

Orissa TODAY

For e paper : www.orissatodaynews.in

email: orissa.today1@gmail.com, orissatoday08@rediffmail.com, orissatoday.business@gmail.com

THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

◆ Vol - 19 ◆ Issue-116 ◆ Bhubaneswar ◆ 17 November 2022 ◆ Thursday ◆ Rs.2.00 ◆ Pages -8

India's G-20 presidency to be inclusive, ambitious: PM

Bali, (UNI) India's G-20 presidency next year will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented, Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured on Wednesday at the closing session of G-20 Summit here in Indonesia. The Prime Minister said that India is taking charge of the G-20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the long-term ill-effects of the pandemic. "At such a time, the world is looking at the

G-20 with hope. Today, I want to assure that India's G-20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented," he said.

"Over the next one year, we will strive to ensure that the G-20 acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action," the Prime Minister added. Modi said that the sense of ownership over natural resources is giving rise to conflict today, and has become the main cause of the plight of the environment.

"For the safe future of



the planet, the sense of trusteeship is the solution. LiFE i.e. 'Lifestyle for Environment' campaign can make a big contribution to this. Its purpose is to make sustainable lifestyles a mass movement," the Prime Minister

said. Modi said that the need today is that the benefits of development are universal and all-inclusive. We have to extend the benefits of development to all human beings with compassion and solidarity, he added.

Modi stressed on maintaining priority on women led development saying global development is not possible without women's participation. We have to maintain priority on women led development even in our G-20 agenda, he added. Modi said that future generations will not be able to take advantage of economic growth or technological innovation without peace and security.

"The G-20 has to convey a strong message in favour of peace and harmony. All these priorities are fully embodied in the

theme of India's G-20 Chairmanship - One Earth, One Family, One Future," he said. The Prime Minister said, "We will organize G-20 meetings in different cities and states of our country. Our guests will get full experience of India's amazing diversity, inclusive traditions, and cultural richness." Modi thanked President Joko Widodo for hosting the G-20 Summit in difficult times. India will strive to take forward Indonesia's commendable initiatives during its G-20 Presidency, the prime minister said.

Women SHGs are emancipating India: Murmu



Bhopal, (UNI) In an unimpeachable statement vis-à-vis gender equality, President Droupadi Murmu averred on Wednesday that women self-help groups are empowering the entire country; members of the fair sex possess the strength to reach the Parliament from the panchayat and it is "our duty" to provide them the opportunity. Addressing a convention of women SHGs organised in the Madhya Pradesh capital by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, the First Citizen said, "SHG members ought not to view their work as small-scale. During my tenure as corporator, I was bestowed charge of cleanliness-related activities. However, I never grudged it but only toiled ceaselessly and diligently. In my present capacity, I am visiting numerous places but having an experience of a different kind here.

I was informed that this state boasts lakhs of women SHGs that are strengthening entire society and the country. In excess of 17,000 ladies were

elected to panchayats in Madhya Pradesh. Even our culture and the Puranas accord priority and respect to mothers. The mother's place is stated to be loftier than even those of the father and the teacher.

When the Almighty did not discriminate between women and men, why should we? Erstwhile prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee believed that the son and the daughter are both children of the nation; the country will develop only if both are made to advance. We have to create an environment wherein women feel fearless and independent. With ladies' cooperation alone, India shall emerge as a force to reckon with in the foreseeable future."

In her approximately 20-minute-long speech, the Supreme Commander consistently underlined the robust contribution by ladies towards the country's development. Among the dignitaries who graced the occasion were Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union and state ministers.

Prez, PM condole loss of lives in Mizoram quarry

New Delhi, (UNI) President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to a stone quarry collapse in Mizoram. "The landslide that caused the death of workers in Hnahthial district of Mizoram is very tragic and heartrending. In this hour of grief, I convey my condolences to the bereaved families," the President wrote in a tweet.

Taking to twitter, the PM wrote, "My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones due to the tragic stone quarry col-



lapse in Mizoram." He also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each for those injured from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) in the recent tragic incident.

Eight labourers were killed in the stone quarry

collapse in Hnahthial. A day after a stone quarry collapsed in Mizoram trapping 12 labourers, the eight bodies were recovered on Tuesday. Four are still missing and are feared trapped under the debris of the hill that crumbled down on the workers on Monday.

MCD polls: Delhi ACB Arrests 3 in cash-for-ticket case

New Delhi, (UNI) The Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch arrested three people, including kin of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA in an alleged cash for ticket scam for the upcoming Municipal Corporation of Delhi election, the probe unit said on Wednesday. Model Town MLA Akhilesh Tripathi's brother-in-law Om Singh and his personal assistant Shiv Shankar Pandey and Prince Raghuvanshi were arrested, under sections 7/13 of POC Act and 171 (E) of IPC for allegedly accepting cash for giving ticket to complainant Gopal Khari's wife Shobha Khari for Ward no 69 (Kamla Nagar),

claimed ACB statement. On Monday, Khari had approached the ACB with the grievance and lodged a complaint and stated that he is associated with AAP as an active worker since 2014 and on November 9, he met MLA of Model Town with the request to secure Councilor ticket from AAP for his wife Shobha Khari, the statement stated.

The complainant further alleged that the MLA demanded Rs 90 lakh for the same. Khari claimed that he had paid Rs 35 lakh to the MLA and Rs 20 lakh to Wazirpur AAP MLA Rajesh Gupta, and also assured Model Town MLA that the remaining 35 lakh would be

paid after securing the ticket. On November 12, Gopal Khari did not find the name of his wife in the list of contesting Councilors released by AAP, it stated. The complainant submitted audio and video recordings of his alleged dealings during payment and return of the amount. After due verification of all these evidences, on the intervening night of November 15 and 16, ACB officers laid a trap at the residence of complainant where Om Singh and his associates Shiv Shankar Pandey and Prince Raghuvanshi were trapped when they came to return the amount of Rs 33 lakh out of total 35 lakh received by them, it added.

5T Secretary visits Capital Hospital



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): At the direction of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) Shri V.K. Pandian today visited Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar and reviewed the progress of work of Trauma Care and Surgery Complex building as well as Post Graduate Institute site. Shri Pandian advised the Executing Agency to widen the road in front of the Academic Block of PGI, keeping in view the future traffic movement. He expressed satisfaction over the progress of work of Trauma Care and Surgery Complex building and directed to complete it by

December, 2023. Later Shri Pandian met Senior Officials at the Conference Hall of Capital Hospital and discussed about the Master Plan for development of Capital Hospital with 2000 beds and also establishment of Odisha University of Health Science and also residential Quarters for the staff. Advised the OB&CC to expedite the preparation of Master Plan.

Principal Secretary, Works Shri VVK Yadav, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Smt. Salin Pandit, MD, OB&CC and other Senior Officials were also present during the review.

BJP leaders only interested about elections, violence : Mamata

Jhargram, (UNI) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday came down heavily on the BJP, saying its leaders were only interested in elections and violence. Banerjee alleged that the saffron outfit's leaders could only "speak ill" about others and were not interested in the development of the society. "Unfortunately, BJP leaders have their heads in the skies. This is the problem; you see what happened after demonetisation? You see the number of atrocities committed against

Dalits across Uttar Pradesh," she told the media. Banerjee claimed even for "small mistakes" the BJP was targeting the opposition with CBI-ED probe.

"But when it comes to the mistakes of their leaders, there is no urgency shown by the same investigative agencies. BJP spends Rs 1,000 crore for each election. Where does the money come from? Why is CBI-ED not investigating the source of the money?" Banerjee questioned. In an apparent reference to BJP leader Dilip



Ghosh, she pointed out that when the title deed of a property said to be owned by him was found in the house of an accused, the central agencies remained silent.

"Even though I don't know the said woman, when the deeds were found at

Arpita's (Mukherjee) house, the person (read former Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee) was promptly arrested. Although vindictive in nature, it is as per the law. "However, when deeds of BJP leaders are found at the accused's

place, why isn't the CBI showing the same urgency to arrest the BJP leader? The law can't be different for different people," she stated. Railing against the centre for purportedly not giving funds to the state, Banerjee said she was now waiting and watching.

"Why will they stop giving us the funds? They had earlier implemented GST with the promise that all States would have equal taxation, and we agreed to it. However, now you are not giving us the funds we are owed. Earlier we used to do our taxation but now

the centre is taking away all the money," she alleged. "There's a way to agitation also. We have to wait and watch. Last year, I went and personally met the Prime Minister regarding the disbursement of funds for the state. This year again, two members of my team and my ministers went and met central government officials. At the moment, I am just watching what they are doing," Banerjee averred. The chief minister said the state is on course to supply piped water to all households by 2024.

Naveen launches cash award of Rs 100 cr per year under MMSPY

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday launched a cash award of Rs 100 crore per year under Mukhya Mantri Sikhya Puraskar Yojana (MMSPY) for schools transformed under 5T schemes in the state. Under this scheme, awards would be given to students, educational institutions, headmasters, teach-

ers, sarpanch, school managing committee and old students for their excellence and contributions.

The award will be given at block, district and state levels to 50,000 students, 1500 headmasters, teachers, school managing committee, sarpanches and old students. The announcement was made on the concluding day of

the Children's day function organised at Unit -9 Government High School here. Patnaik also launched the Digi locker system for HSCE and CHSE students. The certificate, mark sheet, and other documents of the students can be stored safely in this virtual locker and could be made easily available and there will be no possibility of theft or



loss in this system. Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister

said time is important for students adding that students can remain ahead if

they do the right thing at the right time. He called upon the students to achieve excellence in dance, singing, and sports along with the study and creating an identity for themselves. Patnaik advised the students to develop a scientific aptitude among themselves, march with the time, accept the transformation and get ready to face the challenge of time.

PM, other G-20 leaders visit Mangrove forests

Bali, (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with other G-20 leaders visited and planted Mangroves at the 'Taman Hutan Raya Ngurah Rai' Mangrove forests on the sidelines of G-20 Summit here on Wednesday.



Mangroves play an important role in global conservation efforts. India has joined the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC), a joint initiative of Indonesia and UAE under the Indonesian G-20 Presidency.

More than 50 mangrove species can be found spread over 5000 sq km in India.

India is placing emphasis on the protection and

restoration of mangroves, which are rich sites of biodiversity and serve as effective carbon sinks, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

On 2nd day of G-20 Summit, the Prime Minister is scheduled to participate in the 3rd working session of the Summit on theme 'Digital Transformation'.

As part of the G20 Summit agenda, two work-

ing sessions were held on Tuesday on 'Health' and 'Food and Energy Security'.

Modi will also hold bilateral talks with various world leaders on sidelines of G20 Summit.

India is also set to formally take G-20 presidency from Indonesia in the handover ceremony later on Wednesday. India will host the annual G-20 Summit next year.

Rishi Sunak Greenlights 3000 UK Visas For Indians After Meeting With PM Modi

New Delhi: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has given the go-ahead for 3,000 visas for young professionals from India to work in the UK each year. The British government said India is the first visa-national country to benefit from such a scheme, highlighting the strength of the UK-India Migration and Mobility Partnership agreed last year. "Today the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme was confirmed, offering 3,000 places to 18-30-year-old degree-educated Indian nationals to come to the UK to live and work for up to two years," the UK Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet. Under the new UK-India Young Professionals Scheme, the UK will



offer 3,000 places annually to 18-30-year-old degree-educated Indian nationals to come to the UK to live and work in UK for up to two years. The scheme will be reciprocal.

"The launch of the scheme is a significant moment both for our bilateral relationship with India and the UK's wider commitment to forging stronger links with the Indo-Pacific region to strengthen both our economies,"

Downing Street said in a statement. It said the UK has more links with India than almost any country in the Indo-Pacific region. Nearly a quarter of all international students in the UK are from India, and Indian investment into the UK supports 95,000 jobs across the UK.

The UK is currently negotiating a trade deal with India - if agreed it will be the first deal of its kind India has made with a European

country. The trade deal would build on the UK-India trading relationship, already worth 24 billion pounds, and allow the UK to seize the opportunities presented by India's growing economy. In parallel to the mobility partnership with India, the British government said it is also strengthening its ability to remove immigration offenders. "A landmark Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the UK and India in May 2021 aimed at increasing mobility between our countries, returning those with no right to be in the UK and India respectively and sharing best practice on organised immigration crime," the UK PMO added.

PM invites Singaporeans to invest in Green economy

Bali, (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday invited Singaporeans to invest in various sectors including Green economy, infrastructure and digitalisation. Modi held talks with his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong on the sidelines of G-20 Summit where the two leaders agreed to expand trade and investment linkages in Fintech, renewable energy, skill development, health and pharmaceutical sectors. Both Prime Ministers took note of the strong Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore and regular high level Ministerial and institutional interactions, including the inaugural session of the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable, held at New Delhi in September 2022, the PMO said.

Trump makes his 2024 presidential run official



Washington, (UNI) Donald Trump has announced his candidature to run for the US presidency in 2024, and has filed the necessary paperwork with the US Federal Election Commission.

The document filed by his team on Tuesday designated a principal campaign committee to take in contributions and make expenditures on his behalf.

Trump later also addressed supporters at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

In his little over an hour speech, Trump offered an indication of how he plans to frame his upcoming campaign.

He said: "In order to make America great and glorious again, tonight I am announcing my candidacy for the president of the United States."

"So from now until election day in 2024... I will fight like no one has ever fought before. We will defeat the radical left Democrats who are trying to destroy our country from within."

"This is not just a campaign. This is a quest to save our country," says Trump, ending his speech.

I'm talking about saving our country. I am asking for your vote. I am ask-

ing for your support. And I am asking you for your friendship and your prayers on this very incredible but dangerous journey."

He added, "We will shatter the forces of tyranny and the glories of liberty for ourselves, and for our children and for generations yet to come. America's golden age is just ahead."

He ended with MAGA extensions: "Together we will make America powerful again. We will make America wealthy again. We will make America strong again. We will make proud again. We will make America safe again."

"We will make glorious again. And we will make America great again."

The scene was jubilant outside with "cheers, honking horns, and chants of "four more years!" coming from supporters assembled outside the exclusive club, the BBC reported.

Trucks outfitted with "don't blame me - I voted for Trump" banners and American flags cruised the Florida neighbourhood.

A new fundraising email dropped for those watching the scene on TV from Donald J. Trump - subject line: "I am running for President. AGAIN."

The former president has a massive campaign war chest and remains popular with the Republican base. But he has been blamed for the Republicans' disappointing performance in the midterm elections, with a predicted "red wave" failing to materialise, the BBC said.

To run for president, Trump would have to win the Republican Party's nomination - but others are expected to compete for it.

Last week Trump lashed out at Florida Governor Ron DeSantis - a rising Republican star who is also expected to run for the party's 2024 nomination.

Republicans are on the cusp of taking a narrow majority in the House of Representatives. Midterm voters have by and large rejected candidates who backed Trump's baseless claims of election fraud in 2020, and many of his high-profile picks for office struggled or lost outright, the BBC said.

Trump also attacked current President Joe Biden for "bringing the US to the brink of nuclear war with his handling of the conflict in Ukraine". Biden who was meeting world leaders at the G20 summit in Indonesia - responded on his official Twitter account saying: "Donald Trump failed America".

Unlikely that Poland missile fired from Russia: Biden

Bali, (UNI) World leaders gathered on the side lines of the G20 summit here in Indonesia on Wednesday to discuss the Poland situation, and US President Joe Biden said it was "unlikely" that the missile was fired from Russia.

"I don't want to say that until we completely investigate, but it's unlikely in the minds of the trajectory that it was fired from Russia, but we'll see."

The blast in Poland came as Russia launched one of its biggest barrages of missiles against Ukraine on Tuesday, days after its troops were forced to evacuate Kherson.

Ukraine capital Kyiv was among the cities hit, with officials saying at least one person was found dead, the BBC said. Biden said that world leaders will determine the next steps af-

Nasa's Artemis paves way for return to Moon

Washington, (UNI) Nasa has successfully launched its most powerful-ever rocket, as part of a plan to eventually return humans to the Moon.

The American space agency Nasa has launched its biggest ever rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

The 100m-tall Artemis vehicle climbed skyward in a stupendous mix of light and sound, the BBC reported.

Its objective is to hurl an astronaut capsule in the direction of the Moon.

This spacecraft, known as Orion, is uncrewed for this particular flight, but if everything works as it should, people will climb aboard for future missions that go to the lunar surface.

Wednesday's flight fol-



lowed two previous launch attempts in August and September that were aborted during the countdown because of technical glitches.

A press note issued by the White House said:

Biden met with the leaders of NATO and the G7 and — to talk about the latest events in Europe.

He briefed them on his discussions with President Duda of Poland, as well as NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg. "And we

agreed to support Poland's investigation into the explosion in rural Poland, near the Ukrainian border. And I'm going to make sure we figure out exactly what happened.

"Our empathy — sympathy goes out to — apparently, two people were killed.

"And then we're going to collectively determine our next step as we investigate and proceed. There was total unanimity

among the folks at the table.

"And we also discussed the latest series of Russian missile attacks, which are continuing the brutality and inhumanity that they've demonstrated throughout this war against Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructures.

Biden came down strongly on Moscow and said: "They've been totally unconscionable, what they're doing. Totally unconscionable.

"And the moment when the world came together at the G20 to urge de-escalation, Russia continues to — has chosen to escalate in Ukraine, while we're meeting. I mean, there were scores and scores of attack — missile attacks into western Ukraine.

"We support Ukraine fully in this moment, and we have — we have since the start of this conflict. And we're going to continue to do whatever it takes to give them the capacity to defend themselves.

Asked to clarify whether the missile hitting Poland was fired from Russia, Biden said: "There is preliminary information that contests that. I don't want to say that until we completely investigate.

"But it is — I — it's unlikely, in the minds of the trajectory, that it was fired from Russia. But we'll see. We'll see.

He also said Poland's next step on whether to invoke Article 4 or 5 from NATO, will be on the consensus after a meeting of the ambassadors in Bali.



team's hard work.

"This is your moment. You have earned your place in history," Blackwell-Thompson added.

She described the mission as the first step for humanity's return to the Moon - and a later visit to Mars.

She thanked her peers for their "resilience" after two scrubbed launches.

In keeping with Nasa tradition, she asked a colleague to cut her tie, the

BBC said.

Fifty years after Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took their first steps on the Moon, and ushered in a golden era of space exploration, Artemis will inspire a new generation.

The new missions are different. Nasa is planning to eventually land the first woman and first person of colour on the Moon - showing that space exploration is open to everyone, the BBC added.

More than a decade in

the making, Nasa's \$20billion rocket - the Space Launch System (SLS) heading to the Moon is designed to lift heavy payloads off Earth.

The rocket has roughly the height of a 32-storey building.

The rocket travelled at speeds of up to 40,000km an hour.

It will take several days to make the 380,000km journey from Earth to the Moon, the BBC said.

BAPCL does as implementing partners for CFL Project initiated by RBI

Agartala (Tripura), The organization Bagma Agri Producer Company Limited (BAPCL) to run the CFL project activities initiated by RBI with funding support from Financial Inclusion Fund of NABARD in Tripura.

1,112 CFLs have been operationalized as part of Phase I of the project and additional 500 CFLs have to be operationalized by December 2022 in Phase II of the project.

Sudip Majumder, Managing Director of Bagma Agri Producer Company Limited Bagma, Gomati, Tripura has received the official approval from Manoj K. Moon, FIDD-in-Charge of RBI Agartala in order to do the scaling up of Centers for Financial Literacy (CFL) Project - Phase II.

The official source of RBI has informed it the authority has been decided to associate BAPCL organization as one of the

implementing partners for the Phase II of the Scaled up CFL Project in compliance with proposal, submitted to RBI Agartala, indicating BAPCL's willingness to be associated with the CFL Project in connection with its scaling up under Phase II in the state of Tripura.

It is first time in the state Tripura that NABARD suggested FPO based company BAPCL has done their CFL related activities in accordance with the guidelines of authority to provide financial literacy among people under block level with efficient faculties and experienced persons in the field of financial activities.

The sources informed that the CFL activities in Tripura are to be done under National Strategy for Financial Inclusion; the reach of Centers for Financial Literacy (CFL) has to be extended to every block in the country by March 2024. Therefore, scaling up of the CFL Project was initiated in 2020, in a phased manner, so as to cover the entire country by 2024 with each CFL covering three blocks. As a result,

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez gets bail in money laundering case



New Delhi, (UNI) A Delhi Court on Tuesday granted bail to actor Jacqueline Fernandez in Rs 200 crore money laundering case registered by Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

abroad without permission of the court.

Counsel for Fernandez submitted in the bail application that she appeared twice for questioning before the ED and was never arrested and even not informed about the lookout notice.

Special Judge Shailendra Malik after hearing the matter granted bail with the condition to furnishing a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh and will not go

Enforcement Directorate opposed the regular bail application of Fernandez by submitting that she never cooperated with the investigat-

ing agency and if granted bail she may flee the country.

The case against Fernandez pertains to an FIR registered by Delhi Police under section 170, 384, 386, 388, 419, 420, 506 and 120 B of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the violation of provisions of Information Technology Act (IT Act). After that Enforcement Directorate investigated the case under the provisions of PMLA.

"During Covid-19, many countries were struggling with a problem. They knew people needed help. They knew benefit transfers would help. But they did not have the infrastructure to benefit people. But India showed how technology could be a force for the good," he said.

"Our Jan Dhan Aadhar Mobile Trinity gave us the power to directly transfer benefits. Benefits went directly to authenticated and verified beneficiaries. Billions of rupees reached the bank accounts of the poor," he stated.

Modi said his government helped the pandemic-hit small businesses and street vendors by providing them access to working capital to restart businesses.

Bengaluru, (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is using technology as a weapon in the war against poverty.

"Under the Svamitva scheme, we are using drones to map lands in rural areas. Then, property cards are given to the people. This reduces land disputes. It also helps the poor to access financial services and credit," he said in a pre-recorded video message at the inauguration of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022.

Modi said India showed how technology could be a force for good when many countries were struggling due to lack of infrastructure during Covid pandemic.

India using tech as weapon in war against poverty: PM



"Those who start using digital payments are given incentives. This is making digital transactions a way of life for them," he said.

Modi said India has shown how to democratise technology and give tech a human touch when technology was seen as an exclusive domain which was said to be only for the high and mighty.

In India, technology is a force of equality and empowerment, which is mirrored in the world's largest health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat that provides a safety net for about 600 million people. "This programme is run based on a tech platform," he said.

India ran the world's largest Covid-19 vaccine drive through a tech-based platform called Cowin, he said.

Modi said the central government is successfully running its ecommerce platform called Government e-MarketPlace (GeM) for small businesses and traders, who fulfills the government's

needs. "Technology has helped small businesses find a big customer. At the same time, this has reduced the scope for corruption. Similarly, technology has helped with online tendering. This has accelerated projects and boosted transparency. It has also hit a procurement value of Rs 1 trillion last year," he said.

Also low data costs helped poor students to attend online classes during the pandemic, without which, two precious years would have been lost for them, Modi said.

"India has one of the largest online repositories of open courses. There are thousands of courses available across different subjects. Over 10 million successful certifications have happened. This is all done online and free," he said.

India's data tariffs are among the lowest in the world, the Prime Minister said.

Modi said the Indian youth are being empowered by

increasing tech access which is reflected in broadband connections rising from 60 million to 810 million and smartphone users from 150 million to 750 million, in the last 8 years.

"The growth of the internet is faster in rural areas than in urban areas. A new demographic is being connected to the information superhighway," he said.

Modi said India's youth have ensured tech and talent at globalisation. "Healthcare, management, finance - you will find young Indians leading many domains. We are using our talent for global good. Even in India, their impact is being seen," he said.

From ranked 81st in 2015, India has jumped to the 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index this year, Modi said.

"The number of unicorn startups in India has doubled since 2021. We are now the third largest startup hub in the world. We have over 81,000 recognised startups.

There are hundreds of international companies that have R&D centres in India. This is due to India's talent pool," he said.

Modi said technology is being used to end silos, enable synergy and ensure service.

"On a shared platform, there are no silos. Take, for example, the PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan. India is investing over Rs 100 trillion in infrastructure over the next few years. The number of stakeholders in any infra project is huge. Traditionally, in India, big projects were often delayed. Exceeding expenses, and extending timelines used to be common," he said.

"But now, we have the Gati Shakti shared platform. The central government, state governments, district administrations, different departments can coordinate. Each of these knows what the other is doing. Information relating to projects, land use and institutions are available at a single place. So, each stakeholder sees the same data. This improves coordination and solves problems even before they occur. It is accelerating approvals and clearances," he added.

Modi said India is no more a place known for red tape, but known for red carpet for investors in terms of FDI reforms, liberalization of drone rules, steps in the semiconductor sector, production incentive schemes in various sectors, or the rise of ease of doing business.

SC orders retrial in 2018 Kathua rape-murder, accused to be tried as adult

New Delhi, (UNI) The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a Jammu and Kashmir Court order and ordered a fresh trial of the accused in the alleged 2018 rape-murder of an eight-year-old girl from a nomadic community.



"The accused is to be tried as an adult and not a juvenile in the Kathua case," a bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi and also comprising Justice J B Pardiwala, ruled.

ing the main accused to be a minor.

"The medical opinion regarding the age in absence of any other conclusive evidence should be considered to determine the age range of the accused.

The Supreme Court passed the judgement on the issue of juvenility of one of the accused, who was earlier held as a juvenile by the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Kathua.

"Whether the medical evidence can be relied upon or not depends on value of evidence.

"Thus order passed by CJM Kathua is set aside and thus the accused is held not to be a juvenile at the time of crime," the apex court said, in its verdict.

The Jammu and Kashmir government had claimed that the High Court had erroneously affirmed the order of a trial court hold-

According to the pros-

ecution, the eight-year-old girl from the nomadic community of Bakerwal was allegedly kidnapped from Kathua's Rasana area on January 10, 2018, and was found dead on January 17 that year.

According to a 15-page charge sheet, the victim was kidnapped, drugged, hit by a stone, raped and strangled inside the temple premises by the accused.

On June 10, 2018, a trial court in Pathankot had sentenced three convicts in the case - Sanji Ram, Deepak Khajuria and Parvesh Kumar - to life

imprisonment.

While Ram was the mastermind of the crime and the caretaker of the temple where the child was allegedly raped, Khajuria was a police officer.

Special Police Officer Surrender Verma, head constable Tilak Raj and sub-inspector Anand Dutta were awarded five years in prison for destroying evidence.

The Jammu and Kashmir trial court had acquitted the seventh accused, Vishal Jangotra, son of Sanji Ram, by giving him the "benefit of doubt".

Delhi Court to pronounce order on Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain's bail plea on Nov 17

New Delhi, (UNI) A Delhi Special Court adjourned till November 17 its order on bail plea of Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who has been arrested under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Special CBI Judge Vikas Dhull after hearing arguments and counter-arguments on behalf of Satyendar Jain and Enforcement Directorate (ED) fixed November 17 as date for pronouncement of orders on the bail applications of accused Satyendar Jain, Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain.

The court directed Superintendent, Tihar Jail to produce accused Satyendar Kumar Jain, Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain through video conferencing on 17th November 2022. Additional Solicitor General, SV Raju opposed and concluded the arguments on behalf of the Enforcement Directorate against the bail application of Jain & others. Counsel for Jain submitted before the court that no provisions provided under Jail Manual has been violated by Jain and the allegations leveled by ED to cause prejudice in the minds of the judge.

Counsel for Jain has submitted in the bail application before the Court that in this matter the only fault was of Jain that he became a minister and got into public life otherwise there would be no case. Government Counsel for ED opposed the bail application by submitting that Jain served as a Health Minister in Delhi and may managed to get forged documents and can influence the doctors and Jail official.

ED has submitting that if bail granted he may influence the co-accused, witnesses and other documents related to the case. Counsel for Jain opposed the submission of ED by submitting that the purpose of ED is to prolong the custody of Jain. He contended that Jain is neither a Health Minister nor Jail Minister but is in jail and because the hospital where Jain was admitted under the control of Delhi Government is no ground to alleged a bias in the case.

Akshay to bring Sardar Jaswant Singh Gill's story to audiences



New Delhi, (UNI) Pooja Entertainment and Akshay Kumar will soon bring the brave act of an Indian hero to the audiences.

opportunity of playing such an honourable role on the screen, Akshay expressed his delight on Twitter saying, "It's a story like no other!"

The superstar is all set to portray the real life story of mining engineer Jaswant Singh Gill, who under very difficult circumstances saved miners trapped in Coal mine in 1989. Its is India's first coal mine rescue.

The film will be directed by Tinu Suresh Desai who had earlier worked with Akshay Kumar on the National Award winning film "Rustom".

The untitled edge-of-the-seat real life rescue drama starring Akshay is scheduled to release in 2023.

Overwhelmed with the

Naga flag & constitution key hurdles in peace talks

THE North East News late last month claimed that Thuingaleng Muivah and a seven-member delegation of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) flew in a chartered flight to Delhi to resume talks with government interlocutor Akshay Mishra, adding that a final solution to the Naga political issue was expected by Christmas. The conversations must have been top secret, as not a whiff was tapped by the media. Recent developments have revived hope, though it could remain so near, and yet so far. The much-hyped August 3, 2015, Framework Accord (FA), which, according to the September Nagalim Voice editorial, let Prime Minister Narendra Modi claim credit for solving the longest-running insurgency in south and southeast Asia, has merely transited between impasse, given the change of interlocutors — RN Ravi to Akshay Mishra — and claims by both sides of shifts in claims and positions. The editorial says Naga people will not accept the Naga national flag as a cultural symbol and the incorporation of a part of the Naga constitution into the Indian Constitution. On the 'Naga Independence Day' (August 14), Muivah, general secretary of the NSCN-IM, said the national flag and constitution were indivisible parts of a 'recognised sovereignty and unique history'. This suggests that the flag and constitution are unsettled issues and have not been dropped by the IM, as claimed in some quarters. Other issues on the table are the Naga army, currency, and Nagalim (integration of Naga-inhabited areas into Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur). The picture is far from clear.

Of the three developments, two are heartening: the involvement of the Nagaland Government and reconciliation between seven Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) and the IM. This would undo any attempt by Ravi to divide and rule by introducing the NNPG, which were not a part of the FA. First, since the talks broke down with Mishra for excluding political points that had been handed over to him by Ravi, a core committee from an opposition-less Nagaland Government (Naga People's Front) allied with the ruling BJP at the Centre has been trying to get the Naga political process resumed. This, especially, after the IM alleged that it was at the behest of the RSS that the talks were stopped and the NNPG brought in with their 'agreed position' of keeping the flag and constitution pending for future to neutralise the IM. Neither Ravi nor Mishra, who resumed the talks with the IM at Dimapur in April that broke down, has unequivocally stated that the flag and constitution are not included in the FA.

Naga lawmakers have urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to have the issue resolved by resuming talks. The 25 years of ceasefire with the Naga groups and IM was celebrated on August 1 with Lt Gen Amarjeet Singh Bedi (ret'd), Chairman of the Ceasefire Monitoring Group, attending the event. Naga lawmakers were browbeaten by Ravi on isolating lawless Naga gangs (referring to the IM) when he was elevated to the post of Nagaland Governor. That created more bad blood, but exposed the IM. Recently, the IM was attacked by Naga legislators, especially Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, who said: "The IM leaders do not want solutions as they enjoy comforts of life with public money." Patton asked the IM to take it or leave it, triggering a war of words, with the IM saying: "They should not overstep their role as facilitator."

Second, the IM and NNPG accepted a covenant of reconciliation with the IM in September, seven years after the FA. This would bring both groups on the same page. In October, the Forum for Naga Reconciliation organised more talks between the two groups on finding the common ground between the NNPG's 'agreed position' and the IM's demand for flag and constitution. Lt Gen VS Atem (ret'd) of the IM and NNPG nullified.

British army could have prevented Partition riots

In 1946, Wavell suggested to the Whitehall to aim the transfer of power by March 1948. "Wavell's own appreciation of any planned British withdrawal was that it must be treated largely as if it were a military plan made in time of war." He wanted the British military to be gradually moved into the Muslim regions, the most restive parts in northern India, "and put down the worst of the communal violence."

Even 75 years after Independence, there is no clarity on why it was necessary to speed up the Partition by hurriedly announcing the Radcliffe Line, which resulted in the horrendous massacre on both sides of the India-Pakistan border. In 2009, American Indologist-historian Stanley Wolpert blamed Lord Louis Mountbatten for this: "Britain's shameful flight from its Indian Empire came only ten weeks after its last viceroy, Lord Louis ("Dickie") Mountbatten, took it upon himself to cut ten months from the brief time allotted by the Labour government's cabinet." He charged him with "withdrawing its air and fleet cover, as well as the shield of British troops and arms, from South Asia's 400 million Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs."

VP Menon, the then Constitutional Adviser to Lord Mountbatten, said in 1957 that the government had expected some amount of violence and had hoped that the 'Boundary Force' of the "carefully picked men of mixed composition" under Major General Rees would be able to cope with the problem. The British government had also believed that the state governments concerned would be able to tackle the problem by themselves. All these hopes were in vain. They did not prepare for the worst mass fury. A research paper (Cambridge University Press) published by Robin Jeffrey on November 28, 2008, which was based on several Partition documents, including 1,200 pages held by Sussex University belonging to the late Major-General TW 'Pete' Rees, had within it a letter from Mountbatten to Congress leader Maulana Abul Kalam Azad saying that he would provide foolproof security in the event of the partition.

On May 14, 1947, the Viceroy assured Abul Kalam Azad that he would "give complete assurance at least on this one question." He would see to it that there was no bloodshed and riot. "I am a soldier, not a civilian. Once partition is accepted in principle, I shall issue orders to see that there are no communal disturbances anywhere in the country." He added that he would adopt the sternest measures to nip the trouble in the bud. "I shall not use even the armed police. I will order the Army to act, and I will use tanks and aeroplanes to suppress anybody who wants to make trouble." However, no such thing happened. Millions died. The British troops did not intervene. Even now, a feeling of guilt persists among



some British researchers. A book, Partition (2017), by Lt Gen Barney White Spunner said that this failure in 1947 "would dictate the history of South Asia for the next seventy years, leading to three wars, countless acts of terrorism, polarisation around the Cold War powers and to two nations with millions living in poverty spending disproportionate amounts on their military."

Research since March 2020 by the "WW2" group in Britain on WWII and post-War history has revealed that as many as six British brigades were present in India at the time of the Partition. This strength was not deployed to prevent or quell violence. However, the group was not sure whether these British units were withheld due to opposition from Indian political leaders, which had first surfaced in 1942.

This doubt arose while reading a book by Daniel Marston, The Indian Army and the End of the Raj (2014), that the Congress leadership was wary of the role of British-led Indian military after the 1942 "Quit India" movement when 57 army battalions were used to assist the police for internal security duties. This combined force had opened fire on civilians 300 times, killing at least 1,000 protesters.

Another important research paper traced by "WW2" was a long 2017 University of Vermont dissertation quoting several Indian authors on the imperial influence on the post-colonial Indian army. Most interesting was the revelation that Viceroy Lord Archibald Wavell, a British military veteran, and his military chief Field Marshall

Claude Auchinleck were on the same page in resisting repeated Whitehall interference, which they considered detrimental to the peaceful transition of power. For example, Auchinleck had opposed the INA trials as it would be harmful to the multi-religious Indian army, but he was overruled. In 1946, Wavell suggested to the Whitehall to aim the transfer of power by March 1948. "Wavell's own appreciation of any planned British withdrawal was that it must be treated largely as if it were a military plan made in time of war." Among other things, he wanted the British military to be gradually moved into the Muslim regions, the most restive parts in northern India, "and put down the worst of the communal violence."

However, the Atlee government chose to ignore his recommendation, which would have appeared as "a military retreat". It chose to replace him with Mountbatten in February 1947 for a political solution. Wavell's "dismissal" and appointment of Lord Mountbatten was criticised by the House of Commons. However, Atlee argued that "the departure of Wavell emphasised that the responsibility for India, and its security, was now in Indian hands, even if it was still constitutionally bound to the United Kingdom." The Vermont paper also said that the June 2, 1947, agreement by the Congress and the Muslim League was "followed on June 4th by the sudden announcement by Mountbatten of August 15th of that year as the date when power would formally transition from Britain to the Dominions." Auchinleck opposed the division of the Indian army on communal lines so soon. When he met Mountbatten, he told him that an orderly division would take at least 10 years, but he was given just 77 days.

However, by that time, Field Marshall Bernard Law Montgomery, Auchinleck's "subordinate" in North Africa in the Second World War, had taken over as the Chief of the Imperial General Staff in London. Montgomery felt that Auchinleck was "wrapped up entirely in the Indian army" and that he paid little heed to the welfare of British soldiers in India. He recommended to Atlee and Mountbatten to dismiss him. Was this the reason for the six British brigades not being deployed? Even if they had been deployed, would they have prevented the massacre?

Gun-free culture

Punjab ban welcome, but it's a complex web of issues

Punjab's ban on the public display of weapons, including on social media, and a thorough review of all arms licences within three months deserve applause. That, plus the ban on songs promoting gun culture are sensible, reasonable steps. But, do these stand a chance? Are the citizens ready for such affirmative measures? Is the official machinery prepared, or, in sync? A licence audit falls within the realm of possibility, but a meaningful action-taken report would be the real test. A clampdown on the display of firearms would demand a tough administrative resolve, at all times, against all offenders, without exception. Ensuring a ban on songs that glorify violence seems well-nigh impossible. There are far too many practitioners, outlets, listeners and viewers.

Gun culture is a complex social construct, built on layers of history and geography. Any administrative action taken in isolation can only have a limited, short-term success. Central to the issue is the apparent public sanction for the brazen reference to guns and, equally



disturbing and offensive, to caste. Why is it that an otherwise outspoken Punjabi finds it unimportant and unnecessary to reject feudalistic, misogynist, casteist

lyrics? Or denounce celebratory firing that often leads to fatalities? An honest conversation has to begin for any mindset change. The government order fills the gap on that aspect. This is also where religious heads have to be roped in. Their partnership in the campaign can have a lasting impact. Past endeavours, such as the appeals on having simple weddings, may not have had encouraging results, but reform takes time. Remaining steadfast is the key. Even the harshest critics of Prime Minister Modi will acknowledge the impact, even if incremental, that his Swachh Bharat Mission has had on the average Indian.

An ostensible reason behind the ban is the deteriorating law and order situation. Evolving a political consensus would be of immense help, but that would require the leaders to live by example. Promoting a gun-free culture becomes difficult when a battery of gun-toting security personnel is considered a measure of power and success. It is not peculiar to Punjab, but the yearning and fascination are undeniable.

All set to steer G20

PM Modi's remarks at the unveiling of the logo, theme and website on India's G20 presidency on November 8 were significant in several respects. India assumes the presidency of the group on December 1; the current president is Indonesia and is holding the 17th summit at Bali on November 15-16. Modi has reached Bali to participate in the summit. Clearly, by putting the logo and theme in the public domain, at this stage, Modi wished to accomplish two objectives: one, convey to the group that India is going to take its presidency very seriously; and, make it known to the country that the summit to be held in India will be a big 'opportunity' and a matter of 'pride' for all Indians.

This is not the first major multilateral summit that the country will be organising. Two earlier summits were the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) of 1983. Both were successfully organised and were important initiatives for the foreign policy that the country pursued then. What will distinguish the 2023 summit, which will mark the culmination of India's leadership of the group, is that it will be the first time that leaders of a group which — as Modi correctly said in his speech — represents 85% of the world's GDP, 75% of its trade and 66% of its population will be in India.

The government is naturally keen that the country welcomes the summit in a united and collective manner. It wants that the G20 presidency and the summit is not viewed from the perspective of the Central government and ruling party only, but that all states and parties come together for it. As Modi put it, 'I have a request to all the state governments and all the political parties as well. This event is not only a Central government event. This event is organised by us Indians.' It would naturally be appropriate for the

G20 leadership to witness not only during the summit, but also all through the year that India stands united to safeguard its interests and has a common view on its destiny and future.

It is here that Modi may run into issues.

The vision of India which emerges from his speech — and this is not surprising — is seeped with the thinking of the dispensation which Modi leads. And, even here, some of the formulations used in his speech break new ground. These are where specific references to Indian philosophical doctrines have been made. It is one matter to say, as has been repeatedly done for years, that the 'world is one family' and needs unity to address the grave issues which confront humankind, but quite another to root that quest for unity in the philosophical doctrines of Advaita. Speaking of the logo of the Indian G20 presidency, Modi said, 'In this logo, the lotus flower is depicting India's mythological heritage, our faith, our heritage, all these together. The contemplation of Advaita here has been the philosophy of the unity of living beings. Through this logo and theme, we have given the message that this philosophy should become a medium to solve today's global conflicts and dilemmas.'

The ruling dispensation has for long projected the glories of India's ancient past to the world. All this is being done to augment India's soft power through the promotion, for instance, of the benefits of yoga and ayurveda. Now, the element of one specific Indian ancient school of philosophy has been added. Also,



भारत 2023 INDIA

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

Modi mentioned, 'Through the G20 India is giving new energy to the global reputation of Buddha's message for freedom from war and Mahatma Gandhi's solution in resistance to violence.' Buddha's teachings and Gandhi's doctrine of nonviolence are specially relevant to the contemporary times, but one of the motivations of recalling all this is to project Indic civilisational tenets.

The issue, though, is if the world, and more specifically, the Global South, has the inclination or the patience to focus on these ideals or is more concerned with practical actions which it wishes India to take. The West's predispositions are known, but what may have come as a surprise to the Modi government is some of the attitudes that the Global South is exhibiting about India. And, this is coming at a time when India wishes to use its G20 presidency to become a bridge between

the developed world and the developing world. Certainly, the remarks of the PM of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, at COP27 on India in the context of climate change cannot be dismissed lightly, even if they were unfair and have been pushed back. Browne was speaking in his capacity as head of the Alliance of Small Island States. India has been a champion of their rights.

Browne included India and China in the list of major emitters of green-house gases and stressed that these countries should, as polluters, pay the states that are impacted by their actions. In doing so, he overlooked India's basic principle that Indian per capita emissions are still very low and, therefore, the focus has to be on developed states that bear the

historical responsibility for climate change. What Browne said shows how difficult it is now to act as a bridge. The fact is that India now straddles two worlds. It remains a developing country with vast poverty and in this capacity, it is really part of 'trade unions', as it was during the non-aligned period. At the same time, it has also made great economic progress and its weight in international affairs has risen, making it a part of some 'managements'. It is no easy task to be part of both trade unions and managements simultaneously. As India takes over the G20 presidency, the global community and the group's members will pay greater attention to how India plays its part in resolving competing interests between the two worlds. References to Indic values should be made and they would be heard by them, but what they would really be looking for are practical measures and actions.

Democracy in Congress

Congress, the longest ruling party of the country, has slipped into ventilator and struggles hard to stand. The party was in the control of the Gandhi family for 38 years and ruled the country for more than five decades since independence. The party chief from the Gandhi family has been enjoying absolute power and absolute power corrupts absolutely. In course of time it made the Congress leaders egoists and corrupt who blundered getting themselves distanced from the activists who worked in the ground. The second blunder of the party is to glorify the leaders who did not have any popularity among the people and knowingly ignoring the popular leaders who were the faces of the party among the mass. After Indira Gandhi and Sanjaya Gandhi, the coteries were active and could easily handle the immature Rajiv Gandhi. Political power came out Gandhi family after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, but again some coquetry like Arjun Singh fought for the cause of Sonia Gandhi. They flattered the party president and encouraged coquetry culture in the party. During the time Idira Gandhi and controlled by the Gandhi family for 38 years, he Congress party and took the country in a very specific direction crushing democratic spirits both in the party and the government. The traditional vote banks of Congress, comprising Muslims, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and people below poverty lines, lost their confidences on the party as a result the tribal and Muslim dominated states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal having 38 percent seats of Lok

Sabha show Congress the door. Even Rahul Gandhi lost his Amethi constituency to BJP. UP has 80 Loka Sabha seats and congress managed to retain only one in 2019 general election. The party has lost the ground in the Bihar. The coalition with the RJD could save security deposit some Congress party candidates in the Assembly election.

The party is sinking fast. So the G -23 could gather courage to shut off letters to Sonia Gandhi for the change of leadership. They demanded for the change of the leadership by the process of election. Under the pressure within the party election held after 22 years without bringing about any changes in the power structures. Sonia backed Malikarjuna Kadge won in a huge margin of votes defeating Shashi THaroor. The coquetry handled the party to suit the Gandhi family. In this way the Gandhi family will enjoy power without responsibility. From 2004 to 2014 the Gandhi family was the de-facto head of the central government without having that much responsibility. Manomohan Singh, the titular head of the state only consume all the poison emitted out of all sorts of corruptions.

The fast changing public mind set does not endorse such high command cultures that Congress has been bred with rather it fails to adapt the changing political scenario. BJP could feel the pulse of public by projecting Modi and promising Hindutwa. Again Congress's Muslim appeasing policy proved to be boomerang and such policy went against congress rising terrorism. BJP could fish

from the troubled water. Public opinion against the party soared but the High command could not take any rational decision to check. BJP, the pro-Hindu party, took mileage from the trouble water of terrorism and Muslim appeasement. The BJP could convince the people that the Congress is Muslim supported party as a result the Hindu voters gradually distracted from the party.

The possibility of restoring people's faith is a challenging task for the new octogenarian president who commands the party by the blessing of the Gandhi family. The Congress leaders still accept Sonia and her children are the real head of the party. Khadge will officially adorn the chair but all the decisions are likely to be made the Tenth Jannapath. Can this change encourage the party activists to work with heart and soul in 2024 general election? In case the change fails convince voters, Congress may not lock its horns with BJP properly. BJP wants the Gandhi family heads the party so that the victory will be less struggling.

Congress has many tough experienced and clean leaders who have the ability not only to steer the party to its destiny but also can snatch power from the hand of Modi-led government. But such leaders are discouraged and their wings are cut off to protect Rahul. Jyotiyaraje Sindhia was one of the leaders who had the ability to fight with BJP and Modi but he was not tolerated by the coquetry. He was deliberately insulted as a result no option had left for him except leaving the party by toppling the Kalmalnath government in MP. The same

situation arises in Rajastan; Rajesh Pilot brought laurel for the party but Asok Gehelot became CM. Congress may face a tough MP-like challenge in Rajastn. The popular leaders having capacity to bring back the Congress to power find no future under the banner of the Gandhi family. So one after another nearly more than 55 congress leaders have joined in different political parties within five years.

An experienced and tough leader can handle the party and can restore faith of people. Such types of leaders are there but the party is still to make itself free from colonial mind set. It seems the party cannot survive without the blessing of the Gandhi family but in the present context the common young educated voters compare between the leaders of different parties and their ideologies. In these perspectives Congress is lagging behind BJP and the government technically handles the national electronics media to project Rahul Gandhi, the prime ministerial candidate, as immature, novice incapable of handling the country facing malty-faceted challenges from the side and outside.

If no party could get the statuses of opposition only securing ten percent seats in Lok Sabha that is the weakness of the party. Congress who is supposed to be the opposition face must restore itself as per the dream and demand of the people. If congress fails to secure the status of opposition in Loka Sabha again it will dig its own grave in national level as it has already done n seven states where there is not single MP elected in for a decade.

MANORANJAN BEHURA

Role of Media in Nation Building Discussed

Berhampur, (TNB): Under the Chairmanship of Ravi Narayan Behera, District Information and Public Relations Officer, National Press Day has been organised in Chhatrapur. A discussion on the Role of Media in Nation Building was set up. District Information and Public Relations Officer Mr. Behera enlightened the role, goals and objectives of mass media in Nation Building. Since the 18th century, Mass Media is changing at a rapid pace. Now mass media is not only spread only in the field of print but also many innovations have come through Electronic Media. He also said that Social Media has taken the main role in providing news from the bottom level. Additional District Collector Priyaranjan Parwari joined as the chief guest, Additional District Magistrate Mr. Parwari felicitated all the journalists on the occasion of National Press Day and in his speech gave views on impartial news service and said that any news or in-



formation can reach the public at a very fast pace these days, here he also thanked the media persons. The role of the news is important in creating reforms in the society. In times of danger, journalists work on the ground floor. Therefore, the working organizations must also make efforts towards the protection of journalists.

On the request of Prashant Kumar Maharana, President of Chhatrapur Press Club, a silent prayer was offered for the repose of the immortal soul of senior journalist krupasindhu Panda. Senior journalist Rabintra Kumar Panda expressed

his view about the news service and if the truth is revealed from the grassroots level, it will change the society and can play a major role in the development of the nation. Mr. Panda thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister for including the journalists in the Health Insurance scheme by giving identity cards.

Adviser of Chhatrapur Press Club Shrikant Mohanty emphasized that if there is no free and unbiased media, arbitrariness will increase as a result of which it will cause a heavy loss to the society. The role of mass media is very important in curbing anti-social activity and corrup-

tion from the society. Journalists play a key role in reducing corruption and injustice. Senior journalist Narayan Mahakund informed that the Press Council of India came into effect on November 16, 1966. That day is celebrated as National Press Day.

The role of News Media is important in the development of society. There should be unity and brotherhood among journalists and provide impartial news. It is time for self-examination for all involved in the media today. In the end, senior journalist Satasya Kumar Padhi expressed his gratitude and said that journalists are the watchmen. Therefore, if you can change the progressive mentality by serving news by staying away from commercial competition, the growth of journalism and journalists will be seen. Senior Social Worker Arun Kumar Satapathy coordinated the seminar on "Role of Media in Nation Building" held on the occasion of National Press Day.

Vipra Foundation celebrated Children's Day under the leadership of Seema Uttam at Rajgangpur

Rajesh Dahima

Rajgangpur, On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Children's Day was celebrated with pomp among the children of the Anganwadi Center under the leadership of Mrs. Seema Uttam Sharma, President of the women's cell of the city's well-known organization Vipra Foundation. On the occasion, Mrs. Seema Uttam Sharma, President of Women's Cell of Vipra Foundation told the children of Anganwadi center present in her own style that the country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru loved children very much. He said that children are the future of the country. And it is the responsibility of the parents to educate them and make them good citizens.

In order to increase the morale and enthusiasm of the children, the Women's Cell of Vipra Foundation distributed sweets, stationery items and Vaseline among the children to provide relief to the children in the rainy season. On this occasion, Vice President of Vipra Foundation Women's Cell Isha Sharma, Treasurer Mrs. Shobha Sharma, Secretary Mrs. Roshni Chandan Sharma and other members helped to make this program a success by being present.



SHM organises 15-day cooking training program for women



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): A fortnight-long cooking training program for women was inaugurated at the School of Hotel Management (SHM), faculty of hospitality and tourism management of SOA, here on Wednesday. Thirty persons, who had enrolled for the program christened 'Wee Can Cook', would be trained in preparation of nutritious Indian and continental food as also in bakery and confectionary. Besides, they would also be trained in preparation of popular mocktails and other food and beverage service activities.

Saroja Choudhury, Managing Director, Rosy's Kitchen and chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the program which was also attended by Prof. Manjula Das, SOA's Controller of Examination. Choudhury said that women, who had the gift of cooking, should learn to be self-sufficient by using their talent while Prof. Das, who was the guest of honour, said that women had the responsibility to keep the family healthy and safe. Dr. Sapan Kumar Sadual, Dean In-charge of SHM and other faculty members were present on the occasion.

Car catches fire in Khordha, no one injured

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): A car parked in Baghamari market in Khordha town caught fire on Wednesday. A cultural troupe that was on board narrowly escaped from the fire mishap. Sources said, that a cultural troupe (Pala group) was going for a programme in a gas-run Maruti van. They parked the car at the Baghamari market in Khordha for a breakfast.

KIIT Silver Jubilee Kicks Off

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) inaugurated the Silver Jubilee celebration (Soil to Silver) here, with more than 75000 students, faculties, and staff congregating for the grand opening programme. Addressing the gathering, the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta said the prime objective of the celebration is to extend gratitude to all the stakeholders who are connected with

the institute and have helped the Founder in every step of the University's eventful journey to attain excellence. "We started from scratch, from a rented accommodation to transform into one of the biggest campuses in the country. This by no means is a small achievement. I owe this achievement to every one of you who have toiled hard and has sacrificed a greater part of their lives for the cause of KIIT," he said, adding during the 25

years, KIIT has achieved several education milestones.

The Silver Jubilee celebration will be held over a three-month period, during which the University has lined up 30 events, including a vice chancellor's conference. Each of the events will capture a particular theme and invite speakers who come from different walks of life. Dr Samanta said, KIIT was set up in 1992 as an ITI, operating from a rented accommodation. KIIT

started by offering technical and professional courses in the graduate and undergraduate levels in 1997. KIIT and KISS, he said is a blend of perfect harmony and each one of them with 30,000 students are pursuing their education in a congenial atmosphere, the Founder said. About 25 staff of the University, who have remained associated with the university since its inception shared their feelings on the occasion along with other dignitaries.

State-level Newspaper Exhibition held, Digitization of old and rare newspapers will be done



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): On the occasion of National Press Day, a newspaper exhibition has been organized at the Jaydev Bhawan on behalf of the State Information and Public Relations Department. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, State Rural Development, Information and Public Relations Department as the Chief Guest. Among others, the director of the Department Mr. Indramani Tripathi and the chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation Dr. Lenin Mohanty attended as the chief guest.

Inaugurating the exhibition and visiting it, Principal secretary Shri Singh said that the exhibition contains many old and rare newspapers which need to be digitized to preserve them for future needs. Principal Secretary Shri Singh ordered to take necessary steps in this direction. Also, as the newspapers and magazines on display were very interesting and informative, he asked to arrange a permanent gallery so that the public could see them forever. Similarly, Shri Singh also emphasized on setting up an information board on the development of the series of newspapers in Odisha.

NABARD Sanctions Rs. 220.50 crore to Govtof Odisha for Flood Protection Projects & Box Cell bridge over Sankha creek

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): NABARD, has sanctioned 57 Flood Protection Projects & 01 Rural Bridge amounting Rs. 220.50cr to Government of Odisha under RIDF Tranche XXVIII. The project will help two credit starved districts of Kendrapara and Nuapada, four

aspirational districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Rayagada, six LWE affected districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Rayagada and eight disaster affected districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Khurda,

Nayagarh, Nuapada and Sonapur.

The project would be implemented by Department of Water Resources (DWR- Major & Medium), Government of Odisha. The project envisages protection and restoration of river banks at 57 identified stretches on 32

different rivers/creeks for restoration/ stabilization of agricultural land, standing crops and providing flood relief operations by construction of one rural bridge.

The Major items of work for flood protection include Repairing & strengthening of scoured

banks of the rivers 50.69 km, construction of launching aprons and stone packing of slope of embankments, raising and strengthening of embankments (107.74 km), construction of CC guard wall, etc, construction of 93 new spurs, provision of BT road on embank-

ments for a total length of 57.78 km. The proposal also involves construction of a Box Cell bridge over Sankha creek in Jagatsinghpur district. The creek has sluices to prevent saline ingress into the farmlands at Patua and Baghadi respectively.

Amazon planning to lay off 10,000 employees: Report

Washington. Amazon is planning to lay off about 10,000 employees in corporate and technology jobs starting as soon as this week, the New York Times reported on Monday, citing people with knowledge of the matter. The job cuts will focus on the e-commerce giant's devices unit, which houses voice-assistant Alexa, as well as its retail division and human resources, according to the report, which also said the total number of layoffs remains fluid. The unit that houses Alexa had posted an operating loss of more than \$5 billion a year, with Amazon mulling if it should focus on adding new capabilities when customers use the device for only a few functions.

The company did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. The layoffs represent about 3 per cent of its corporate staff, the Times reported. Amazon had recently said it would freeze hiring to corporate workforce for the next few months. The news comes just weeks after Amazon



warned of a slowdown in growth for the busy holiday season when it generates the highest sales, saying consumers and businesses had less money to

spend due to rising prices.

Amazon is the latest US company to make deep cuts to its employee base to brace for a potential economic downturn. Last week, Facebook-parent Meta Platforms said it would cut more than 11,000 jobs, or 13 per cent of its workforce, to rein in costs. Other companies include Elon Musk-owned Twitter, Microsoft and Snap.

Slowing economic growth and rising costs of labor and transportation have hobbled companies that had hired aggressively during the pandemic when the demand for e-commerce for cloud-based services surged. Now with consumer demand taking a hit from rising prices and borrowing costs, many are considering job cuts. Shares of Amazon, which have lost about 40 per cent of their value so far this year, briefly pared losses and were last trading down 2 per cent.

Markets give up early gains; trade in negative territory

Mumbai. Equity benchmark indices on Tuesday gave up their initial gains to trade lower. After a positive beginning, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 158.85 points to 61,783 in early trade. The broader NSE Nifty had advanced 49 points to 18,378.15.

However, both the benchmark indices later turned choppy and were trading lower. The BSE benchmark quoted 166.7 points lower at 61,457.45 and the Nifty traded 37.10 points down at 18,292.05.

From the Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major winners in early deals.



ITC, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma and HDFC were among the laggards. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in

Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were quoting higher, while Seoul traded lower.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.13 per cent lower at USD 93.02 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors remained net buyers on Monday as they bought shares worth Rs 1,089.41 crore, as per exchange data.

After FTX Collapse, Cryptocurrency Sector Fights Back

London. The failure of the FTX platform has undermined investor confidence and threatened the young cryptocurrency sector, pushing its main players to mobilise to save it. The boss of the largest cryptocurrency exchange platform, Binance, did everything to reassure investors on Tuesday.

"The projects that survive this difficult time will be much stronger later on," said Changpeng Zhao in response to questions from Internet users on Twitter.

But for now, the market is shaken.

Cryptocurrencies are valued at \$870 billion, according to data from Cointelligence, a site that lists more than 13,000 of them through 600 exchanges.

Less than ten days ago it was over \$1 trillion, and at its highest a year ago, \$3 trillion, most of which evaporated as bitcoin prices crashed (-74% over one year), but also Ethereum (-73%) or Dogecoin (-67%).

The bankruptcy of FTX, which even in early November was still considered one of the most reliable platforms, is a reminder to investors of the sector's uncertainty.

The company must liquidate its cryptoassets and its stakes in companies to pay off its creditors, flooding the market. Cryptocurrencies are already recovering from a similar crisis in the first half of the year when the cryptocurrency Terra saw its price collapse, dragging bitcoin down with it.

- 'Pour water on fire' -

But this time around, FTX was an even bigger player.

"There are parallels to be drawn with Lehman Brothers", the Wall Street giant whose bankruptcy in 2008 amplified the financial crisis, said Walid Koudmani, analyst at XTB, who told AFP that the possibility of an outright end to cryptocurrencies may even arise.

The fall in cryptocurrencies, however, comes in a rising global market, and seems to indicate that cryptoassets are not yet significantly correlated with the real economy. "But I don't think it's going to fail as an industry, or as a concept," said Koudmani.

US Orders Tata-Led Air India to pay \$121.5 Million As Passenger Refunds

Washington. The US has ordered Tata-group owned Air India to pay a whopping \$121.5 million as refunds and \$1.4 million as penalties for extreme delays in providing refunds to passengers due to the cancellation or change in flights, mostly during the pandemic, officials said.

Air India is among the six airlines that have agreed to cough up a total of over \$600 million as refunds, the US Department of Transportation said on Monday. Air India's policy of "refund on request" is contrary to the Department of Transportation policy, which mandates air carriers to legally refund tickets in the case of cancellation or change in flight, officials said. The cases in which Air India was asked to pay the refund and agreed to pay the penalty were before the national carrier was acquired by the Tatas.

According to an official investigation, Air India took more than 100 days to process



more than half of the 1,900 refund complaints filed with the Department of Transportation for flights that the carrier cancelled or significantly changed.

Air India could not provide the agency with information regarding the time it took to process refunds to passengers who filed complaints and requested refunds directly with the carrier.

"Irrespective of Air India's stated refund policy, in practice Air India did not provide timely refunds. As a result,

consumers experienced significant harm from the extreme delay in receiving their refunds," the US Department of Transportation said.

In addition to Air India, the other airlines that were slapped fines include Frontier, TAP Portugal, Aero Mexico, EI AI, and Avianca. The Department of Transportation said Air India was ordered to pay \$121.5 million in refunds to its passengers and pay \$1.4 million as fine.

Frontier was ordered to pay \$222 million in refunds and \$2.2 million in penalty. TAP Portugal will pay \$126.5 million as refund and \$1.1 million in penalty; Avianca (\$76.8 million in refund and \$750,000 in penalty), EI AI (\$61.9 million in refund and \$900,000 as penalty) and Aero Mexico (\$13.6 million in refund and \$900,000 as penalty).

In addition to the more than \$600 million as refunds that airlines have paid, the Department of Transportation

announced that it is assessing more than \$7.25 million in civil penalties against these six airlines for extreme delays in providing refunds. With Monday's fines, the Department's Office of Aviation Consumer Protection has assessed \$8.1 million in civil penalties in 2022, the largest amount ever issued in a single year by that office, a media release said. Under the US law, airlines and ticket agents have a legal obligation to refund consumers if the airline cancels or significantly changes a flight to, from and within the US, and the passenger does not wish to accept the alternative offered. It is unlawful for an airline to refuse refunds and instead provide vouchers to such consumers, the Department of Transportation said.

"When a flight gets cancelled, passengers seeking refunds should be paid back promptly. Whenever that doesn't happen, we will act to hold airlines accountable on behalf of American travellers and get passengers their money back," said US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

At G20 Summit, Five Central Banks Sign Agreements For Cross-Border Payments

Bali. Bank Indonesia, Bank Negara Malaysia, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Monetary Authority of Singapore, and Bank of Thailand have agreed to strengthen and enhance cooperation on more inclusive cross-border payments.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in Regional Payment Connectivity was signed on Monday in Bali, Indonesia, on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit, Singaporean central bank Monetary Authority of Singapore said in a statement. At the MoU signing ceremony, Indonesia's President Joko Widodo emphasised the importance of concrete joint collaborative action in addressing global challenges. The President also expressed his highest appreciation to

the Governors of the five central banks for their commitment to delivering innovative breakthroughs that will further accelerate regional payment connectivity, the statement added. This regional payment connectivity is expected to be a significant contributor to accelerating regional economic recovery and promoting inclusive growth.

"The implementation of cross-border payment connectivity serves to support and facilitate cross-border trade, investment, financial deepening, remittance, tourism, and other economic activities, as well as a more inclusive financial ecosystem in the region," it said. More so particularly beneficial for micro, small, and medium enterprises as it will facilitate their participation in

international markets. The cooperation will include a number of modalities, including QR code and fast payment mechanism.

The statement added the payment cooperation initiative is also in line with Indonesia's G20 Presidency priority agenda in the area of digital transformation, including through payment systems in the digital era, manifested by the joint efforts to pursue enhanced cross-border payment connectivity involving Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Going forward, this payment connectivity initiative, the statement said, could be expanded to include other countries in the region and potentially other partner countries outside the region.

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Discloses \$4.1 Billion Stake In Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing

Berkshire Hathaway said it bought more than \$4.1 billion of stock in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing, a rare significant foray into the technology sector by billionaire Warren Buffett's conglomerate.

The news sent shares in TSMC up more than 6% in Taiwan on Tuesday, as it boosted investor sentiment for the world's largest contract chipmaker, which saw its shares hit a two-year low last month due to a sharp slowdown in global chip demand.

In a Monday regulatory filing describing its U.S.-listed equity investments as of Sept. 30, Berkshire said it owned about 60.1 million American depositary shares of TSMC.

Berkshire also disclosed new stakes of \$297 million in building materials company Louisiana-Pacific Corp and



\$13 million in Jefferies Financial Group Inc. It exited an investment in Store Capital Corp, a real estate company that agreed in September to be taken private.

The filing did not specify whether Buffett or his portfolio managers Todd Combs and Ted Weschler made specific purchases and sales. Investors often try to piggy back on what Berkshire buys. Larger investments are normally Buffett's.

"Crypto Is Not Going Away": Binance CEO Casts Himself As New Saviour

Among the many things shattered in the collapse of FTX was the image of Sam Bankman-Fried as the crypto industry's benevolent king. Now the man who hastened his demise with a tweet appears to want that job for himself.

Changpeng "CZ" Zhao, head of Binance Holdings Ltd., issued a flurry of tweets and comments in recent days seemingly aimed at bolstering his credentials as crypto's standard-bearer, capping them Monday by announcing a fund to aid crypto firms in crisis.

That triggered a rebound in digital-asset prices even though he was short on detail. CZ also unveiled plans to help set up a global industry body for major crypto firms. To reduce further cascading negative effects of FTX, Binance is forming an industry recovery fund, to help projects who are otherwise strong, but in a liquidity crisis. More details to come soon. In the meantime, please contact Binance Labs if you think you qualify. 1/2 — CZ ?? Binance (@cz_binance) November 14, 2022

"Crypto is not going away. We are still here. Let's rebuild," Zhao, 45, said in his Monday tweet thread announcing the recovery fund. Other recent public comments have highlighted the need to re-establish trust in a sector rocked by a series of scandals this year. A



spokesperson for Binance had no comment. FTX's bankruptcy has rekindled concerns about everything from the legitimacy of crypto's leaders to the soundness of its fundamental structures, with former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers comparing the company to Enron Corp. — whose reorganization, coincidentally, was overseen by the man now tapped to run FTX.

So if the industry ever needed a unifying voice to quell the skeptics and shore up its crumbling credibility, it's now.

But Zhao's own role in the latest meltdown might complicate his status as the industry's champion, regardless of the fact that FTX's financial issues were likely long in the making, as highlighted in a Nov. 2 CoinDesk story. The Binance CEO is no stranger to the tweet-first-ask-questions-later ethos of crypto, an industry where leaders routinely use the platform to disparage each other.

Read more: Alpha-Male Crypto

'Bloodsport' Sows a Catastrophe at FTX

Zhao's Nov. 6 tweet about selling a large chunk of FTX's native token FTT further unsettled crypto markets, with investors yanking some \$5 billion from Bankman-Fried's exchange that same day. FTX quickly unraveled. "CZ announced he was dumping half a billion worth of FTT for everyone to hear on Twitter," said Max Gokhman, chief investment officer at asset manager AlphaTrAI.

"That's sort of like seeing someone at the bottom of a mountain and then kicking a snowball downhill. You know full well it'll create an avalanche." As part of Binance's exit from FTX equity last year, Binance received roughly \$2.1 billion USD equivalent in cash (BUSD and FTT). Due to recent revelations that have come to light, we have decided to liquidate any remaining FTT on our books. 1/4 — CZ ?? Binance (@cz_binance) November 6, 2022

In an "ask me anything" appearance on Twitter Spaces on Monday, Zhao accepted some responsibility for the episode but said he didn't anticipate the fallout.

"Five years later, when we look back at this, the industry will become stronger because of this," he said. "So as much as some people blame me for whistle blowing, or poking the bubble, I apologize for that. But I actually didn't know my tweet would

cause so much change."

Tensions between Bankman-Fried and Zhao, both so familiar inside and outside crypto that they go by their initials SBF and CZ, had been on full display for months before this crisis erupted.

Their Twitter dueling descended into outright acrimony in October with a since-deleted tweet from 30-year-old Bankman-Fried that appeared to question Zhao's status in Washington and by extension Binance's relationship with regulators. Read more: Crypto's Richest Man Faces Regulatory Crackdown, Brutal Winter With FTX gone and Bankman-Fried's reputation, career and fortune in tatters, Zhao stands as the lone giant of the industry. Binance handled almost half of global crypto trading volumes over the past week; runner-up Coinbase Global Inc. came in at just over 5%, data from CryptoCompare show.

Richest Man In Crypto

Yet even those numbers capture only part of Zhao's reach in crypto, with Binance a force in everything from venture capital to decentralized finance. Except for Bankman-Fried, only Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin, Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong and Galaxy Digital founder Michael Novogratz enjoy anything similar to Zhao's global name recognition.



MUMBAI. The Reserve Bank of India is likely to opt for a 35 basis points (bps) rate hike at its policy meeting in December, after three consecutive 50 bps increases, as inflation eased in October and is likely to dip further, analysts said.

The RBI has already raised rates by 190 bps since May, to 5.90 per cent, as it battles to reign in inflation that has stayed above its 2-6 per cent tolerance band for ten straight months now. Its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will next meet on Dec. 7.

Still, inflation eased to a three-month low of 6.77 per cent in October from a five-month high of 7.41 per cent in September, helped by a slower rise in food prices and a higher base effect, which economists said would mean smaller rate hikes going forward.

"Our base case envisages a 35 bps hike in December and a final 25 bps hike in February for a terminal repo rate of 6.50 per cent," said Nomura economists, Sonal Varma and Aurodeep Nandi.

Barclays expects inflation to ease further to 6.5 per cent in November and also forecasts a 35 bps hike next month, before the RBI shifts to a neutral stance. Meanwhile, India Ratings expects an even sharper pullback given that the central bank has a front-loaded monetary tightening policy.

"We expect a status quo or, at best, a 25 bps rate hike in December." Kotak Mahindra Bank said while inflation remains elevated, it likely peaked in September and favourable base effects would guide the inflation trajectory to below 6 per cent from March.

The private lender's economists also expect a 35 bps hike in December and expect the MPC members to evaluate the impact of "previous rate hikes, improving sowing patterns of wheat and seasonal fall in perishable food items, and spillovers from global slowdown on the domestic economy."

NEWS BOX

Shoaib Malik drops birthday message for Sania Mirza on Twitter amid rumors of their divorce



New Delhi. Pakistan batter Shoaib Malik has penned a sweet birthday message for Sania Mirza amid rumors of their divorce. With the Indian tennis star turning 36 today, her husband took to social media to wish her. The two widely-followed sports stars tied the knot in 2010 and welcomed a baby boy, Ishaan Mirza Malik, in 2018. The Pakistani batter took to Twitter and Instagram to post a message wishing Sania Mirza a very happy birthday. "Happy Birthday to you, Sania Mirza. Wishing you a very healthy & happy life! Enjoy the day to the fullest," Malik posted on Twitter. The two sports stars are also set to come together for a show on a popular OTT platform in Pakistan, Urduflix. "The Mirza Malik Show very soon only on Urduflix," the OTT platform said in an Instagram post.

Sania Mirza and Shoaib Malik, according to various media reports, were contemplating divorce and the tennis star even moved out of her Dubai residence which she had shared with Malik. Both Malik and Mirza have not responded to speculation about a potential split so far. Sania has been competing on the tennis tour, Malik has been playing competitive cricket across the globe.

Sania's recent posts on social media gave rise to speculation that something is not right between the two. She recently posted a photo on Instagram with the caption, "Where do broken hearts go?" "To seek Allah."

Shoaib recently appeared on the Pakistani cricket show 'Ask the Pavillion,' where he was asked about Sania's tennis academies.

Shoaib responded that he didn't know much about the academies. Shoaib's response surprised Waqar Younis, who joked, "What kind of husband are you?"

Earlier in the year, Sania announced her retirement from professional tennis but the superstar tennis player altered her plans after pulling out of US Open 2022.

Sania had injured her elbow before the start of the US Open, which would have proved to be her swansong.

ATP Finals: Novak Djokovic defeats Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets, wins ninth consecutive encounter



New Delhi. 21-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in straight sets at the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy. This was Djokovic's ninth consecutive victory over the Greek tennis star.

The Serb downed Tsitsipas 6-4, 7-6(4) to get off to a winning start in the tournament. Djokovic broke Tsitsipas' serve in his very first service game, putting him in instant pressure. Djokovic held from there to close out the first set 6-4 in his favor.

The second set was a tight one with Djokovic playing a cross-court backhand passing shot to see him move ahead in the second-set tiebreaker. Surprisingly, the Serbian had fewer aces and more double faults compared to Tsitsipas in the match. Djokovic won 66 points during the course of the match, hitting 33 winners with only 12 unforced errors. Meanwhile, Tsitsipas racked up 24 winners with 22 unforced errors.

Speaking after the match, Djokovic stressed the importance of breaking his opponent's serve, insisting that it gave him a huge boost of confidence.

"The first game was obviously very important to break his serve. After that, you know, starting with a break of serve, it's obviously a huge boost of confidence and a relief as well, because, you know, we both knew that this is going to be a tough and tight match for both of us. We played some really close matches in the last few tournaments against each other," said Djokovic.

Earlier, Russia's Andrey Rublev sealed a 6-7 (7), 6-3, 7-6 (7) win over fellow countryman Daniil Medvedev in the other Red Group match. Following his win, Rublev wrote "Peace, Peace, Peace, All we need," on a TV camera lens in an apparent reference to the war in Ukraine.

Rublev and Medvedev, along with all Russian and Belarus tennis players, have been competing without their flag or country next to their names as part of widespread sports sanctions due to Russia's war with Ukraine.

On This Day: Sachin Tendulkar makes international debut and plays his last Test innings 24 years later

New Delhi. On this day in 1989, legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar made his international debut. 24 years later, in 2013, Tendulkar played his final Test innings on the same day at the Wankhede stadium.

Tendulkar ended his career as the highest run scorer in international cricket, scoring a whopping 34,357 runs in 664 matches but it all started with a 24-ball 15 in Karachi.

At 16 years and 205 days, Tendulkar remains the youngest to play international cricket for India. The Master Blaster walked out to face a deadly Pakistan bowling attack consisting of Wasim Akram, Imran Khan and debutant Waqar Younis. It was a memorable day for Waqar as well, as he dismissed Tendulkar, who did not get to bat in the second innings as the match ended as a draw.

Tendulkar would go on to play a mind-blowing 200 Test matches and amass 15,291 runs with 51 centuries and 68 half centuries, maintaining an impressive average of 53.78. When it comes to one-day internationals, Tendulkar scored a whopping 18,426 runs with 49 centuries and 96 half centuries, at an



average of 44.83 in 463 matches. He played his final match in his home ground at the Wankhede stadium when India hosted the West Indies. Then India captain MS Dhoni won the toss and chose to bowl first, much to the dismay of the crowd. But India ended up bowling the West Indies out for



just 182 runs with Pragyan Ojha picking up five wickets. In the second innings, openers Shikhar Dhawan and Murali Vijay scored 77 runs in the first 13 overs before Shane Shillingford dismissed both players in the same over. But the wicket of Vijay was met with

celebrations as it meant that Tendulkar would come out to bat for one last time at the international stage. The Master Blaster put up 144 runs for the third wicket with Cheteshwar Pujara, which remained India's best partnership. He went on to complete his 68th Test half-century and even looked set for a sensational last-match century, but fell to Narsingh Deonarine on 74 off 118 balls. His partnership with Pujara helped India win the game by an innings and 126 runs.

Speaking to the crowd after the game, an emotional Tendulkar said it is hard to believe that his wonderful journey was over.

"All my friends, settle down let me talk, I will get more and more emotional. My life, between 22 yards for 24 years, it is hard to believe that that wonderful journey has come to an end, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank people who have played an important role in my life," said Tendulkar.

The Mumbai-born batter still remains the only one to have scored 100 centuries in international cricket.

Trent Boult, Martin Guptill left out of New Zealand's squad for upcoming white-ball series against India

New Delhi. New Zealand's left-arm pacer Trent Boult has been dropped for the upcoming white-ball series against India. Along with Boult, the experienced Martin Guptill has also not been included in New Zealand's squad for the series starting from November 18.

New Zealand are set to play three T20Is and three ODIs against India. The BlackCaps announced a pair of 13-man squads for the upcoming series. Kane Williamson is set to retain his captaincy in both formats.

Hard-hitting opening batter Finn Allen has been selected in place of the aging Guptill. Meanwhile, Boult will not be featuring since he asked to be released from the central contract with New Zealand Cricket so he could spend some time at home with his family.

New Zealand coach Gary Stead said leaving Boult and Guptill out was a difficult decision for the team management but they had to make the call keeping in mind the tournaments in future. "When Trent opted



out of his NZC contract in August, we indicated that priority would be given to those players with either central or domestic contracts, and that's been the case here. We're all aware of Trent's world class ability, but at this time - as we build towards more global events, we want to give opportunities and experiences to others," said Stead. He went on to say that Allen replaced Guptill in the squad, in order to gain ODI experience, especially against a strong opposition like India. "The emergence and success of Finn at the

top of the order in white-ball cricket means a guy of the class of Martin Guptill misses out - that's just the nature of high performance sport. With the 50-over World Cup less than a year away we're keen to give Finn every opportunity to keep gaining ODI experience, especially against quality opposition such as India. The message to both those players is that there's a lot of international cricket ahead and the door is certainly not closed to them," Stead added.

The tour begins with a three-game T20I series across Wellington, Tauranga and Napier before moving into the ODI series across Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch. New Zealand squad: Kane Williamson (c), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway (wk), Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry (ODI), Tom Latham (ODI) (wk), Daryl Mitchell, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi (T20), Tim Southee, Blair Tuckner (T20)

England coach Matthew Mott wants to persuade Ben Stokes to reverse ODI retirement for World Cup defence

New Delhi. England coach Matthew Mott wants to persuade Ben Stokes to reverse his 50-over retirement and help the team defend their 50-over World Cup title next year in India. Stokes, who played a heroic knock in England's victory over Pakistan in the T20 World Cup final in Melbourne, retired from ODIs in July, citing the "unsustainable" rigour of playing all formats.

"This has been an incredibly tough decision to make," Stokes had said. "I have loved every minute of playing with my mates for England. Hard as this decision was to come to, it's not as hard as dealing with the fact I can't give my teammates 100% of myself in this format anymore."

"The England shirt deserves nothing less from anyone who wears it. Three formats are just unsustainable for me now. Not only do I feel that my body is letting me



down because of the schedule and what is expected of us but I also feel that I am taking the place of another player who can give the team their all." Notably, Stokes was also the hero of England's maiden 50-over World Cup triumph in 2019, when he hit an unbeaten 84 in the tense final win over New Zealand at Lord's. Stokes scored 2,924 runs at an average of 38.98 in 105 One-Day Internationals. In 90 innings, the

all-rounder willow produced three centuries and 21 half-centuries, with the highest score of 102*.

With fewer T20s scheduled in the coming year, Mott is eager to entice Stokes back to the 50-over setup ahead of the next World Cup.

"When he spoke to me about his ODI retirement one of the first things I said was that I'd back any decision he made, but I said to him he didn't necessarily have to retire, he could just not play 50-overs for a while," Mott told British media.

"And I said: 'You could always unretire.' 'That's his decision. It's going to be a World Cup year and we don't play much T20 cricket for a while, but it will be up to him. The more we can get him is great.' England defend their 50-over title in India in October/November next year.

Manchester United didn't believe my daughter was ill in hospital when I missed pre-season: Cristiano Ronaldo

Star forward Cristiano Ronaldo has slammed Manchester United for not trusting him when he returned "late for pre-season" due to his "daughter's illness".

New Delhi. Cristiano Ronaldo has lashed out at Manchester United for not 'supporting' and 'trusting him' when his sick daughter was taken to hospital in July. Ronaldo said that the Old Trafford club doubted him and showed a lack of empathy when he did not arrive on time for pre-season training.

Cristiano Ronaldo described his baby's death as the "greatest pain," and he received condolences from around the world, including from the Royal Family. Ronaldo, in the same explosive interview, said that he felt "betrayed" by Manchester United and claimed that manager Erik ten Hag and other



people around the club are trying to force him out. "I spoke with the director and the president of Man Utd and they kind of didn't believe that something was going wrong, which made me feel bad," Ronaldo said in an interview with Piers Morgan for TalkTV. "I didn't want to leave my family to do

the pre-season because I didn't think it was fair to leave my family for a pre-season. This is why I didn't go.

"I am never going to change the health of my family for football. Now, or 10 years behind or forward."

Ronaldo added that he spent a week in the hospital with his daughter and that his family struggled with everything that was happening. "The Glazers, they don't care about the club or professional sport. Manchester (United) is a marketing club," he said. "I want the best for the club. This is why I came to Manchester United

and why I love the club. "But you have some things inside that don't help (us) reach the top level as (Manchester) City, Liverpool and even now Arsenal... a club with this dimension should be top of the tree in my opinion and they are not, unfortunately."

Ronaldo went on to say that it would be difficult for United to remain at the top of the game in the next two to three years. Ronaldo's first stint at United was under former manager Alex Ferguson, who retired in 2013. Ferguson, according to the Portuguese, shares his opinion of the club.

"He knows. Everyone knows. The people who don't see that... it's because they don't want to see, they are blind."

Help Desk in Govt MCHs to be Strengthened

Health Secretary directed to designate a suitable Nursing Officer as Swasthya Sanajoak

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Following directions of Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik for making universal clinical care under BSKY more easy and accessible for common people, Secretary Health and Family Welfare Smt Shalini Pandit has directed Superintendents of All Govt Medical Colleges and Hospitals (MCHs) to strengthen Help Desk system in their respective institutions.

Issuing the direction today, Smt Pandit said, "Learning from Covid-19 showed that informing the attendants/relatives about the patients' updated health condition was of crucial importance for mitigating their anxiety". She added that such system would also be "be quite helpful to the relatives/attendants of the patients in ICU/HDU of Govt MCHs where access of others is restricted".

The Superintendents of MCHs were directed to regularize functioning of the helpdesks by nominating one Senior Nursing Officer as Swasthya Sanajoak. Smt Pandit made it clear that the Nursing Officer having suitable attitude and aptitude might be nominated for the purpose. Swasthya Sanajoak "will act as a link between the hospital and patients' family/attendants" for

dissemination of updated information about treatment and health condition of the indoor patients. It may be pertinent to mention here that earlier Government had engaged Swasthya Sahayaks in all the private hospitals empanelled under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) for facilitating cashless treatment to poor patients enrolled

under BSKY. As of now, these Swasthya Sahayaks are operating in 402 private empanelled hospitals in different districts of the State. The system functioned well as number of patients getting cashless treatment in private hospitals showed constant increase. With dedicated Swasthya Sanajoak in Govt MCHs, felt-need of the people would be met thereby providing a fillip to the universal health care under BSKY.

Red Cross holds blood camp At Baliyatra Cuttack

Cuttack, (TNB): Under the guidance of Honorary Secretary Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Pattnaik (Retd. IAS) a social service camp on the eve of Baliyatra 2022 Cuttack has been organised. Red Cross provided different kinds of services like First Aid Service, Stretcher Service to the visitors of Baliyatra. Awareness on Swachhata Abhiyan, Clean and Green Environment Campaign, Blood Donation, HIV AIDS, Dengue, First Aid were created among the public. To meet the blood short, Red Cross has taken a good initiative to motivate the visitors for blood donation and Every Day an average of twenty visitors have been donated blood in the blood collecting Van at Red Cross social Service Camp Stall. Central Red Cross blood Centre joined and collected the blood units. YRC and JRC Counsellors, Volunteers and staff members of IRCS OSB have been creating awareness and motivating the visitors of Historic Baliyatra for blood donation.

Indian Naval Ship Open for Visitors At Gopalpur

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): As part of Navy Day Celebrations 2022, Indian Naval Ship Kirch will be open for visitors on 18 Nov 22 (0900h to 1600h) and 19 Nov 22 (0900h to 1200h) at Gopalpur Port. The visit will provide an opportunity to the local populace for a guided tour of the Warship. During the event, the public will be briefed on various parts of the ship and visiting students will be explained on various opportunities to join the Armed Forces. All visitors are requested to carry a valid photo identity card and not to carry large bags for security reasons.

Indian Naval Ship Kirch, the second ship of the Kora Class Missile Corvettes, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 January 2001. The ship is equipped with an impressive array of weapons and sensors that include a medium range gun, 30 mm close range guns, chaff launchers and long-range surface to surface missiles.

Sea Vigil Exercise in Odisha



Paradip, (TNB): The third edition of the two day long Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22' was conducted along the coastline of the State of Odisha from 15 to 16 Nov 2022 under the aegis of Cmde NP Pradeep, Naval Officer In-charge (Odisha).

The exercise involved deployment of the coastal security apparatus including Surface and Air assets of Indian Navy (IN) along with coordinated joint patrols/exercises between IN and various state coastal security agencies like the Marine Police, Coast Guard, Forest Department, Customs, Fisheries, Paradip Port Trust, CISF, Immigration, State Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), DRDO and over 13 central and state organisations. As a maiden initiative by the Indian Navy, Sainik School and NCC Cadets also actively participated in the security exercise by assisting other coastal security agencies in safeguarding the coastline of Odisha.

Inauguration of Biju Shramik Samukhy Office

Buguda, (TNB): Buguda NAC ward 6, Buddhkhoh Road, Biju Shramik Samukhy Office has been inaugurated. On the instructions of Labor Minister Shrikant Sahu, the program held under the supervision of Samir Kumar Bhuyan, Biju Shramik Samukhy District General Secretary, and shramik office inaugurated by K.Nilamadhab Achari, representative of Buguda Block. Buguda NAC Chair-



man Chitrasen Pradhan, NAC vicechairperson Gitanjali Padhi, Block BJD President E.Madan Gopal Dora, Ganjism District BJD Secretary Sudhanshu Shekhar Padhi, Bhagabanpur Sarpanch Sushant Kumar Pradhan attended the program as honorable guests.

Polasara Block Vice-chairman Kanhu Charan Parida, Polasara Block Sills Parishad Members Ashok Kumar Bisoyi and Bikram Kumar Nayak, Buguda Block Coordinator Surendranath Pani contributed to the construction worker card for marriage assistance from the government to the families of workers, maternity assistance for women, education assistance, death assistance scheme, they advised all the workers to take advantage of it. Biju Shramik Samukhy Coordinator Kalu Charan Samal, Balaram Jena, Shankar Dakua, Jagannath Jani, Titu Patra, Santosh Sethi, Sayandri Jena, Pratima Mahapatra, Lakshmi Pradhan, Samita Pradhan, Abinash Pradhan, Anjali Sahu, Deepak Mohanty were present and supported.

National Press Day being celebrated by Kantabanji Press Club

Kantabanji, (TNB): National Press Day was celebrated by the Kantabanji Press Club. On this occasion a meeting was organized at the Press Club office. The meeting was presided over by Surdas Bagh working president of the Press Club. The Press Club will continue to serve the public as always. Press Club President Prabhjit Singh Saluja and secretary Jugal Kishor Sabar said that more steps would be taken for the safety of journalists. It was also decided to set up a permanent office of the Press Club before 2024. It was discussed that just as the press club did agitation for the improvement of the problem of Kantabanji hospital, similarly Kantabanji will agitate to remove the problem of various hospitals in the assembly constituency. They will organize programs like free health camps to take care of the health of the people. So on this day Press Club Vice President Manoj Sharma, Rashmi Ranjan Putel, Tulsi Jagat, Cashier Honey Singh, Office secretary Bisikeshan Manjhi, Organization secretary Rohan Mahat, Advisor Ashish Khaitan, Anand Mote, Durga Prasad Gupta, Executive Member Deepak Kumar Das Yadav, Vikas Mittal, Devesh Singhal, Jagmohan Tandi, Ankur Aggarwal, Sushant Behera, Sailu Jain, Vikas Sharma, Anil Tripathi and other members were present.

Odisha Journalists Union on Road for their Genuine Demands

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): In the auspicious National Press Day, the Odisha Journalists Union called for a strike on Road demanding with some genuine demands for the welfare of the Journalists today. The Journalists started their Strike or Rally from Master Canteen Chowk to Lower PMG Chowk, Bhubaneswar and they handed over their demands to the Honorable Governor, Odisha Dr.Ganeshi Lal, Honorable Minister, I & PR, Pradeep Kumar Amat, Principal Secretary, I&PR, Sanjay Singh, IAS & I & PR, Director, Indramani Tripathy, IAS made a discussion for fulfillment of their de-

mands. Among their main genuine demands are to prolong or implement the Special save & safety rules for the Journalists, eye catching action against the criminals, enhancements of Health Insurance for Journalists from 2 lakhs to 5 lakhs rupees, without keeping term & conditions in the case of a death of a Journalist, the financial assistant should be increased from 4 lakhs to 10 lakhs rupees, implementing of ideal guidelines SOP in the sensitive working places of the Journalists & providing of training to Journalists reading this, providing of pension af-



ter retirement of the Journalists, simplification & flexibility of Bank loans to Journalists as declared earlier by Government, simplification of accreditation and recognition as well as involvement or including of Journalists from District, Sub Division & Block levels, providing of concessions rent in Government Quarters, the levy should be

collected up to 2% from Government Advertisements and this money or funds should be kept in the welfare funds of the Journalists & it will be utilized for the welfare of the working Journalists, formation of state level Committee for the welfare and developments of the Journalists.

This rally was organized under the Chair-

manship of the State President Sashibhusan Praharaj, Vice President, Deepak Kumar Naik, Ramani Ranjan Das, Susanta Mohapatra General Secretary, K. Srinivas Rao, Organising Secretary, Duryodhan Maharana, Asst. Organising Secretary Rajkishor Tripathy, Bankabihari Bisoi, Treasurer, Arun Kumar Sadangi, all District Presidents, General Secretary and Working Committee Members were participated in this Rally. If the Government will not fulfill their demands, they will call for strike from the District level to the Block level.

Health Contractual Employees handed over memorandum to the local legislator

Berhampur, (TNB): The Health Contractual Employee of Odisha has started a mass campaign to fulfil their demand. To make the issue little stronger the Health Contractual Employee working in different block began to handed over a memorandum to their local legislator with a view to giving it to the Chief Minister of Odisha. To make it fruitful the Health Contractual Employee of Surada block met the legislator Purna Chandra Swain and gave a memorandum on behalf of Odisha Health Contractual Employee Federation. Nearly about 8814 Health Contractual Employee are working under state Health and Family Welfare department and National Health Mission and under the AIDS Control society hundreds of health workers have been working since last 15 years.



they worked tirelessly to develop the health institutions and its quality health services. The health care services are turning to be quite good as comparison to earlier only due to their positive participation. Despite of all their efforts the state government is not eyeing the contractual health employees. This year on 16th of October the state government declared to regularise the Contractual Employees but they were asked to continue our work in proper system which doubled our suffering. Tuberculosis, leprosy, Malaria, Polio,

Dengue and other epidemics have been dealt with by us. They have been successful in providing health services such as Maternal Mortality, Infant Mortality Rate, and Population Control by demonstrating our competence in Health care Management.

Despite this, the Odisha government has never relented on our demands. The state government announced that 57 thousands of contractual employees would be regularise excluding this 8814 Health Contractual Employee. This decision disheartened the Odisha Health Contractual Em-

ployee Federation. The 2630 Public Health and Medical Professionals, 1968 Public Health Paramedical Professionals, 1853 Block Public Health Management Professionals, 1230 District Public Health Management Unit, 219 Urban Health Management Unit and 311 State Public Health Programme Management Units, 603 Allied Medical and Public Health Professionals have been excluded from the regularise announcement. The Health Contractual Employee have started to wear Yellow Ribbon (light of hope) and started Non Cooperating in health services. The Federation clearly mentioned that of they are not taken in to consideration a protest will be eyed In the Gandhi Marg of Bhubaneswar on 21st of November.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan Mela-2022 Organized by KVK-Khordha, ICAR-CIFA Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Krishi Vigyan Kendra - Khordha, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar and Dharitri Krushak Sangathan, Rajas jointly organized Jal Shakti Abhiyan Mela-2022 with the theme "Rainwater harvesting and water conservation" at Rajas village, Balipatna Block of Khordha district on 14.11.2022. Padma Shri Batakrushna Sahoo graced this occasion as Chief Guest. In his address he highlighted the water conservation methods suitable for Aquaculture at Khordha district.



Sarapanch, Rajas Grama Panchayat urged the participants for saving water for future generation. Earlier, Mr. A.K. Dash, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK-Khordha welcomed the dignitaries and participants. He advised the participants to conserve water and utilize it judiciously for the crop, livestock, fisheries etc. He emphasized the per drop more crop concept and focused about the various techniques for conservation of soil and water.

Shri Kedareshwar Choudhury, Secretary, Darabar Sahitya Sansad stressed upon maintenance of water bodies in villages and Panchayats for recharge of the groundwater. Block Agriculture Officer Shri Radhasyam Das informed about the Government Programmes like Jala Niddhi, Farm Pond Plus etc. and requested the farmers to take the advantages of the Schemes. Asst. Horticulture Officer,

Balipatna Mrs. Soumyashree Moharana, address the gathering and spoke about the Govt. Schemes like, Sprinkler and Drip irrigation for saving water in crop production. Smt. Kumudini Swain, Chairman, Maheera Farmer Producer Company Ltd. (MFPC), Amanakuda, Balipatna requested the farmers to be associated in the MFPC and take the advantages of various Govt. Schemes for water harvesting and conservation. About 165 farmers/farmwomen and Line Dept. Officials, Scientists of KVK participated in the Jal Shakti Abhiyan Mela. Shri Pratap Chandra Nayak, President, Dharitri Krushak Sangathan, Rajas proposed vote of thanks.