ED FILED AN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 18: The probe into the MUDA 'scam' allegedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah picked up pace Friday with the Enforcement Directorate conducting searches in its Mysore office in a money laundering case linked to irregularities in the allotment of sites, raising political temperature in the Congress-ruled

State. **ENFORCEMENT CASE** The MUDA office ORMATION REPORT (ECIR in Mysore and SEPTEMBER 30 TO BOOK some other loca-IE CM AND OTHERS TAKIN tions including in OGNISANCE OF A RECEN Bangalore were **LOKAYUKTA FIR** raided by the fed-THE CM IS FACING eral probe agency **ALLEGATIONS OF** officials, along with **ILLEGALITIES IN THE** an escort of a cen-LOTMENT OF 14 SITES TO tral paramilitary HIS WIFE B M PARVATHI force, in connection BY THE MUDA with the Mysore

Authority (MUDA) case in which it has booked Siddaramaiah, his family members and others, the sources said. No premises of the CM or his family were covered, they said.

Urban Development

"ED probe team has come, we will provide whatever information they ask," MUDA Secretary Prasanna Kumar told reporters in Mysore.

They have said that they will work here today and tomorrow. Whoever from staff they may want (to meet), we will call them and provide them the informa-

tion." Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress chief D K Shivakumar said the ED action was only an exercise to gather information, collect documents related to the case and verify them.

"ED can gather information. Why do you call it a raid? They may be seeking documents, which can be provided. Where is injustice in that?" Shivakumar told reporters here.

> His brother and former MP, D K Suresh, termed it a 'politically-motivated raid" in connection with a 'politically-motivated case." Urban Development Minister Suresha B S (Byrathi Suresh)

said the MUDA

would provide all documents to the ED as sought by it. "Whatever documents are sought, MUDA will give....ED is said to have got powers to raid after ECIR being booked (against the CM), whatever documents they ask MUDA will

give, there is no question of us getting involved in this, officials will provide documents, Suresh, under whose department MUDA comes, said. Welcoming the ED raids, Opposition BJP and JD(S) in

Karnataka asserted that it was necessary to unearth the "scam" and to bring out the truth.

ED's big anti-terror crackdown on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday said the Popular Front of India (PFI), a proscribed terrorist organisation,

was working to create an Islamic movement in India through a "jihad" that included non-violent air raids and "guerilla theatre", apart from various methods of

cruelty and subjugation. The federal agency issued a statement, saying it has attached fresh assets worth more than ₹35 crore that are "beneficiallyowned and controlled" by the PFI "in the name of various

trusts, companies and individ-

uals" as part of its ongoing probe

against the outfit and entities

linked to it. The PFI was banned

by the Centre in September 2022 after the ED, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and various state police forces carried out countrywide raids

> against its office-bearers and establishments. The ED alleged that the real objectives of the PFI, formed in 2006

in Kerala but head. quartered in Delhi, are "different" from the ones stated in its constitution.

"Real objectives of PFI include formation of an organisation for carrying out an Islamic movement in India through jihad though PFI masquerades itself as a social movement." "PFI claimed use of non-violent forms of protest but evidence reveals that the methods of protest employed by them are violent in nature," the agency alleged.



A 'Nihang' Sikh performs 'Gatka', during a religious procession on the eve of the birth anniversary of the fourth Sikh Guru Ram Das at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab

Study finds most people unaware of 'climate justice'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: A majority of people, including those most affected by climate change, are unfamiliar with the term 'climate justice' means, despite recognising the inequalities that it exacerbates, a global study has found.

Researchers from the University of Nottingham, UK, surveyed over 5,600 adults across 11 countries, including India, Brazil and the Philippines, found that about two-thirds of the respondents had never heard of the term 'climate justice' -- a form of environmental justice that addresses the climate crisis through a human rights lens.

Studies have found that those contributing the least to climate

change and those least equipped to adapt to the crisis are the most vulnerable to its effects. Climate justice is aimed at distributing the effects of climate change fairly.

The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, however, found that the participants recognised the social, historical, and economic injustices linked to climate crisis -- something that the researchers said was "common around the world", even though not consciously connected with the concept of climate justice.

For example, about 78 per cent of the people surveyed supported beliefs aligned with climate justice, such as understanding that the poor suffer worse impacts of climate change. About the same



fraction of the participants also agreed that people from the worst-affected communities should have more of a say in decisions concerning climate change, "Citizens of frontline i.e. climate-vulnerable countries. are largely confined to being the

subjects of climate discourse as opposed to active participants. The unbalanced discourse matches the inequalities that characterise climate change itself," lead researcher Charles Ogunbode, an assistant professor at the University of STUDIES HAVE FOUND THAT THOSE CONTRIBUTING THE LEAST TO **CLIMATE CHANGE AND THOSE** LEAST EQUIPPED TO ADAPT TO THE CRISIS ARE THE MOST **VULNERABLE TO ITS EFFECTS**

CLIMATE JUSTICE IS AIMED AT DISTRIBUTING THE EFFECTS OF **CLIMATE CHANGE FAIRLY**

Nottingham, said.

The findings suggested that beliefs of climate justice among the public may be strengthened by raising awareness, they said. "In our global survey of 5,627 adults in 11 countries spanning the global north and south, most participants (66.2 per cent) had never heard of climate justice," the authors wrote. Despite low levels of climate justice awareness, climate justice beliefs appear to be widely endorsed across countries; especially beliefs about the unequal distribution of climate change impacts, the importance of giving voice to frontline communities, the underpinning roles of colonialism and capitalism in the climate crisis and the need to redistribute resources from the rich to the poor, they wrote.

The researchers found the lowest levels of support for notions capturing the gender and racial dimensions of the climate

About 40 per cent of the survey respondents agreed that climate change affected women worse than men, while about 57 per cent agreed that Indigenous peoples and minorities are worse affected, the team found.



international



China strongly opposes all forms of official contact and interaction between Taiwan and countries having diplomatic relations with China, including the establishment of representative offices for each other. We have lodged solemn representations to the Indian side MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

MODI TO ATTEND **BRICS SUMMIT**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the BRICS summit in Russia from October 22-23, the Ministry of External Affairs says





indispensable alliance. So in the months to Europeans remembe

indispensable for us. And I hope that Americans remember your allies are indispensable for you FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER

PRESIDENT, GERMANY

I think realistically. holding the election can be possible by next year There are many factors. This is a

preliminary assumption to me ASIF NAZRUL LAW ADVISER, BANGLADESH

What the President is trying to do is to make our commitment to Ukraine sustainable and institutionalized for the long term. And every other ally agreed that that was the responsible thing to do

JAKE SULLIVAN WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

SHORT TAKES

US sanctions two Indians

Washington: The US has sanctioned 18 companies and individuals, including two Indians, for their alleged ties to a Houthi network transporting Iranian oil, revenue from which enables Houthi attacks on Israel and disrupting shipping in the Red Sea region. The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned the companies. including the captains of vessels transporting illicit oil, for their ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Oods Force-backed Houthi financial official Sa'id al-Jamal and his network, a press release said Thursday. The 18 companies sanctioned include Marshall Islands-registered Changtai Shipping and Motionavigations Limited and UAF-based Indo Gulf Shin Management. The two Indians sanctioned are linked to the Indo Gulf Ship Management, according to the Treasury Department.

S'pore detains teenager

Singapore: Singapore has detained a 17-year-old selfradicalised supporter of terror group ISIS under the Internal Security Act (ISA) mere weeks before his planned attack on non-Muslim males in a public housing estate. The teenager, purportedly influenced by the ongoing Hamas strikes and developments around Syria, wanted to use either a kitchen knife or a pair of scissors from his home as his weapon, said the Internal Security Department (ISD) in a press release Friday. It was a "very close shave as he could have easily gone on a rampage", Singapore's Minister for Law and Home Affairs K Shanmugam said. "I would say this is one of the ones where it was quite close, fairly close," Shanmugam said.

Fuel train collides with elephants

Colombo: A train transporting fuel derailed in Sri Lanka's North Central Province after colliding with a herd of wild elephants on the railway track, the Department of Railways reported Friday. The accident occurred around 3:30 am local time Friday while the train was en route from the Kolonnawa Petroleum Storage Terminal in Colombo to Batticaloa in the Eastern Province, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the Department of Railways, four fuel tankers derailed as a result of the collision, causing significant damage to the railway tracks. Two elephants were killed, and several others were critically injured in the accident, local media reported.

Netanyahu dashes peace hopes

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER CALLS SINWAR'S KILLING A MILESTONE BUT VOWS TO KEEP UP THE WAR

Jerusalem, Oct 18: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promises to press on with Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon dashed hopes Friday that the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar might help end more than a year of escalating conflict in the Middle East.

Sinwar, a mastermind of the October 7, 2023, attack that triggered the Gaza war, was killed during an operation by Israeli soldiers in the Palestinian enclave Wednesday, a pivotal event in the year-long conflict.

Netanyahu called Sinwar's killing a milestone late Thursday but vowed to keep up the war, which in recent weeks expanded from fighting against Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza into an invasion of southern Lebanon and the bombardment of large swathes of the country.

'The war, my dear ones, is not vet over." Netanvahu told Israelis, saying fighting would continue until hostages held by Hamas are released.

"We have before us a great opportunity to stop the axis of evil and create a different future," he added, referring to Iran and its militant allies across the region in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Netanyahu's comments contrasted with Western leaders, including US President Joe Biden, who said Sinwar's death offered a chance for the conflict to end. The US wants to kick-start ceasefire talks and secure the release of hostages, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said, adding



We have before us a great opportunity to stop the axis of evil and create a different future

that Sinwar had been refusing

been removed. Can't predict

that that means whoever re-

places (Sinwar) will agree to a

ceasefire, but it does remove

what has been in recent months

the chief obstacle to getting

One senior diplomat working

'We had hoped, really through-

in Lebanon told Reuters that

hopes Sinwar's death would end

out this, that getting rid of

Sinwar would be the turning

point where the wars would end

where everyone would be ready

to put their weapons down. It ap-

pears we were once again mis-

taken," the diplomat said.

the war appeared misplaced.

'That obstacle has obviously

to negotiate.

one," he said.

Western leaders see Sinwar's death as chance for peace ran says 'resistance' will be strengthened by Sinwar's death

Months of efforts by Israel's chief backer the United States to broker ceasefires with Hamas and Hezbollah have failed as Israel has pressed on with its wars, and its arch foe Iran has looked largely powerless to match Israel's military might, including US weapons.

The conflict has caused the first direct Iranian-Israeli confrontations, including missile attacks on Israel in April and October 1. Netanyahu has vowed to respond to the October attack, which caused little damage. Washington has pressed Israel to limit targets and not strike Iranian energy facilities or nuclear sites

Sinwar, Hamas' overall leader following the assassination of political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, was believed to have been hiding in the warren of tunnels Hamas has built under Gaza over the past two

He was killed during a gun battle Wednesday by Israeli troops initially unaware they had caught their number one enemy, Israeli officials said.

Hezbollah pledges new phase in war

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah vowed to launch a new phase of fighting against invading Israeli troops Friday, a day after Israel said its forces in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza had killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, the chief architect of last year's brutal attack on Israel that sparked the current war. Sinwar's killing in what appeared to be a chance frontline encounter with Israeli troops offers a potential window to shift the dynamic in the Gaza war even as Israel presses its offensive against Hezbollah along its northern border with Lebanon and continues its aerial bombardment in other areas of Lebanon. Both Hamas and Hezbollah are backed by Iran, which hailed Sinwar as a martyr who can inspire others in challenging Israel. Hamas has not yet commented directly on the Israeli announcement, but photos which were apparently taken by Israeli troops on the scene showed the body of a man who appeared to be Sinwar halfburied in rubble with a gaping wound in his head. A statement issued by one of Hamas' political leaders abroad Friday seemed to be a reference to Sinwar's death and said Israel is mistaken if it "believes that killing our leaders means the end of our movement and the struggle of the Palestinian people."

NK has deployed troops to Russia: South Korea



Spy agency of South Korea says that Russian navy ships have transferred 1,500 North Korean special operation forces to Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Oct 18: South Korea's spy agency said Friday that North Korea has dispatched troops to support Russia's war against Ukraine, a development that could bring a third country into the war and intensify a standoff between North Korea and the West.

The National Intelligence Service said in a statement that Russian navy ships transferred 1,500 North Korean special operation forces to the Russian port city of Vladivostok from October 8 to October 13. It said more North Korean troops are expected to be sent to Russia soon

The North Korean soldiers deployed in Russia have been given Russian military uniforms, weapons and forged identification documents, the NIS said. It said they are currently staying at military bases in Vladivostok and other Russian sites such as

'Russia won't let Ukraine

Ussuriysk, Khabarovsk and Blagoveshchensk, and that they will likely be deployed to battle grounds after completing their adaptation training.

The NIS posted on its website satellite and other photos showing what it calls Russian navy ship movements near a North Korean port and suspected North Korean mass gatherings in Ussuriysk and Khabarovsk in

the past week. South Korean media, citing the NIS, reported that North Korea has decided to dispatch a total of 12.000 troops formed into four brigades to Russia. The NIS did not immediately confirm the reports. If confirmed, it would be North Korea's first major participation in a foreign war. North Korea has 1.2 million troops, one of the largest militaries in the world, but it lacks actual combat experience.

Many experts question how much the North Korean troop dispatch would help Russia, citing North Korea's outdated equipment and shortage of battle experience. Experts also said that North Korea likely received Russian promises to provide security support over the intense confrontations over its advancing nuclear programme with

SNIPPETS

Obamas set to join Harris for campaign

Washington: Democrat Kamala Harris will campaign for the first time with Barack and Michelle Obama in separate events next week, hoping to inject some political star power in the final dash to election day in November, a senior campaign official said. The former President and his wife remain immensely popular with the Democratic base and are expected to be effective



closers in the final stretch of a campaign relying on turnout from loyal Democrats in states where victory margins are thin. Michelle Obama is set to campaign for the first time this election cycle, appearing with Harris Saturday, October 26 in Michigan.

Diverting attention: Canadian Oppn slams Trudeau

Ottawa: A Canadian Opposition leader has accused Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of using Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder to divert attention from other controversies and asked the government to posthumously take away the Khalistani militant's citizenship to right the past



administrative error. Maxime Bernier, the leader of the People's Party of Canada, also said the Khalistani militant who is the central figure in the whole controversy was a foreign terrorist who was somehow granted citizenship in 2007. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said Monday it had identified India's High Commissioner in the country and five other diplomats as persons of interest in the June 2023 killing of Nijiar, "Nijiar wasn't a Canadian. Canada should perhaps posthumously take away his citizenship to right this administrative error," he said.

Pak shuts educational institutions for 3 days to contain student protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Oct 18: Pakistan's Punjab government has closed all educational institutions in the province for three days and arrested over 600 students in the face of the growing student protests against an alleged on-campus rape.

The Maryam Nawaz-led govrnment has also banned all forms of public gatherings to address both the student protests and the jailed former premier Imran Khan's party's call for demonstrations in the country after Friday prayers for the "independence of the judiciary".

"All public and private schools, colleges, and universities will remain closed from Friday to Sunday,"

the Punjab government said. Punjab police Friday said it arrested over 600 students across the province in connection with violent protests. A spokesperson for Punjab police however claimed that several of the arrested students have been released after taking an undertaking from their parents.

obtain nuclear weapons' Russian President Vladimir Putin says any

move by Ukraine to get nuclear weapons will draw an appropriate

Russian response REUTERS

Moscow, Oct 18: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday Russia would not let Ukraine get nuclear weapons, after Ukraine's leader said that since Kyiv had given up its Soviet-era nuclear arms, it must join NATO.

Putin said any move by Ukraine to get nuclear weapons could not be concealed and would draw an appropriate Russian response. "Russia will not allow this to happen, no matter what,"

he told reporters. Meanwhile, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff said Ukraine is not considering developing nuclear



weapons and recent reports on the topic were driven by an incorrect interpretation of remarks by the President.

"We have not these thoughts about nuclear, we refuse it,' Andriy Yermak told a think-tank event in Brussels.

Ukraine inherited nuclear weapons after the breakup of the Soviet Union but voluntarily relinquished them in the 1990s in return for guarantees of its territorial integrity, a deal it says Moscow reneged on by invading its land.

Zelenskyy said he spoke with Trump about Ukraine's negative experience with the Budapest Memorandum, a 1994 deal that gave Ukraine security "assurances" from Britain, Russia and the United States in return for relinquishing the nuclear weapons___ it had inherited with the breakup of the Soviet Union. "I told him: What is the way out.

either Ukraine will have nuclear weapons, and then this is defence for us, or we should have some kind of an alliance," the Ukrainian leader told reporters at a European Union summit in Brussels Russia returns soldier's bodies

Russia Friday returned to Ukraine the bodies of 501 soldiers, Ukrainian authorities said, in what appeared to be the biggest repatriation of war dead since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Most of the soldiers were killed in action in the eastern Donetsk region of Ukraine, mostly around the city of Avdiivka that Russian forces captured in February after a long and grueling battle, Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said.

THE PLASTIC BOTTLE CAP GETS A MAKEOVER

'You have to basically relearn how to drink'

bby Gendell encountered one after a hot July day ⊾touring Vatican City. "I open a water bottle," the 22-yearold New Yorker said, "and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, why is this touching my face?"

The thing on her face was a bottle cap. As of July, caps in Europe no longer fully come off water and soda bottles due to a European Union law aimed at getting more of the caps recycled rather than littered. When the caps are screwed off, they stay there, dangling from the top of bottles and bumping into

drinkers' lips, noses and cheeks. It has become a new source of culture shock for those crossing the Atlantic, like encountering a bidet or driving on the left side of the road. On TikTok, some posted videos with patriotic music when they arrive home, saying they're happy to be back in America, where at least they know their bottle caps are free. Gendell said the Vatican City bottle cap brought out her American rage. "I was so thirsty and then that was just an added thing," she said of the cap, which she managed to rip off. She prefers the bottles in the U.S. "They're just easier to drink out of," she said.

Malcolm McKie, a 35-year-old tax accountant in Toronto, said the serrated plastic edges of the caps tickled his mustache while sipping sugary sodas this summer in London. He said the cap also pushed his lips away from the bottle's opening, causing him to spill.

"I'd have a sticky soda beard," he said. "You have to basically relearn how to drink.

The EU tried to help. In July, its environmental office posted instructions on X titled, "Drinking from a bottle for dummies." "It's really not that diffi-



cult," the post said, along with a cartoon on how to hydrate. "Open bottle! Drink! Do not re-

move cap. Dave Corlett, a retired police officer in Cincinnati, said he didn't rip off the caps while traveling during his three-country tour this summer, even though the caps kept hitting his lips.

"I kind of just went with the flow," said the 55-year-old, "and then complained about it."

At restaurants he found a way

to keep his lips from getting caressed: Pouring drinks into glasses instead of swigging from the bottle, something he never does back home.

The EU said it targeted bottle caps because they are one of the most found pieces of trash on its beaches. Legislation was passed in 2019, giving beverage companies until this past July to have the attached caps on plastic bottles that are three liters or smaller. The hope is that if the

cap is attached, it is more likely to be recycled with the bottle.

The caps have also been unpopular with some Europeans, even spilling into

Italian politics.

Matteo Salvini, a far-right Italian politician, posted a photo of a man drinking from a bottle with the cap nearly shoved up his nostrils. "Do you want environmental regulations from Brussels?" he asked, referring to the headquarters of the EU. "No, grazie," he wrote, urging people to vote for his anti-EU party.

The dangling caps are worse than another environmentallyfriendly way to drink: the paper straw, said McKie, the tax accountant from Toronto.

Paper straws don't start to disintegrate until several minutes into drinking, he said. The caps make their presence known from the first gulp. "It's an instant annoyance," McKie said.

'We recognize that this change takes getting used to," said Coca-Cola, which sells water and soda in Europe, in a statement. It added that customers generally have been supportive of the new caps, especially when they find out the goal is to reduce litter.

Asked if it would bring the caps to the U.S., the company said "we will continue to look at the value of the attached cap innovation in other markets, where we think it can be impactful."

Nestlé and Danone, which have several water brands in Europe, declined to comment. Soda maker PepsiCo didn't respond to a request for comment.

Nathan Baschez, a startup founder in Los Angeles, said he didn't think the caps were bad.

He just found them odd. "My entire life—I'm 35 years old—bottle caps have been one way," he said. "I never imagined

bottle caps to be a different way.' But after sipping a few bottles of water in Spain this summer, he found them useful. He could hold his toddler with one hand, a bottle in the other and not have to worry about how to

hold the cap.

"I sort of came to appreciate the convenience factor a little bit," he said.

business



There is no doubt that India's growth rate is among the shiniest parts in the world economy. I think being able to grow at six, seven per cent and more in this kind of environment shows you that they've done a number of things to get there AJAY BANGA PRESIDENT, WORLD BANK

₹94,500

SILVER

Oct 18

UBER PARTNERS WITH IAF

A leading cab aggregator has joined hands with the IAF to offer mobility solutions for official travel and commute of air force personnel and their families, according to an official statement issued Thursday. An MoU was signed between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Uber to that effect, a senior official said



₹1L-cr in Odisha

THE COMPANY PLANS TO SET UP

ALUMINA REFINERY, ALUMINIUM PLANT



Rate cut at this stage will be very premature and can be very, very risky when your inflation is five and a half and next print is

also expected to be high SHAKTIKANTA DAS GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

Despite being successful, we must (also) address a significant challenge - the reliance on imported

feedstocks. We must explore alternative feedstocks like biomass plastic waste and green hydrogen while also expanding domestic sources of natural gas and coal

JP NADDA UNION MINISTER

India's economic growth is driving rapid expansion in the real estate sector, with

the residential market projected to reach \$1.04 trillion by 2029, growing at a 25.6 per cent CAGR. This growth is fuelled by rising demand for ultra-luxury

RAJ MENDA CHAIRMAN, FICCI COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Q2 **RESULTS**

properties and significant

investments

HZL net profit rises

New Delhi: Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) Friday reported 34.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹2,327 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2024, on the back of higher income. The company had posted net profit of ₹1,729 crore in the year-ago period. The income of the company in the July-September period rose to ₹8.522 crore from ₹7.014 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, HZL said in a filing to BSE.

Zee Ent profit zooms New Delhi: 7ee Entertainment

Enterprise Ltd Friday reported a jump of 70.24 per cent in its consolidated net profit to ₹209.4 crore in the Septembei quarter as margins improved by effective cost management. It had a net profit of ₹123 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Zee Entertainment Enterprise Ltd (ZEEL). However, its total income declined 18.93 per cent to ₹2.034.4 crore during the quarter under review.

JFSL profit up 3%

......

New Delhi: Jio Financial Services Ltd Friday reported a marginal 3 per cent rise net profit to ₹689 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024. The company had earned a consolidated net profit at ₹668 crore in the . same quarter a year ago. Total income increased to ₹694 crore as against ₹608 crore in the same quarter a year ago, Jio Financial Services said in a regulatory filing.

GOLD JUST SHY OF ₹80K Vedanta to invest

Rallying for the third consecutive day, gold bounced ₹550 to hit a fresh high of ₹79,900 per 10 gram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Gold hit a record high of ₹79,900 per 10 gram Friday in the national capital, rising by ₹550 on strong festive season demand, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹79,350 per 10 gram in the previous trade Thursday.

Rallying for the third consecutive day, gold of 99.5 per cent purity bounced ₹550 to hit a fresh high of ₹79.500 per 10 gram. It had settled at ₹78,950 per 10 gram in the previous session.

Meanwhile, silver leapt ₹1,000 to ₹94,500 per kilogram. Silver remained flat at ₹93,500 per kg Thursday.

In futures trade, gold contracts for December delivery were trading at ₹77,620 per 10 gram on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). During the day, the gold futures touched a lifetime high of ₹77,667 per 10 gram.

Market experts said the demand for precious metals has strengthened to a record level in the domestic market, with a boost in customer buying during

GOLD & SILVER



Investors are treating the vellow metal as safe haven amid uncertainty due to ongoing tension in the Middle East and upcoming US presidential polls

the festival season.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

market trends.

On MCX, silver contracts for December delivery sprung ₹1,231 or 1.34 per cent to ₹92,975 per

Major Western central bankers are pursuing dovish monetary policy, which also supports gold prices, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities, HDFC Securities, said.

Manav Modi, Senior Analyst - Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. said, "Gold prices hit a record on both Comex as well as on domestic front benefiting from safe-haven demand with just weeks left to a closely contested US presidential election, while

SHARES REBOUND AFTER 3-DAY SLIDE

Sensex, Nifty snap downward trend on value buying in banking, metal shares

On the weekly front, the

BSE benchmark declined

156.61 points or 0.19%

and the Nifty went lower

₹93,500

SILVER

he yellow metal surges over 15% from a four-month low of ₹67,400 in July

Indians will celebrate Diwali in late Oct, when buying gold is consider auspicious

an interest rate cut by the European Central Bank also helped.

Globally, Comex gold futures increased 0.76 per cent to \$2,728.10 per ounce.

"Gold prices reached an alltime high, surpassing USD 2,700 per ounce fuelled by heightened safe-haven demand amid Israel's military actions in the Middle East," Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities

Silver futures climbed 1.70 per cent to USD 32.32 per ounce In the Asian market hours.

Despite strong US retail sales and labour market data, "this robust strength is largely driven by the expectation of ongoing interest rate cuts in the US, with further reductions anticipated in the near future," Jateen Trivedi. VP Research Analyst -Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Mumbai, Oct 18: Metal and

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

mining major Vedanta Friday announced an investment of ₹1 lakh crore in Odisha to set up an alumina refinery and an aluminium plant in the state.

The Anil Agarwal-led group has already invested ₹1 lakh crore across assets in the state.

The new investment will be in setting up a 6 million tonne per annum (MTPA) alumina refinery and a 3MTPA green aluminium plant, a statement from Vedanta said.

It will create 2 lakh jobs in the state and help Odisha achieve its goal of becoming a \$500 billion economy by 2030.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi earlier during the day in the financial capital. Majhi is in Mumbai for a roadshow to be held Saturday, ahead of "Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025", an investor summit in Odisha in January 2025.

After meeting Agarwal, the CM wrote on X, "I met Anil Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta Group in Mumbai and discussed in detail the expansion and investment of Vedanta Aluminum in the state. The Utkarsh Odisha meet will be organised in the state very soon. All facilities

will be provided with special incentives for investment. Odisha having enormous potential is the focal point of 'Purvodaya' under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ment

HA

Commenting on the new investment commitment, Agarwal said Odisha has always played an important role in Vedanta's growth and affirmed the company's commitment to drive largescale industrialisation in the state.

As per the statement, demand for aluminium -- a metal of the future -- is likely to double by 2030. Vedanta said it believes Rayagada will be the most developed area in Odisha similar to the new Jharsuguda.

Majhi is understood to have met JSW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal and Nadir Godrej of Godrej Industries on a bilateral basis during the visit.

He also met Reliance Solar Energy Director Anant Ambani in Mumbai and invited him to Utkarsh Odisha conference to be held next year



MASSIVE PLUNGE

Forex kitty drops for second week in row



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 18: Declining for the second straight week, India's forex reserves dropped \$10.746 billion to \$690.43 billion for the week ended October 11 in one of the largest decreases in the kitty in recent times, the RBI said Friday.

In the previous reporting week the reserves had dropped by \$3.709 billion to \$701.176 billion. At the end of September, the reserves had hit an all-time high

of \$704.885 billion. For the week ended October 11, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$10.542 billion to \$602.101 billion, the data released

Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves decreased by \$98 million to \$65.658 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$86 million to \$18.339 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$20 million to \$4.333 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data

BHUBANESWAR: Tanishq, India's leading

Odisha by inaugurating three new stores

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Dhenkanal,

space. The Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

executives, including Somprabh Singh,

Regional Business Head, and Alok Ranjan,

of October 17, followed by the Dhenkanal

store's opening later in the afternoon. To

celebrate the launch, Tanishq is offering

special discounts, including up to 20%

jewellery and diamond jewellery value.

Customers can also exchange old gold

these new showrooms and bring our

jewellery for 100% value and avail ₹101 off

per gram on gold purchases from October

18 to November 3. "We are thrilled to open

exquisite collections closer to customers in

discount on making charges for gold

Cluster Business Head, East, on the morning

stores were inaugurated by senior

within 24 hours. The new outlets, located in

collectively add 14,200 square feet of retail

jewellery brand from Tata Group has

significantly expanded its presence in

Recovering from its early lows, the BSE Sensex climbed 218.14 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 81,224.75. During the day, it jumped 384.54 points or 0.47 per cent to 81,391.15.

Mumbai, Oct 18: Benchmark

indices Sensex and Nifty

bounced back Friday after three

days of fall, led by value buy-

ing in banking, financials and

metal stocks and firm global

The NSE Nifty ended 104.20 points or 0.42 per cent higher at

Also, buying by domestic institutional investors supported by 110.2 points or 0.44%

market recovery. From the 30 Sensex firms, Axis Bank jumped nearly 6 per cent after the company's consolidated net profit for the September quarter rose by 19.29 per cent to ₹7,401.26 crore.

ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, NTPC, JSW Steel, State Bank of India and Adani Ports were the other big gainers.

Tanishq opens 3 new stores Ramco Mason's annual award meet

BHUBANESWAR: Ramco Cements,

which runs Ramco Mason clubs in

its annual award function meet.

the company to reward masons,

masons of Puri, Bhubaneswar,

more than 25 districts has organized

Based on internal parameters set by

Infosys tanked over 4 per cent after its second quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

Asian Paints, Nestle, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the other big laggards.

Among the blue-chip pack,

"After the morning sell-off, the market bounced from the oversold level driven by selective buying in financials, auto and metals stocks. Initial set of results from private banks were positive, building an expectation that the upcoming set of financial results in the weekends will also be optimistic," said Vinod Nair. Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services

BoM celebrates Hindi Divas

BHUBANESWAR: Following the guidelines of Government of India, Bank of Maharashtra celebrated Hindi month at its Bhubaneswar Zonal Office recently. The main programme of Hindi Divas Celebration 2024 was organised under the guidance of Zonal Manager Alok Kumar Mishra. Chief



Manager of CPC-Cell Ravi Shankar Kumar welcomed all the officers and staff members present in the programme. On this occasion, Zonal Manager Alok Kumar Mishra, Deputy Zonal Manager Sanjib Kumar Dash and Chief Manager of CPC-Cell Ravi Shankar Kumar encouraged the staff members to use Hindi language more and more in their daily activities. All the staff members took pledge to use Hindi as much as possible in their daily work and to promote it. A prize distribution ceremony was organised for the Hindi competitions held during the month.

PPL's stall at India Chem 2024 exhibition

Nayagarh, and Khurda were invited to Hotel Crystal Crown October 18

and were given gifts like microwave oven, 5G-enabled smartphones

and washing machines. Top masons were given premium smart-LED

TVs and air conditioners. The event was well appreciated by masons

coming year. More than 8,500 masons are enrolled in this club. Initially,

it was launched in 2-3 districts of South Odisha only, but looking at its

and will be a boost for them to engage with more customers in the

success, it has been expanded to 25 districts. Ramco Cements has

of good construction practice and increasing the reach of Ramco

premium products, said Pratik Ray, State Head - Odisha.

increased Odisha's grinding unit capacity by adding another million

tonne. Hence masons have a major role to play in promoting the cause

MUMBAI: India Chem. 2024 is being held at the local Mumbai Exhibition Centre. The exhibition has been organised for the Chemical and Petrochemical industries and Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has participated in this exhibition. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Fertilizers and Chemicals, Government of India has inaugurated the PPL stall at India Chem Oct 17. PPL Chief Financial Officer, Bijay Kumar Biswal, and Head of Corporate Affairs, Sudhi Ranjan Mishra were present on the occasion. This is the thirteenth edition of the India Chamber and this international exhibition and conference is being held every two years. Notably, PPL is the only organisation from Odisha showcasing its presence at the international exhibition. Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi and the Minister of State for Industries and Skill Development, Sampad Charan Swain were present on the occasion.



Byju's, once worth \$22bn, now 'worth zero'

FOUNDER OF INDIA'S ONCE BIGGEST STARTUP CONCEDES MISTAKES

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 18: Byju Raveendran, the founder of what was once India's biggest start-up, Byju's, said he overestimated the growth potential of his education-technology company which is now "worth zero" as it faces insolvency, but remains hopeful of rescuing it.

Byju's, which operates in more than 21 countries, became popular during the Covid-19 pandemic by offering online education courses. Its valuation shot up to \$22 billion in 2022, but Byju's has for months faced demands for unpaid dues and allegations of mismanagement, which it denies.



"The company is worth zero. What valuation are you talking about? It is zero," Raveendran said during an interaction with reporters via video conferencing from Dubai late Thursday, his first media briefing in 18 months.



vency after US lenders complained

to the Indian Supreme Court in

August about misuse of \$1 billion

borrowed by the company.

Raveendran denied all allega-

tions of wrongdoing Thursday.

The Supreme Court is yet to rule on Glas's grievances in dispute with Byju's. The company was once a darling of global investors, backed by likes of General Atlantic. It has suffered numerous set-

backs in recent months, from boardroom exits and criticism over delayed financial disclosures to the public spat with foreign investors over mismanagement.

Glas Trust, which represents

the protesting lenders, did not re-

spond to a request for comment.

Raveendran is an Indian mathematics whiz who went from being a teacher to a startup billionaire before Byju's imploded this year. "Whatever is coming, I will find a way out," he said Thursday.

BOOST TO LOCAL MANUFACTURING

Govt plans laptop import curbs

New Delhi, Oct 18: India is expected to limit imports of laptops, tablets and personal computers after January, two government sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, a move to push companies such as Apple to increase domestic

manufacturing.
This plan, if implemented, could disrupt an industry worth \$8 billion to \$10 billion and reshape the dynamics of the IT hardware market in India, which is heavily reliant on imports.

A similar plan to restrict imports was withdrawn last year following backlash from companies and lobbying from the



local production

United States. India has since monitored imports under a system set to expire this year and

PC industry

has asked firms to seek fresh approvals for imports next year. The government feels it has given the industry enough time to adapt, said the sources, who did not want to be identified as discussions are private. One of the sources said New Delhi will begin consultations

with all sides starting next week.

It could delay implementing the import restrictions by a few months if needed, the source added. India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is working on a new import authorisation system, where companies will have to get prior

approvals for their imports, one of the two sources said. Under the current regime, laptop importers are free to bring in as many devices after an au-

tomated online registration.

Resurrection begins

THREE HALF CENTURIES BY BATTERS KEEP INDIA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NEW ZEALAND





FLIGHT OF ECSTACY: Glenn Phillips goes airborne in delight after dismissing Virat Kohli; Sarfaraz Khan kept India in the game with a fighting half century

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 18: A counterattacking India kept alive the hopes of a miracle turnaround through free-flowing half centuries from the troika of Virat Kohli (70, 102b, 8x4, 1x6), Sarfaraz Khan (70 batting, 78b, 7x4, 3x6) and skipper Rohit Sharma (52, 63b, 8x4, 1x6), reaching 231 for three in their second innings on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand here Friday.

The scoreboard would have looked better had Kohli not got out to Glenn Phillips off the last ball of the day. The deficit at the end of an overcast day was a less intimidating 125. Kohli and Sarfaraz added 136 runs for the third wicket after skipper Rohit did the early running with a fluent 52.

This was after New Zealand posted a total of 402 all out to

gain a massive lead of 356 runs thanks to Rachin Ravindra (134, 157b, 13x4, 4x6) and Tim Southee (65, 73b, 5x4, 4x6), who added precious 137 runs for the eighth wicket.

The largest deficit India have overturned to win a Test in their cricketing history is 274 during the iconic Kolkata Test against Australia in 2001. Such an epic is still some distance away, but hopes will be flickering after the day's effort with the bat.

Amid the more coruscating fifties by Rohit and Sarfaraz, Kohli's effort still stood out for its personal and situational significance. It was his first Test half century of 2024, and he could not have timed his 31st in the longest format better - literally and figuratively Kohli brought up his 50 with

a single off Matt Henry but at the

Brief scores

other end, Sarfaraz resembled a race car on the tarmac. The Mumbai man punished all bowlers with disdain and leftarm spinner Ajaz Patel was shunted off the park for two successive sixes.

Then there was a daring upper cut for maximum off William O'Rourke and fortune also blessed him as a couple of edges fell inches short of Ajaz at gully and wide of third slip.

Before that however, Rohit and Yashasvi Jaiswal (35) gave India a solid start. Jaiswal went

through an early uncertain playand-miss phase but he overcame that to play some sparkling shots.

Rohit had no such issues. The right-hander flicked and drove New Zealand pacers to reach his 50 off just 59 balls, and also thrilled the crowd with that patented swivel pull on one leg. But his tenure in the middle ended in unfortunate circumstances, Rohit offered a forward defensive shot to Ajaz, but the ball trickled back onto his stumps after taking a deflection from his bat.

Earlier resuming the day at 180 for three, the Kiwis were halted to an extent by Ravindra Jadeja (3/72) and the other Indian bowlers who took some early wickets to reduce them to 233 for seven. However, Ravindra and Southee put on a partnership that helped them take the lead past the 300-run mark. Rayindra

Kohli enters 9,000 club

Bangalore: Batting maestro Virat Kohli became the fourth Indian to cross 9,000 runs in Test cricket, scaling another peak in a glorious career during the third day of the opening match against New Zealand here Friday. Kohli joined an august company featuring Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122). However, Kohli is the slowest among them to reach this landmark, having taken 197 innings.

started cautiously but unfurled his full range once he and the pitch settled down past the firsthour mark. A cleanly swept four off Ravichandran Ashwin carried him to his second Test hundred.

Title propels GM Arjun towards 2,800 Elo mark

London, Oct 18: Rapidly-rising Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi clinched the WR Chess Masters title after defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the Armageddon game following two draws in Classical chess during the final here Thursday evening.

Arjun, who was a part of the gold-winning Indian team in the Chess Olympiad recently, displayed great form and precision throughout the event to bag the winner's prize of 20,000 euros. With this win, Arjun's live Elo rating touched 2,796, moving him closer to the coveted 2,800 mark. He will look to cross that milestone at the European Cup which starts October 20.

The 21-year-old defeated his friend R Praggnanandhaa in the semifinals of the knockout event before eventually getting past Vachier-Lagrave.

"I am happy that I could adapt to the new format well and win the tournament," Arjun said in a press release issued by his management team.

The 16-player tournament saw Arjun score a 2-0 victory over nine-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan of England, who was the youngest ever to play in the Chess Olympiad for her

Fellow Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi also fell to Arjun,

who won the second game in the two-games mini-match by 1.5-0.5 margin. Against Praggnanandhaa in the semis, Arjun took an early lead by winning the first game as white and did well to draw the second game to win the match 1.5-0.5.

In the final, Vachier-Lagrave put up stiff resistance against the World Np. 4 Indian but eventually crumbled in the Armageddon. The first game ended in an easy draw for Arjun as black, while the second game featured wild complex play out of a Sicilian Najdorf opening where the Indian played white. The dust subsided on the 21st move leading to a tricky endgame post the Queen trade and the game was drawn.

Vachier-Lagrave had 10 minutes on his clock with white pieces in the finale against Arjun's six minutes and 58 seconds. However, as is the law, the Frenchman needed a win.

Arjun navigated the opening well despite less time out of a Petroff defense and reached a balanced position. Vachier-Lagrave sacrificed two minor pieces for a rook to make some threats around Arjun's King but the Indian remained on guard. The game could have been a draw through repetition but that would have won the match for Ariun anyway. The Queens were traded but Arjun was never in trouble as Vachier-Lagrave fought in vain for



Arjun Erigaisi poses for shutterbugs before the final

SHORT TAKES **Oldest quarterfinalist**

Stockholm: Stan Wawrinka

became the oldest quarterfinalist in the history of the Nordic Open tennis tournament when he prevailed 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 against Aleiandro Davidovich Fokina here Friday. The 39-year-old Wawrinka deciding set, but found some gutsy tennis to advance in 132 minutes. "I'm super happy to get through this match, it was a tough opponent, but the level was good and it was great to win two matches here," Wawrinka said. Wawrinka will face top seed Andrey Rublev, who defeated Alexandre Muller 6-4, 6-1. Rublev did not face a single breakpoint on his serve during the match.

Pak square series

Multan (Pakistan): Spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan claimed all 20 wickets on a recycled turning pitch as Pakistan ended a long wait for a home win with a 152-run victory over England in the second test here Friday, Left-arm spinner Ali took 8-46 to finish with a match haul of 11 wickets and England were bowled out for 144 inside the first session on day 4 on a tailor-made dry wicket. Offspinner Khan took 2-93 to go with his 7-111 in the first innings as both spinners bowled unchanged and ran through the tourists' batting line-up. England captain Ben Stokes top-scored for the side with 37, but was always fighting a losing cause.

Bhullar shines

Hua Hin (Thailand): Gaganieet Bhullar added a second-round of 66 to his opening day's 65 to move into joint lead at the Black Mountain Golf Championships here Friday. Bhullar shared the lead with in-form Suteepat Prateeptienchai from Thailand. The other Indians to make the cut were Khalin Joshi (68-66) at tied 13th and Karandeep Kochhar (71-67) at tied 56th. The others, Honey Baisoya, Varun Chopra, Rashid Khan, S Chikkarangappa, SSP Chawrasia, Yuvraj Sandhu, Ajeetesh Sandhu and Shiv Kapur missed the cut. "I hope I can maintain this form for the rest of the tournament," Bhullar stated at the end of the day's play.

Usha concerned with provisions of Sports Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha has raised concerns about some provisions of the Draft National Sports Governance Bill. She said Friday that a regulatory authority proposed by the Bill will undermine the autonomy of the IOA and national federations, putting the country at risk of an international suspension.

In a letter to Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Usha also stated that the bill does not provide clarity on the role of State Olympic Associations (SOAs), thereby undermining the process of decentralising sports governance.

Usha's larger concern is, however, the autonomy of the IOA and the national sports federations (NSFs) if a Sports Regulatory Board of India, which would oversee their functioning, becomes operational as proposed by the bill.

"While this may strengthen governance and prevent administrative issues such as corruption or mismanagement, it raises concerns about the au-

autonomy of the IOA, NSFs and SOAs

tonomy of sports bodies, particularly the IOA, NSFs and SOAs," Usha said in the letter.

'Historically, the autonomy of these organisations has been a key principle in international sports governance, with the IOC particularly strict about the independence of national Olympic committees from government interference," Usha added.

Usha was present at a meeting conducted by Mandaviya with

stakeholders Thursday. The draft bill, which has been opened for public feedback till October 25, has found support from most of the long-serving administrators. The bill seeks to relax the cap on age and tenure

of office-bearers. The sprint legend claimed that the regulatory authority has been granted extensive powers to control the functioning of the IOA and NSFs which is not correct.

Dream debut for spinner Sumit **ODISHA BOWL OUT J&K FOR LESS**

THAN 300 RIDING ON THE LEFT-ARM **SPINNER'S SHOW**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack. Oct 18: Debutant leftarm spinner Sumit Sharma (5/79) rose to the occasion admirably as hosts Odisha dismissed Jammu & Kashmir for 270 in their Ranji Trophy Group A encounter which began at the Barabati Stadium here Friday. At stumps on the first day, Odisha were 15 for the loss of Shantanu Mishra's (0) wicket. Anurang Sarangi (8 batting) and Sandeep Pattnaik (6 batting) will resume

the fight Saturday. Sharma bowled with admirable skill on a Barabati pitch which offered some help to the bowlers. He maintained a tidy length and kept all the J&K batters guessing with his flight and control. He was responsible for the middle-order collapse that J&K suffered during the game. He rarely provided a loose delivery to the opposition batters and restricted them from scoring easy runs.

The only batter who looked



Sumit Sharma acknowledges the applause after his five-wicket haul Friday $\,$ opphoto $\,$

competent in handling Sharma was century-maker Abdul Samad (127, 117b, 6x4, 9x6). His counterattack took the J&K total to a position of respectability. J&K were at one stage reduced to 58 for the loss of four wickets. However, Samad and Sahil Lotra (39) pit on 131 runs for the fifth wicket to rescue the side. The partnership was finally broken by fast bowler Suryakant Pradhan (2/50). Some useful contributions from tailenders Abid Mushtaq (17) and Yudhvir Singh (18), took the visitors past the 250-run mark.

Rajesh Mohanty (2/47) and

Debabrata Pradhan (1/27) were the other successful bowlers for Odisha. They kept the opposition batters under pressure all the through the innings. It was inexplicable as to why skipper Govind Poddar bowled 11 overs giving away 61 runs.

Odisha's first game of the season against Tripura was washed away. In the present circumstances, it is imperative that Odisha at least take the first innings lead which will ensure a minimum of three points for them. The batters will have to ensure that when the game resumes Saturday.

Sindhu loses

in quarterfinals

Odense, Oct 18: PV Sindhu bowed out with a quarterfinal loss to Paris Olympics bronze-winner Gregoria Tunjung as India's campaign came to an end in the Denmark Open badminton tournament here Friday. The 29-yearold Sindhu went down 13-21, 21-

16,9-21 in a nearly hour-long clash. The World No. 8 from Indonesia, who had won just two matches from their 12 past encounters, was at her dominant best despite Sindhu managing to win the second game.

Tunjung took command of the proceedings from the start and reeled of eight points in a row to take the first game rather easily. But Sindhu, who had stunned fourth-seeded Han Yue of China in the pre-quarters, looked a different player in the second game and raced to a 6-1 lead before her opponent levelled it six-all and rallied to a

9-7 lead. Sindhu once again fought her way back to snatch the lead at 11-10 after the break and made it 19-15 before sealing the game 21-16 to take the match to the decider. However, she could not sustain the momentum in the third game and went down tamely.

Nadal 'emotionally' ready for farewell

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Riyadh, Oct 18: Tennis maestro Rafael Nadal said Friday he is 'emotionally' ready to play next month's Davis Cup final which will be his farewell tournament after announcing his retirement from tennis last week. The 22-time Grand Slam champion is currently playing in the Six Kings Slam exhibition event here and will take on long-time rival Novak Djokovic for the final time Saturday. Nadal lost to compatriot Carlos Alcaraz 3-6, 3-6 in the semifinal and will lock horns with Serbian in the thirdplace match.

"Emotionally, I'm sure I'll be ready. Physically and in terms of tennis level, there remains a month left to prepare. I will try



to be in good shape to help the team to win. If I don't feel readv for singles, I'll be the first one to say," BBC quoted Nadal as saying. "Be 100% sure, I will not be on court if I don't feel ready to win my match," he added.

On facing Djokovic, who has won more Grand Slams than Nadal with 24, the Spaniard feels have Novak in front (of me), it's like a nostalgic thing," said Nadal, who has won 29 of his 60 meetings with Djokovic.

"We've played each other a lot, so it'll be fun to play each other again one more time in this match. Hopefully, we can create a good show and good level of entertainment," the Spaniard added.

Talking about Alcaraz's prolific career at the young age of 21, Nadal said he will be ready to share his learnings with him whenever needed. He's (Alcaraz) going to do very well with what he's got. He's learning all the time. We can see he's developing in every way. But of course I'll be ready whenever he wants to call me," Nadal said.

ODISHA EVES WIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Odisha defeated J&K by 27 runs in a match of the Senior Women's T20 tournament at the Kotambi stadium in Vadodara, Friday. After being put in, Odisha scored 151 for the loss of five wickets with Sushree Dibyadarshini (51, 47b, 7x4) shining with the bat. She was well-supported by Sangeeta Khadia (44, 30b, 4x4, 1x6). Sarala Devi (2/16) was the most successful bowler for J&K.

When J&K batted they found the going tough against Rima Laxmi Ekka (1/9) and Subhra Swain (1/9). The Odisha bowlers bowled with a lot of discipline not allowing any free runs to the opposition batters. Jasia Akhtar (49, 56b, 5x4, 1x6) topscored for J&K.

Bala dedicates 50th goal to dad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Oct 18: India striker Bala Devi remembered her late father and dedicated her 50th international goal to him following the team's 5-2 win over Pakistan in the SAFF Women's Football Championship



opener here. The 34-year-old scored her only goal in the match in the 35th minute with the other goal-scorers being Grace Dangmei (fifth and 42nd), Manisha Kalyan (17th) and Jyoti Chouhan (78th) Thursday.

"This goal is for my father. Though he is no longer with me, I know he would be proud of me today," said an emotional Bala to the AIFF after the win.

Meanwhile, Jyoti recollected her father's dream of her playing for India as she netted her debut goal on the international stage. "I am really happy and satisfied with my performance. My father had a dream that someday I would get to wear the Indian colours and score for the country, which I did yesterday

(Thursday)," Jyoti stated.

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