

CBI arrests Superintendent of CGST in bribery case

New Delhi, (UNI) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested a Superintendent of Central Goods and Service Tax (Audit) posted at Audit Circle-VI, Gandhidham (Gujarat) in an alleged bribery case, the probe agency said on Thursday. A case was registered against Superintendent on the allegation of demanding undue advantage of Rs 2.40 lakh from the complainant for the containers he cleared during his earlier posting as Superintendent, Customs, Kandla Port, CBI in a statement stated.

It was further alleged that the accused told the complainant to pay the said amount so as to save him from the audit which he threatened to conduct, if the undue advantage was not paid, it stated. CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red handed while accepting an alleged bribe of Rs 1 lakh from the complainant.

Low Pressure Area Forms Over Bay Of Bengal



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Under the influence of cyclonic circulation over south Andaman Sea & neighbourhood, a Low pressure area has formed over Southeast Bay of Bengal & adjoining the Andaman Sea during the next 24 hours. The Low Pressure area now lies over the Southeast Bay of Bengal & neighbourhood with the associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 7.6 km above mean sea level.

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and gradually concentrate into a Depression over central parts of the South Bay of Bengal during the subsequent 48 hours.

PM to deliver opening address at 'No Money for Terror' event

New Delhi, (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at the third 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing here on Friday. India is hosting the two day 'No Money For Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing with participation of around 75 countries. The Conference will offer a unique platform for participating nations and organizations to deliberate on effectiveness of the current international regime on Counter Terrorism Financing as well as steps

required to address emerging challenges, the PMO said.

The conference will build on gains and learnings of previous two conferences (held in Paris in April 2018 and in Melbourne in November 2019) and will work towards enhancing global cooperation to deny finances to terrorists and access to permissive jurisdictions to operate.

The Conference also intends to include discussions on technical, legal, regulatory and cooperation aspects of all facets of terrorism financing. It will be attended by about 450 delegates from across the



world, including Ministers, Heads of Multilateral organisations and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Heads of Delegations. During the Conference, deliberations will be held in four sessions focusing on 'Global Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing', 'Use of Formal and Informal Channels of Funds for Terrorism', 'Emerging Technologies and Terrorist Financing' and 'International Co-op-

eration to Address Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing'.

The Home Ministry said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be participating in the conference to convey India's determination in its fight against terrorism as well as its support systems for achieving success against it. The Conference attempts to also set the pace for other high level official and political deliberations, focused on countering terrorist financing. Globally, countries have been affected by terrorism and militancy for several years. The Home Minis-

try said that the pattern of violence differs in most theatres, but is largely engendered by a tumultuous geo-political environment, coupled with prolonged armed sectarian conflicts. Such conflicts often lead to poor governance, political instability, economic deprivation and large ungoverned spaces. The Ministry further said that the involvement of a compliant State often exacerbates terrorism, especially its financing.

India has suffered several forms of terrorism and its financing over more than three decades,

hence it understands the pain and trauma of similarly impacted nations. In order to display solidarity with peace-loving nations and to help create a bridge for sustained cooperation on counter-terrorist financing, India was host to two global events in October - the annual General Assembly of the Interpol in Delhi and a special session of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee in Mumbai and Delhi. The forthcoming NMFT Conference will further India's efforts to build understanding and cooperation amongst nations.

Transparency, accountability are essence of governance in parliamentary democracy: Birla

New Delhi, (UNI) Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said transparency and accountability are the essence of governance in parliamentary democracy. Birla made the statement while addressing the valedictory session of Audit Day and Auditors' Conference here. He also opined that effective and efficient use of public money is the aim of both Parliament and government.

In this regard, Birla highlighted the role of CAG in ensuring fiscal discipline of States. Lauding the CAG, the Speaker said, "CAG is among the most effective and prestigious



audit institutions in the world." He added that the discussions and positive suggestions on CAG reports within the House and Parliamentary Committees strengthen nation's democracy. Birla also expressed happiness that the CAG report is discussed in the House going beyond party lines and decisions are taken in the interest of the nation.

Odisha CS directs officials to complete Birsamunda Hockey stadium by Nov 30

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Odisha Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra on Thursday directed the officials to complete the construction of Birsamunda Hockey stadium and the Rourkela Airport by November 30 next ahead of the 2023 Men's FIH World Cup Hockey scheduled to be held from January 13 to 29 next. Mohapatra was talking to newsmen after a three-member Secretary level team led by him visited Rourkela on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and reviewed the progress of work on Thursday. The other

members of the team were Sports and Youth Affairs Secretary R Vineel Krishna and Managing Director of IDCO Bhupender Singh Punia. After reviewing the work, Mohapatra said the construction of the Birsamunda International Hockey stadium is in its final stage.

The turf has been laid in the main and practice stadium, the work of the visitors gallery and the place for the staying of players and officials is going to be completed soon. The Chief Secretary said a practice match would be organised after the work is completed.



He said a modern parking place is being developed around the stadium to accommodate a large number of vehicles as a large number of people are expected to come to Rourkela from in and outside the state to watch the World Cup hockey, being organised for the first time in Rourkela. In

addition to it arrangements have been made for drinking water and toilets inside the stadium.

Steps are being taken to put up LED screens at strategic places of the steel city for the people who could not make it to the stadium to watch the matches. The Chief Sec-

retary said the World Hockey cup will be organised at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29. Around 20 matches will be played at Rourkela. Direct Charter flights will be arranged for the smooth movements of players from Bhubaneswar to Rourkela. Keeping this in view the expansion of the Rourkela Airport is going on very fast. Target has been fixed to complete all work by November 30 next. Various roads connecting Rourkela with the Airport are also being developed, the Chief Secretary said.

BJP to sit in indefinite dharna before Assembly to protest anti farmer policy of Odisha govt.

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) BJP will sit on an indefinite dharna in front of the Odisha Assembly from Friday (November 18) in protest against the anti-farmer policy of the BJD government, state Party General Secretary Prithwiraj Harichanda said here on Thursday. Addressing a press conference here, Harichandan demanded the state gov-

ernment to give Rs 10,000 to farmers as announced by the Chief Minister at Sohela in 2016. He alleged due to irregularities in opening of mandis, the farmers are forced to sell their paddy at Rs 1250 per quintal against the MSP of Rs 2040 per quintal. The BJP leaders said though the farmers constitute a major percent of the population but they always suf-

fer due to the anti-farmer policy of the government. Odisha, he said is the only state where no incentive is given to the farmers who incur losses as instead of giving certified seeds and high productivity seeds, the farmers are being given low quality and fake seeds. Harichandan said due to the apathy of the state government, the farmers

in Odisha produce 1.5 to two times less than what the farmers produce in Punjab. There is a shortage of cold storage in the state yet the government is not taking any initiative in this regard. The BJP leader said due to the inefficiency of the government low quality seeds are being sold as

a result the farmers sustained losses. The potato

and onion mission announced by the state government has failed due to the utter negligence of the government, he alleged. He further alleged that the input subsidy is not being given to farmers since 2018 in the state and the government is also not taking any steps in this regard. The long standing demands of the farmers for an amendment to

the Relief Code has also been ignored by the state government. Harichandan demanded the government to give Rs 100 bonus per quintal announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Sohela in 2016 to farmers from this Kharif season. The farmers, he said, are forced to take loans from money lenders and self help groups at a high rate of

interest as they are not getting cooperative loans. The farmers are forced to sell their paddy at Rs 1250 per quintal though the MSP of paddy has been fixed by the centre at Rs 2040 per quintal. In the name of central token system, the government has handed over the procurement system to the millers, he alleged.

Odisha: BJD, BJP, Congress file nomination for Padampur assembly bypoll

Sambalpur, (UNI) On the last day of filing nomination for by election to Padampur assembly seat, all the three major political parties and few independents filed their nominations on Thursday before the sub collector. The three major political parties BJD, BJP and Congress waited for the last day to file their nominations and did so on Thursday. BJD's Barsha Singh Bariha, Pradeep Purohit from BJP and Satya Bhushan Sahu from Congress filed their nominations for the by-election

which was necessitated following the demise of sitting BJD MLA Bijaya ranjan Singh Bariha. While the BJP and Congress candidates are former MLAs of the constituency, Barsha Bariha from ruling BJD is the daughter of the deceased BJD MLA and daughter in law of senior BJP leader Rama ranjan Baliarsingh

All the senior leaders of the three political parties were present with their candidates to make it a grand moment and boost them up morally. Although the nomination was open

from November 10, no contestant filed papers till Wednesday evening as agitating farmers of the region resorting to dharna since November 1 last demanding payment of crop insurance, had requested the political parties not to file papers till their problems are resolved. Barsha Singh Bariha who filed her nomination paper first was accompanied by former MP Prasanna Acharya, sitting MLAs - Debesh Achary, Snehangini Chhuria, Susant Singh, Alaka Mohanty, Rita Sahu and several party leaders.



The BJD candidate, at the instructions from the supreme, made it a point to maintain a low profile during filing of the nomination without any procession or band or crowd to show strength.

"This was in contrast to

BJP's Pradeep Purohit, former MLA who accompanied Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other senior party leaders on November 14 went in a massive procession but did not do it to respect farmers' de-

mand," said a party leader. Similarly veteran Congress leader cum MLA Narashinga Mishra, Santosh Singh Saluja MLA, ex MP cum state Odisha Pradesh Congress president Sarat Patnaik, Aswini Guru, Prasad Harichandan were with Congress candidate Satya Bhusan Sahu, a three time MLA of the party from the constituency. BJP candidate Pradeep Purohit accompanied by party MP Suresh Pujari MP, MLAs - Jayanaraym Mishra, Nauri Naik, state president Sameer Mohanty and se-

nior leader, Kanak Bardhan Singhdeo filed nomination on Thursday without much fanfare as he did on November 14 last. Few independent candidates also filed nominations on the last day on Thursday. Returning officer's office sources said.

While BJP has already started electioneering in the constituency, Congress and BJD will make their shows from Saturday. It is obvious for BJD to put all its strength to retain its seat after the recent defeat of the party

candidate in Dhamnagar assembly by poll. Dhamnagar may not be a loss for ruling BJD as it was the seat of BJP which retained it. In the meanwhile attack and counter attack are going on between BJD and BJP on various issues from formation of district to crop insurance to farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). It needs further mention that in undivided Sambalpur district, BJD had won the by elections in Bijepur and Brajarajnagar in the past.

Musk hints at new chief for Twitter

San Francisco, (UNI) Elon Musk has said he will reduce his time at Twitter eventually giving way to a new leader to run the social media company as added he hoped to complete an organisational restructuring this week.

Musk made the remarks while testifying in a Delaware court on Wednesday while defending against claims that his \$56 billion pay package at Tesla Inc was based on easy-to-achieve performance targets and was approved by a compliant board of directors.

However, Musk later said in a tweet that he will continue to run Twitter until it is in a strong place, though it will "take some

time". Musk's tweet came after former CEO Jack Dorsey said that he will not accept the role of Twitter CEO. In a reply to a Twitter user when asked if he would take the position of CEO, he said "nope."

Tesla investors have been increasingly concerned about the time that Musk is devoting to turning around Twitter.

"There's an initial burst of activity needed post-acquisition to reorganise the company," Musk said in his testimony. "But then I expect to reduce my time at Twitter."

Musk also admitted that some Tesla engineers were assisting in evaluat-

ing Twitter's engineering teams, but he said it was on a "voluntary basis" and "after hours", a report in Dawn said.

The billionaire's first two weeks as Twitter's owner has been marked by rapid change and chaos. He quickly fired Twitter's previous CEO and other senior leaders and then laid off half its staff earlier this month.

Musk sent an email to Twitter employees early on Wednesday, telling them they needed to decide by Thursday whether they wanted to stay on at the company to work "long hours at high intensity" or take a severance package of three months of pay.

Tycoon launches \$25bn fund for Ukraine reboot

Canberra, (UNI) Australian mining billionaire Andrew Forrest has launched a fund that is expected to raise \$25 billion initially to help rebuild war-torn Ukraine. President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed the move.

"The president [Zelensky] sees that as an opportunity to completely replace old coal-fired (and) nuclear power stations with brand new green energy," Forrest told the BBC.

Forrest and his wife have committed \$500 million towards the fund, which its organisers hope could eventually grow to \$100 billion. The Ukraine Green Growth Initiative says it plans to invest in primary

infrastructure such as energy and telecoms networks.

"We will take advantage of the fact that what the Russians have destroyed can readily be replaced with the latest, most modern green and digital infrastructure," Zelensky said.

The fund official said it had been working with Larry Fink, the chairman of investment giant BlackRock, and hopes to gain the support of sovereign wealth funds and other professional investors.

Since starting work on the fund in early March, Forrest said he had discussed the plan with a number of world leaders

including US President Joe Biden, then-UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

"That capital would be available the instant that the Russian forces have been removed from the homelands of Ukraine," Forrest said.

Forrest made his fortune from Australia's mining boom. He is the founder and executive chairman of iron ore giant Fortescue Metals. In recent years he has turned his attention to sustainable technology, with initiatives to decarbonise his mining operations and become a major producer of green hydrogen, the BBC said.

Slog or leave, Musk tells Twitter staff

San Francisco, (UNI) Elon Musk has announced to Twitter staff that they must commit to working "long hours at high intensity" or else leave the company, as per media reports.

In an email to the staff, the social media firm's new owner said workers should agree to the pledge if they wanted to stay, the Washington Post reported.

Those who do not sign up by Thursday will be given three months' severance pay, Musk said.

His email to staff, also seen by The Guardian, Musk said that Twitter "will need to be extremely hardcore" in order to succeed.

"This will mean working long hours at high intensity. Only exceptional performance will constitute a passing grade," he said.

Workers were told that they needed to click on a link by 5 pm on Thursday, if they want to be "part of the new Twitter". He added: "Whatever de-

cision you make, thank you for your efforts to make Twitter successful."

This comes after the entrepreneur told Twitter staff last week that remote working would end and "difficult times" lay ahead, according to reports.

In an email to staff, the owner of the social media firm said workers would be expected in the office for at least 40 hours a week.

Musk added that there was "no way to sugar coat the message" that the slowing global economy was going to hit Twitter's advertising revenues.

The world's richest man has already announced half of Twitter's staff are being let go, after he bought the company in a \$44 billion deal.

Musk said he had "no choice" over the cuts as the company was losing \$4 million a day. He has blamed "activist groups pressuring advertisers" for a "massive drop in revenue". A host of top Twit-

ter executives have also stepped down following his purchase of the firm.

Musk himself has been sleeping at Twitter in recent weeks, even while leading electric carmaker Tesla and rocket company SpaceX.

He described his work habits in a US court on Wednesday, where he appeared to defend the eye-popping \$56 billion pay package he received from electric carmaker Tesla in 2018, the BBC reported.

"I pretty much work all the time, with rare exceptions," he said.

In response to questioning, he later added that the "fundamental organisational restructuring" at Twitter would be complete by the end of this week.

As per a senior equity analyst, "Elon Musk is not going to be doing candlelight dinners and playing ping pong in Twitter's cafeteria and this is a shock to the system."

Ex-UK envoy, filmmaker among 6K to be freed in Myanmar

Yangon, (UNI) Myanmar's military is set to release 6,000 prisoners including a former UK ambassador, a Japanese filmmaker and an Australian adviser to the country's ousted leader.

Former diplomat Vicky Bowman and Toru Kubota were jailed earlier this year while Sean Turnell was detained shortly after the 2021 coup, the BBC reported.

The military junta, which has arrested more than 16,000 people since seizing power in 2021, said the pardons were to mark Myanmar National Day.

It overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government in February 2021 - sparking huge protests across the country and a widespread resistance movement.

Bowman served as the UK's envoy to Myanmar between 2002 and 2006, and was running the

Yangon-based Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) at the time of her arrest.

A fluent Burmese speaker, she is a well-known member of Myanmar's small international community. Her husband Htein Lin is a former political prisoner.

The couple were detained when they returned to the city from a home they have in Shan State. Military authorities charged them both with failing to register her as living at a different address.

However the case was likely to have been about wider political concerns than immigration offences, for which foreigners are rarely prosecuted in Myanmar.

Turnell meanwhile was detained in Yangon in February 2021, days after the military launched its coup, and was jailed for three years under the Official Secrets Act, the BBC said.



He was a close adviser of ousted opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who since her overthrow has been sentenced to more than 20 years in prison on a range of charges.

At the time, the Australian government said it rejected the court's ruling in Turnell's case, noting their citizen had been tried in a closed military court.

Documentary maker Toru Kubota, 26, was arrested in July near an anti-government rally in Yangon. He was sentenced to 10

years in prison on seditious charges and for violating the electronic communications law.

According to Reporters Without Borders, at least 68 journalists were detained in Myanmar before today's amnesty.

Kubota, who first arrived in Myanmar in July, was filming a "documentary featuring a Myanmar person", a friend of his was reported to have said earlier this year.

According to filmmaker

site Film Freeway, Kubota started his career when he met a Rohingya refugee in Japan in 2014, and subsequently made "several films about refugees and ethnic issues in Myanmar".

The military in Myanmar has been accused of widespread human rights violations since seizing power. According to monitoring group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, more than 2,400 people have been killed by the military since the coup.

MI5 warns of Iran's 'growing recklessness'

London, (UNI) There have been at least 10 potential threats by Iran to kidnap or kill British or UK-based people this year, Britain's domestic counter-intelligence and security agency MI5 has said.

The figure was revealed by MI5 chief Ken McCallum, in his annual update on threats facing the UK.

McCallum said MI5 had been working with domestic and international partners to disrupt what he called "completely unacceptable activity".

He said he could not provide further details of the potential plots but said Iran had sometimes operated using their own spies and sometimes others to work on their behalf utilising a combination of tactics, sometimes taking actions within Western countries and sometimes trying to lure people back to Iran.

"No one should be under any illusion about the breadth and variety of the threats we face in 2022," the BBC quoted McCallum

telling an audience inside Thames House, the security service's London headquarters.

He warned the biggest shifts his service was seeing came in threats posed by other states who were "not squeamish about the tactics they deploy".

Iran projected threats "directly" in the UK through its "aggressive intelligence services", he said. This included ambitions to kidnap or even kill British or UK-based people perceived as enemies of the regime, he said. "We have seen at least 10 such potential threats since January alone," he added.

Last week it emerged that Iranian journalists based in the UK had received warnings from the police about potential risks to their lives.

He said the country's willingness to undertake "reckless" actions had been seen across Europe in recent years.

The MI5 head said Iran had also been providing support to Russia, including by supplying drones



which, he said, had been "inflicting misery" in Ukraine.

He also warned the UK "must be ready for Russian aggression for years to come", the BBC report said.

But he said Russia had suffered a strategic setback after a mass expulsion of its spies around the world in the wake of its invasion of Ukraine.

He warned Russia's invasion of Ukraine had been "raising national security questions some thought consigned to the history books".

Moscow will continue to use a mixture of covert threats - like spies and cyber-attacks - as well as more open means like

pressure on energy prices and disinformation to target the UK, he warned. "They will keep attacking us."

But the MI5 head sounded an optimistic note on the ability of countries to make it harder for Russia's spies to operate.

More than 600 Russian officials have been expelled around the world since the invasion of Ukraine in February and more than 400 are believed to be spies, McCallum revealed. "This has struck the most significant strategic blow against the Russian intelligence services in recent European history." He warned China was a "large and enduring challenge" using "all means at their disposal" to monitor and sometimes intimidate those consid-

ered opponents. Recently a pro-democracy protester was attacked at the Chinese consulate in Manchester. "We're seeing further indications of that repression," the MI5 chief said on the pressure being applied on those challenging Beijing.

Terrorism remained a threat, he said, although that posed by international networks was not as acute as a few years ago. He said MI5 was still seeing international terror groups trying to regroup and also what he called "the wicked problem of self-initiated lone actor terrorists, fiendishly hard to detect and disrupt". A concern is the growth in attempts to acquire firearms, including home-made and 3-D printed weapons.

North fired SRBM into East Sea: SKorea

Seoul, (UNI) North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) into the East Sea on Thursday, its first missile provocation in a little over a week, according to the South Korean military.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launch from the Wonsan area in Kangwon Province at 10.48 a.m., Yonhap news agency reported, adding, it did not provide other details. "While strengthen-

ing our monitoring and vigilance, our military is maintaining a full readiness posture in close cooperation with the United States," the JCS said in a text message sent to the media.

The launch came shortly after North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui issued warning that Pyongyang will take "fiercer" military actions if the US sticks to a move to strengthen its "extended deterrence" com-



mitment to regional allies. Extended deterrence refers to America's pledge to use a full range of its military capabilities, both nuclear and conventional, to defend its allies. US

President Joe Biden reaffirmed that pledge during a trilateral summit with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on the mar-

gins of annual regional gatherings in Phnom Penh on Sunday. On November 9, North Korea fired another short-range ballistic missile into the East Sea.

Satyendar Jain's bail plea dismissed in PMLA case

New Delhi, (UNI) A Special Court here on Thursday dismissed the bail application of Delhi's Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate for violation of the Prevention Money Laundering Act provisions.



Special Judge (PC Act) (MPs/MLAs Cases) of CBI, Vikas Dhull, after hearing the argument on behalf of three accused including Satyendar Kumar Jain passed the dismissal order on the bail applications of all the accused persons.

Counsel for Jain submitted before the court that no provisions provided under Jail Manual has been violated by Jain and the allegations leveled by the ED is to cause prejudice in the minds of my lords. He submitted that no fruitful purpose would be served by keeping behind the bar of all the accused persons.

Counsel for Jain has submitted that in this matter the only fault of Jain is that he became a Minister and got into public life otherwise there would be no case.

The Principal District & Sessions Court of Rouse

ED opposed the bail application by submitting that Jain served as a Health Minister in Delhi and may manage to get forged documents and influence the doctors and Jail official.

The ED has submitted that if bail granted Jain 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 is under the control of Delhi Government is no ground to alleged a bias in the case.

The Principal District & Sessions Court of Rouse

Avenue, New Delhi on September 22 transferred the matter from the Court of Special Judge Geetanjali Goel's to Special Judge Vikash Dhull.

Jain had challenged the transfer in high court and apex court and later withdrawn it from the top court. Now the matter is at the stage of hearing arguments on the bail application.

The investigating agency had arrested Satyendar Jain on May, 30 and he is now lodged in Tihar jail.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in its charge sheet has alleged Jain amassed assets to the tune of Rs 1.47 crore in Disproportionate Assets case while the ED has submitted the attachment of Rs. 4.81 crore in connection with money laundering investigation.

Even Cong held such survey in 2018: Bommai on electoral fraud

Bengaluru, (UNI) Promising an investigation into the allegations of electoral fraud by Congress leaders, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday mocked them and said they are bankrupt of ideas because even their government in 2018 had conducted such surveys.

And the Election Commission of India has authorised civic bodies and NGOs to undertake such a survey, CM added.

"The Election Commission of India has authorised Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and local organisations to undertake 'Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Program'

Guj Assembly polls: Cong changes candidate for Halol seat

New Delhi, (UNI) Congress on Thursday changed its candidate for Halol Assembly seat in Gujarat.

The party has announced the name of Anishbhai Bariya in place of Rajendra Patel for the said seat.

According to a communique issued by Congress general secretary Mukul Wasnik, the party's Central Election Committee has approved the candidature of Bariya.

Assembly elections to 182 seats in Gujarat will be held in two phases. The first phase will cover 89 constituencies on December 1 and the second phase the remaining 93 seats on December 5.

The counting of votes will be held on December 8.

(SVEEP) and that survey work will be entrusted to Non-Governmental Organisations," Bommai said.

"This is not the first time as it has been held even in 2018. I will order a detailed probe into it, including the orders by the Election Commission of India and let the truth come out," he said.

On the Congress party demanding his resignation, Bommai said it is ridiculous. "If this is the yardstick, then the Congress chief ministers should have resigned three times by now. This allegation is baseless and far from truth," he said.

Earlier, Senior Congress leader Randeep Singh

Surjewala alleged that Bommai, BBMP and Election Authority are overtly and covertly responsible for theft of voter data, fraud and impersonation through brazen misdemeanours.

"The forty percent commission sarakara has now corrupted the election process also. Bommai, BJP government and its officials, BBMP and the Election Authority are together partners in crime in trampling democracy with the evil design of snatching voting rights from the innocent Bengalureans," he further alleged in a statement posted on his Twitter handle.

He demanded Bommai's resignation for being

party to crime in trampling democracy.

Surjewala said a private entity, named Chilume Educational and Rural Development Institute, referred to as Pvt Entity Chilume, has committed a brazen fraud of collecting voter data by impersonating its privately hired employees as government officers and issuing them booth level officers' (BLOs) cards.

Posing as BLOs, employees of Chilume collected voter data in 28 assembly constituencies comprising information like caste, religion, age, gender, mother tongue, marital status, Aadhar Number, phone number, address, voter id number, email address of voters,

he alleged.

Chilume then uploaded the entire vital voter information on a private app called Digital Sameeksha owned by its sister concern, Chilume Enterprises Private Limited, instead of uploading on the election commission voter registration helpline Garuda or Voter Helpline, Surjewala said.

"This was one more fraud perpetrated on the innocent voters of Bengaluru," he said.

Surjewala further alleged that Chilume also subcontracted its work to multiple agencies and NGOs across Bengaluru thereby further compromising personal voter data among multiple unauthorized agencies.

Income Tax conducts raids at several locations of Bihar Industries Minister Sameer Mahasheth



Patna, (UNI) Sleuths of the Income Tax department on Thursday conducted raids at several locations of Bihar Industries Minister and senior RJD leader Sameer Kumar Seth in connection with allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Official sources said here that sleuths of the Income Tax department conducted raids at several locations of Mahasheth, allegedly for amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Besides at his residence in Patna, raids were going at other locations including offices of a construction company and his other business activities, sources added.

Officials, however, refused to give any details of the recoveries during the raids, saying it would be compiled and assessed

only after the end of the operation. Mahasheth, a senior RJD leader, was elected to Bihar Legislative Assembly from the Madhubani seat in the 2020 Assembly elections. He was made Industries Minister from RJD quota when Chief Minister Nitish Kumar walked away from NDA on August 9 this year and formed the Grand Alliance government having seven parties as its constituents including Congress and RJD.

Meanwhile, RJD spokesman Shakti Singh Yadav told media persons that raids were being conducted by Income Tax due to political vendetta. BJP government at the Centre was misusing Central agencies to settle the political score, he added. No Central agency had conducted raids at the location of any BJP leader so far during the last eight years, he pointed out.

Melting glaciers releasing 'vast' mass of microbes: Study

New Delhi, (UNI) Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of bacteria are being released by melting glaciers, a study carried out mostly in Europe and Canada has shown. Close home, the Himalaya Hindu Kush region is yet to be sampled.

The microbes being washed downstream could fertilise ecosystems, the researchers said, but needed to be much better studied to identify any potential pathogens.

The new research, published in the Nature Communications Earth and Environment journal, used surface meltwater samples from four glaciers in the European Alps, as well as glaciers in

Canada, Sweden, Svalbard, and the western Greenland ice sheet.

The study found that hundreds of thousands of tonnes of microbes would be released every year in all future scenarios for global heating.

The bacteria and algae usually contain pigments to protect themselves from damage from sunlight. But these dark pigments absorb sunlight, adding to warming and speeding up the destruction of their icy habitat.

The scientists said the rapid melting of the ice by the climate crisis meant the glaciers and the unique microbial ecosystems they harboured were "dy-

ing before our eyes", leaving researchers racing to understand them before they disappeared, the Guardian reported.

Some of the microbes may also be a future source of useful biological molecules, such as new antibiotics.

The scientists collected surface meltwaters from eight glaciers across Europe and North America and from two sites on the Greenland ice cap. They found tens of thousands of microbes in each millilitre of water.

The data enabled them to estimate the bacteria and algae being flushed out would deliver an average of 650,000 tonnes of car-

bon a year for the next 80 years in the northern hemisphere, excluding the Himalaya Hindu Kush region, which was not sampled.

This estimate assumes a continued modest rise in CO2 emissions. If carbon emissions are cut, slowing global heating and ice melting, the mass of microbes released would be reduced by about a third.

"We are seeing the glaciers die before our eyes, affecting the microbes that are there, with implications for us locally and globally," said Dr Arwyn Edwards, at Aberystwyth University in Wales, and part of the study team.

"The mass of microbes released is vast even with

moderate warming."

"We don't have enough data to understand the value and the threat of these organisms. I routinely get inquiries about whether there is going to be a doomsday pathogen melting out of the glaciers. I think that's a very minor risk, but it's not a zero risk, so we need risk assessment of these microbes."

Until recently, very little was known about the many thousands of microbial species inhabiting the surface of ice. Almost 1,000 new species were revealed in Tibetan glaciers in June.

A consortium of researchers, the Vanishing Glaciers

BBMP withdraws Chilume's permit after Cong's allegations

Bengaluru, (UNI) The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Thursday withdrew the permission given to Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust for conducting house-to-house visits to create awareness among the general public towards applying online applications pertaining to Voter ID.

"In view of the Special Summary Revision — 2023 activities, a permission had been granted to Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Develop-

ment Trust for conducting the house-to-house visit to create awareness among the general public towards applying online applications via Voter Helpline Mobile App pertaining to Voter ID, in coordination with BLOs, Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers of District Election Officer-Bangalore," the BBMP said.

"However, the above said Trust has violated the conditions of the permission. Therefore, the permission has been withdrawn with

immediate effect," the civic body further said in a statement. The BBMP also appealed to the people not to share their voter ID details with their representatives.

The statement comes in the wake of senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala alleging that Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, BBMP and Election Authority are overtly and covertly responsible for theft of voter data, fraud and impersonation through brazen misdemeanours. "The 40

per cent commission sarakara has now corrupted the election process also. Bommai, BJP government and its officials, BBMP and the Election Authority are together partners in crime in trampling democracy with the evil design of snatching voting rights from the innocent Bengalureans," he further alleged in a statement posted on his Twitter handle. He demanded Bommai's resignation for being party to crime in trampling democracy.

Surjewala said a private

entity, named Chilume Educational and Rural Development Institute, referred to as Pvt Entity Chilume, has committed a brazen fraud of collecting voter data by impersonating its privately hired employees as government officers and issuing them booth level officers' (BLOs) cards.

Posing as BLOs, employees of Chilume collected voter data in 28 assembly constituencies comprising information like caste, religion, age, gender, mother tongue, marital status, Aadhar Number,

phone number, address, voter id number, email address of voters, he alleged.

Chilume then uploaded the entire vital voter information on a private app called Digital Sameeksha owned by its sister concern, Chilume Enterprises Private Limited, instead of uploading on the election commission voter registration helpline Garuda or Voter Helpline, Surjewala said.

"This was one more fraud perpetrated on the innocent voters of Bengaluru," he said. Surjewala further

alleged that Chilume also subcontracted its work to multiple agencies and NGOs across Bengaluru thereby further compromising personal voter data among multiple unauthorized agencies.

The voters giving this sensitive private information were made to believe that the information was being given to BLOs as a part of the voter registration drive, he said.

Surjewala alleged that the proximity and connection of Krishnappa Ravikumar, owner-director of Chilume, Chilume Enter-

prises Pvt Ltd & DAP Hombale Pvt Ltd to IT Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan is apparent from the fact that he has been pictured as celebrating the birthday of Krishnappa Ravikumar.

He also alleged that permission was given for Mahadevapura assembly and it was then extended to all 28 assembly constituencies of Bengaluru wide government order dated August 20, 2022. "Intriguingly, Chilume sought to do this voluminous exercise free of cost," he said.

Tech giants on sacking spree

THE world's leading tech companies — Meta (Facebook), Twitter, Alphabet (Google), Amazon, Apple and Microsoft — are all in the grip of a severe business slowdown which has caused them to lay off thousands of employees — over 50,000 till October. What is amazing is that these repositories of the latest technological skills seem no different from the rest of the business world in poor anticipation of the business slowdown or its wrenching consequences. This is affecting Indians in two ways. Faced with revenue growth slowdown, Indian tech companies have paused hiring and are taking inordinately long in issuing offer letters. Plus, personal tragedy stalks many who are in the US on H1B visas and have to return to India if they do not find alternative jobs within the stipulated 60 days from the termination of one job. This marks at least the temporary end of their dreams to make a good life in the US.

The bad news seems unending. The latest to go in for such action is Amazon which will lay off 10,000 by the end of this week. This has come close on the heels of Twitter laying off thousands of employees a week after it was acquired by billionaire Elon Musk, thereby bringing down its overall employee level by 50 per cent. Not just lower-level employees, but the entire C-suite of the company also appears to have been asked to go. Meta, for its part, is laying off 11,000 people, or about 13 per cent of its workforce, right after adding 28,000 in the preceding nine months.

Alphabet is not laying off staff but plans to cut down on hiring which has reached nearly 13,000 in the last quarter. Microsoft is also not sacking people but going slow on hiring. It added a good 20 per cent of its current staff strength of 2.2 lakh in the previous financial year. These layoffs have come as a result of the revenue challenges that the big tech companies are facing as advertisers' rethink on spending amidst recession fears in an extremely uncertain macroeconomic environment. This has affected their revenues, with all five reporting for their quarter ending June their softest results in a year. The key cause for the deterioration of the business environment is the Ukraine war which began early in the year. It sent global energy prices sky high, subjecting the entire world to high inflation. To tackle this, the world's most important central bankers have raised interest rates, following in the footsteps of the US Federal Reserve. Under such conditions of economic uncertainty, investment funds from across the world have made a beeline for the safety of the US system. As a result, the dollar has strengthened, thus making imports costly, adding to the inflationary pressure exerted by the high fuel prices. Today, most of the global economy, particularly the Euro region, is looking at recession ahead. The slowdown needs to be seen in the context of the strong growth that tech companies witnessed during the pandemic when businesses across the board sought to enable their systems to handle 'work from home' and consumer product companies heightened ordering from home (online commerce). If we look back to the pre-pandemic days, business for these companies is in a way 'normalising'. Big tech's problems also come from growing big too quickly compared to historical time frames or what it takes for a brick-and-mortar company to grow even today. Competition among them has also played a part. Growing too big in a fast-moving environment has created a rebound, a desire to be conservative and save cash when demand is weak, and hence, the layoffs.

The only redeeming feature is that there is at least one industry leader, Mark Zuckerberg, of Meta, who says he is sorry. 'I want to take accountability for these decisions and how we got here.' He attributed the job cuts to growing too quickly during the pandemic when there was a big rise in online commerce, leading to a big rise in revenue. He thought the shift would be permanent hiring, which is now down by 70-80 per cent

Challenges galore in preventing terror funding

We tend to forget the role of a State in the control, recruitment and funding of some terror groups. It is unimaginable to think of the LeT and JeM without linking them to the ISI and the Pakistan Army. They have raised, nurtured and employed these tools of modern warfare, often referred to as hybrid warfare, in pursuit of their strategic ends. Can the role of a state be divested from such groups that have come to represent a threat to humanity across borders and boundaries?

THE 'No Money for Terrorism' conference, scheduled to be held in New Delhi on November 17 and 18, is an important event with the potential to sharpen the focus of the international community on fighting terrorism and its funding. 9/11 was a watershed moment for galvanising world opinion against not only terrorism but also the financing of terrorism in a concerted and organised way. For a country like India, which has been a victim of terrorism for decades, the ominous words of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during a visit to the US in 2000 came true. He had said: "Indeed, in our neighbourhood, in this, the 21st century, religious war has been proclaimed to be an instrument of State policy. Distance offers no insulation. It should not cause complacency." Almost exactly one year after this address to a joint session of the US Congress, the US suffered its worst terrorist attack. Since then, several major capitals of the world that had thus far remained isolated from terrorism fell victim to its expanding horizons. Distance and the oceans, indeed, could not shield the people from death and destruction. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), on behalf of the international community, swung into action and a series of resolutions were adopted, aimed at blunting the wider impact of terrorism. More specifically, and in a major shift from the past, there was special emphasis on stopping the flow of finance for terrorism. The initial steps created the framework for placing constraints on countries, organisations, terrorist groups and individuals to raise and transfer funds. The first and, perhaps, the most important was Resolution 1373. It required all member states to criminalise terrorism, including actions associated with the "financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of such acts." Further, Resolutions 1624 in 2005, 2178 in 2014 and 2396 in 2017 strengthened the counter-terrorist financing efforts of the international community.

Simultaneously, the focus of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), was broadened beyond money-laundering to include countering the finance of terrorism through its 40 recommendations, which, through successive amendments, remain the fundamental guideline in this regard. Several significant measures have been taken by the international community to prevent terror funding. These have helped place significant curbs on terrorist activities. However, despite the progressive tightening of the existing loopholes, curbing funding of terrorism remains a challenge. Often, terrorism and its finance get associated with terrorist groups and their leadership. Think of terrorism finance and names like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Daesh, Al-Qaeda, Taliban and Boko Haram come to mind. There is little denying their involvement in terrorism and its



funding. In fact, each of these groups is proscribed by the UNSC.

However, we tend to forget the role of a State in the control, recruitment and funding of some of these groups. It is unimaginable to think of the LeT and JeM without linking them to the ISI and the Pakistan Army. They have raised, nurtured and employed these tools of modern warfare, often referred to as hybrid warfare, in pursuit of their strategic ends. Should the international community and its representative organisations then look at these groups in isolation? Can the role of a state be divested from such groups that have come to represent a threat to humanity across borders and boundaries? The evidence against turning a blind eye towards terrorist groups, irrespective of their immediate target, is clear. As history indicates, strategic assets of today can become a national embarrassment of tomorrow. The idea of 'No Money for Terror' should not place conditionalities. Nor should it eliminate the role of individual states involved in such activities. Quite to the contrary, constraining easy funding of a country like Pakistan is more likely to pressure it to curb terrorism rather than of a terrorist group, which is merely an instrument of the state.

Technology has revolutionised the modern world in every conceivable way. The financial system is not an exception to this change. Terrorism finance is peculiar by virtue of the source of funds that support terrorism. Most funding comes from legal, rather than illegal sources,

making its identification that much more of a challenge. In addition, the world of terror funding includes medieval forms of moving value as well as ultra-modern transfer mechanisms. Usually, money for terror funding has been transferred by four primary means, especially in the Indian context. These include 'hawala', cash, formal channels and trade. Recent years have complicated this by the inclusion of cryptocurrency. While informal channels have been prevalent for centuries, including 'hawala' or 'hundi', cryptocurrency has created ripples in the existing framework by straddling both formal and informal money transfer options. It remains on the cusp of the legal and illegal frameworks of the financial world, making its regulation that much bigger a challenge.

Terrorist groups have traditionally exploited these very lacunae within the financial system to follow the path of least resistance, very much like the logic that governs the flow of water under natural conditions.

The role of technology is also coming to the fore in conjunction with more traditional areas of terror funding. As an illustration, narcotics and fake currency have been used by states and terrorist groups for long. However, their transportation followed a predictable pattern of employing couriers, transferring them by road, rail, or air. This has been challenged by the employment of drones. The advantage of plausible deniability remains a major attraction for countries like Pakistan, which have repeatedly exploited this opening across the borders.

Inflation slows

Prices coming down not expected anytime soon

RETAIL inflation tracked by the Consumer Price Index has slipped to a three-month low, led by softening food and commodity prices. Another bright speck on an otherwise drab economic front is the wholesale inflation easing to a 19-month low. At 6.77 per cent in October, retail inflation has spent 10 consecutive months above the Reserve Bank of India's 6 per cent upper tolerance band. It reached an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April. What may come as a bit of a relief is the expert opinion that inflation has already peaked in India. The downside is that the process of prices easing could take up to two years. That's how long it might be before the retail inflation rate falls to 4 per cent, the middle level of the RBI target. The wholesale inflation slowdown is expected to continue, but again, any immediate benefit to consumers is unlikely.

The RBI and the Finance Minister maintain that economic activity in India has remained resilient



despite aggressive global monetary tightening. There is not much to disagree. For the consumers, though, what matters is the retail pricing. Prices of vegetables, spices

and cereals are not showing signs of moderation. Dairy and poultry products are way costlier. The slight softening of price pressures in the case of edible oils, fruits and sugar are yet to result in a reduction of rates in most cases. It's pretty tough going for an average household. Bringing prices under control is vital.

It's not just the global inflationary headwinds, another challenge is looming. A spate of sackings and hiring freezes across the big tech sector, most prominently by Meta and Amazon, is being attributed to contraction in demand after a pandemic-induced boom. The impact in India is yet to be felt, but in a country facing a major job crisis, the signs are ominous.

Dealing with the raging unemployment must top the priority list of the Centre as well as every state government.

Democracy at odds with cult of narcissism

EVEN though Prime Minister Narendra Modi is known for his oratorical skills, his two recent statements made an ordinary citizen like me somewhat perplexed. Well, despite my ordinariness, I love to value the spirit of democracy — democracy as a possibility, a project, or a continual process of becoming. And democracy requires our active agency, our alertness, our critical thinking and our ability to question our leaders, if necessary. In other words, even in our ordinariness, we can think, we can imagine, we can reflect, or we can refuse to be hypnotised by the 'messiah'. In fact, democracy is the antithesis of the cult of narcissism. We all ought to be seen as active and equal participants in the process of shaping our collective destiny. Yes, I feel sad, betrayed and perplexed when PM Modi's recent statement in Himachal Pradesh negates this very spirit of democracy. While addressing a poll rally in Solan, he apparently devalued the importance of the aptitude and skills of the candidates contesting the Assembly elections. The voters, as he said, need not remember or bother about the qualities of any candidate because "every vote for kamal ka phool (lotus) will come directly to Modi's account as a blessing." In other words, the message conveyed is that Modi alone matters.

There are three dangers in this terribly ugly cult of narcissism. First, it indicates massive centralisation, or the monopoly of power. It is like using the ritual of periodic elections as a manipulative tool to promote some sort of 'democratically elected' authoritarianism. Second, it is an insult to even those BJP candidates who are contesting the elections in Himachal Pradesh. Modi is conveying a message to them: As individuals, they hardly matter, they are insignificant, they are destined to exist under his shadow, and they are just programmed dolls dancing to his tunes.

It is, however, a different story whether these candidates bother about their self-dignity. Or, is it that they seem to



be happy with this humiliation, or what German social psychologist Erich Fromm would have characterised as 'escape from freedom' for some temporal material gains? And third, it is an insult to the voters. You and I need not be concerned about our local issues. You and I need not scrutinise the personal attributes or past records of the candidates we are voting for. We must take Modi as the all-pervading 'supreme' leader, and nothing should bother us. Be part of the crowd. Don't try to be a thoughtful or reflexive citizen! And now think of Modi's yet another recent statement relating to what he regards as the 'zero tolerance' policy against terrorism. While virtually addressing the 'Chintan Shivir' organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Surajkund, Haryana, he said Maoists in all forms had to be eliminated to

strengthen the internal security of the country. No wonder, as he said, "It is high time urban Naxals or the Maoists holding pens were destroyed to safeguard the younger generation from being misled." Well, the history of Maoism — like any other form of extremist/reductionist doctrine — need not necessarily be peaceful. Yet, as an ordinary citizen, I believe that democracy is about the plurality of visions — diverse and even conflicting ideas of politics, economy and culture; and democracy is also about the art of debate, listening and peaceful mode of conflict resolution. Hence, it is possible that in a democracy you find Gandhians and Marxists, liberals and socialists, atheists and believers, ultra-nationalists and global humanists, or rightists and leftists. And they have the right to co-exist

so long as they give their consent to the critical minimum: abhorring the practice of political violence, and retaining the spirit of dialogue and negotiation.

Hence, it has to be asked whether the 'Maoists holding pens' are necessarily always dangerous, and promoting violence? Possibly, some of them as academic scholars, researchers and public intellectuals are simply probing into the prevalent social order through the eyes of the subaltern — adivasis, Dalits, forest dwellers and landless peasants. Or, is it that as hyper-nationalists equate patriotism with the unconditional loyalty to their project of social engineering, every alternative voice is seen as potentially dangerous and 'anti-national'? Is it that by criminalising the act of political and intellectual dissent, the ruling regime is remaining silent about, or even legitimising the all-pervading structural and cultural violence we experience everywhere — the violence of neoliberalism and heightened socio-economic inequality, the violence of militant Hindutva, the violence of hyper-nationalism, and the violence of the residue of a feudal/casteist/patriarchal social order? Or, is it that by demonising the 'Maoists holding pens', PM Modi is conveying a message that every form of intellectual voice that interrogates the prevalent state of affairs is under surveillance? It seems these days anyone can be called a 'Maoist' or 'urban Naxal' — be it Father Stan Swamy or Umar Khalid, a rights activist and a young student protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act, or a Gandhian environmentalist reminding us of the humane and ecological cost of mega development projects or a university professor questioning the growing saffronisation of education.

Yet, Modi's popularity, as it is said, is simply amazing. The doctrine that 'there is no alternative' seems to be the dominant common sense of the age. And, herein lies the danger — the fall of democracy as people's critical thinking, alternative imagination and creative agency amid the rising cult of narcissism.

KIIT-IS Innovation & Business Conclave

Researchers Discuss Tech with Ability to Smell; Encourage Students to Be Curious

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Eminent researchers of the country on Thursday encouraged students to develop a probing mind and ask questions to become good scientists and respected engineers of tomorrow. The researchers included the former director of IIT Delhi Dr V Ramgopal Rao who is currently developing a technology that can smell and work like a sniffer dog scouting for suspicious objects in public places. They were speaking at the first 'Innovation and Business Conclave' "B-INGENIOUS" of KIIT International School. Addressing the students, Scientific Secretary to Govt of India Dr Parvinder Maini asked the students, who had

congregated from different parts of Odisha, to be inquisitive as a thoughtful students can develop talents to become good researchers. She cited several examples from the field of industry to space science, saying that the spirit of inquiry can only help a student invent new technologies and solutions for the well-being of society. She voiced her serious reservation about the established phenomena of rote learning which she said has "unfortunately crept into the IITs as well". Dr Maini advised the students to judge their strengths and weaknesses before picking the stream of their choice without succumbing to peer pressure. "Today,



there are 300 career options to select but sadly most of the students are not aware of them," she said.

Former Scientific Secretary to Govt of India Dr Swati Basu, like the other speakers, stressed developing the habit of curiosity and inquisitiveness as these traits will help the students keep up the learning process. Citing

Albert Einstein who famously said that his curious mind made him a scientist, Dr Basu said "curiosity is the strength of continuous learning that leads to the desire for innovation". Dreams, she said, also open one to the world of endless possibilities. Dr Basu also touched upon the emerging frontiers of artificial intelligence and machine

learning that can solve a multitude of problems in areas such as the farm sector. Dr Rao, who is currently associated with IIT Bombay, gave a fascinating insight into his research work that has spanned two decades. One of them includes enabling the mobile device to smell. He exuded confidence that technologies like "nano sniffer" can become a reality soon and supplement the efforts of sniffer dogs to scan bags at the Delhi airport.

Harping on the importance of asking questions, something that even the ubiquitous Google is unable to do, he said good questions can translate into good research work. "Today

sensors are evolving very fast. We are working on agri sensors for soil health monitoring that can determine the amount of urea to be used and help the farmer save on the input cost. CEO of KIITTI Dr Mrutyunjay Suar asked the aspiring engineers among the students to stop searching for jobs and instead become an engineer to do something for society. He said the KIIT Technology Business Incubator is working with promising ideas to realise their dreams and announced to support the top five views at the conclave for free. Chairperson KIIT International School Dr Mona Lisa Bal and Principal of the School Sanjay Kumar Suar also spoke.

NJWB honours eminent journalists on World Press Day



Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Senior Journalist Bama Padma Tripathy has been honoured with the prestigious Utkal Sambadika Ratna Samman at a function organised by the National Journalist Welfare Board (NJWB) to observe the World Press Day here. The Board also honoured eminent journalists—Pritam Singh Bhatia, Achin Chakraborty, Sahana Tripathy, Ashok Pandey, Tanveer Khan and Himanshu Tripathy with Rashtriya Sambadika Gourav Samman and NALCO General manager Ashutosh Rath with Public relations Samman on Wednesday.

On this occasion the NJWB provided pension to 32 senior journalists and felicitated Journalism students of various Autonomous colleges and Universities who have topped the examination with Samman named after the memory of seven journalists.

The students felicitated by the NJWB included Pratiksha Mohapatra of IIMC Dhenkanal with

Dillip Satpathy Smarak Samman, Sriyanka Sahu of Utkal University with Rabi Narayan Mohanty Smarak Samman, Debajani Mohapatra of Ramadevi Mahila University with Pradyumna Bala Smaraki Samman, Sweta Mohanty of Ravenshaw University with Ramahari Mishra Smaraki Samman, and Sharmistha Kumari Moharana of Berhampur University with Barendra Kumar Dhal Smaraki Samman, Swagatika Parija of BJB College with Arindam Das Smaraki Samman and Biswa Ranjan Rout of Fakir Mohan University with Gopal Mishra Smaraki Samman.

The function which was held under the Chairmanship Board Chairman Dipak Malabya and Prodosh Patnaik was attended by among others Union Minister Bisweswar Tudu, Odisha Minister Prafulla Mallik, Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra, Development Commissioner P K Jena and MLA Ananta Kishore Jena.

7 claims letter from Rushikulya Rayot Mahasabha

Polasara, (TNB): Polasara Block Rushikulya Rayot Mahasabha Committee has issued a 7-point demand letter through the Polasara Tahasildar to Ganjam District Collector. Under the leadership of Rushikulya Rayot Mahasabha President Satyaban Pradhan, many farmers of Polasara region met Tahasildar Bhaskar Chandra Sahu and gave 7-point resourceful demand letter to solve various problems of their region. The main demands are, Camp courts in each Panchayat to change the succession. Raising the height of four check dams by 1 meter each along Daburiya canal near Polasara, Balighai, Siddipur, Kashinathpur, Patigad, Ustapada and Banthapalli villages. They objected by presenting 7 demands such as restoration of the 21-acre khajuri dam reservoir within Polasara city. Immediate repair of Bad Ghai, Gorada Ghai and other demands. The union has demanded immediate government assistance to the farmers who were affected by low-pressure rain last year. If the demands are not met, the union farmers have been warned that there will be a mass movement. During the presentation of the demand letter to the Tahsildar, many farmers were present, including the district secretary of the association, Simanchal Nahak, Hin Swain, Dukhishyam Pradhan and Raghunath Panda and others.

Poor supervision and Maintenance causing NH49 unsafe

Keonjhar, (TNB): Due to lack of proper supervision and maintenance, NH49 near Dhrupada and other areas became unsafe. Despite huge amounts spent for the construction of NH49, in many parts of the road the street lights are lying unused due to lack of immediate maintenance. The company employees could not visit the areas and repairing the lights, despite frequent complaints by the villagers, has spread tension in those areas. Local resentment is growing due to callousness of private

companies engaged for maintenance, which may explode if proper steps are not taken immediately.

This situation arose on Thursday when a line truck hit a cross sign board, electric pole and barricade installed in the highway near Dhrupada. At that time no vehicle was going on that highway; hence a big possible accident has been avoided, villagers said.

The highway that comes down from over bridge and touches Keonjhar road has become unsafe due to faulty plans. In that



condition, putting concrete blocks on the service road by the maintenance company has made that place more unsafe. According to the local people, the street lights installed in that area have been lying defunct for more than months. Despite several complaints to save electricity bills and main-

tenance costs, the company could not take steps for their repair, causing the area to become dark. In reply Pradip Ranasinghe, in charge of the maintenance company said "due to theft the street lights are lying defunct. We could not repair if frequent theft was taking place. The road has been

constructed as per NHAI guideline. They are responsible for any fault in the road."

But local people said that "if there is any theft of electrical items, then why the company till today has not lodged any complaint in the police station". "They are trying to suppress the reality in the name of theft which we strongly condemn," they alleged. The highway is completely unsafe from Gaudunibeda to Baliaguda, we raised our voice several times before the administration.

Youth Odissi Dancer felicitated



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Ashmini Mishra, a budding Odissi dancer of Bhubaneswar has been felicitated on occasion of National Press Day at Pipili. The event was organised by Utkalmani Sambadik Sangha and other Journalists association. Smt. Mishra is learning the classical dance under the direct guidance of Guru Surendranath Khuntia, who is an expert in the classical Odissi style of Late Guru Debaprasad Das and well-know Guru of the State.

She originally belongs too Pipili and based at Bhubaneswar with her family. She also a recipient of 5th Guru Debaprasad Das Samman this year. On this occasion, She conveys her gratitude to her Guru Surendranath Khuntia, 'Nrutyaarchana', where she is a student of Odissi dance and the organizer of the event.

Former diplomat Abasara Beuria passes away

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Former diplomat Abasara Beuria passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 80. Beuria had served in Indian diplomatic missions in Japan, United States of America, Russia (formerly USSR), United Arab Emirates, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Madagascar. He was critically involved as a member of the Indian delegation in bilateral and multilateral international talks including Non Alignment Summit, Commonwealth Heads of Governments Conference and G-77 Conventions.

Before joining the Indian Foreign Service, Beuria worked as a Bank officer and lecturer. He studied M.A. (Political Science) from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and Bachelor of Arts degree from the prestigious Ravenshaw College, Cuttack in Odisha. He was residing in Bhubaneswar after retirement from service and is closely associated with leading socio-cultural and philanthropic organizations.

Ragging in Binayak Acharya College 12 Students have been expelled

Berhampur, (TNB): Binayak Acharya College of Berhampur of Ganjam of Odisha has taken immediate steps regarding a ragging matter happened in the college premises. The video got viral in the social media, and without wasting anytime Berhampur police took quick action against the victims. A senior Students

Abhisekh Nahak and another student named Babula Panda were taken in to custody and another three students involved in the ragging detained by the police for questioning. Berhampur Police recommended the college disciplinary committee and anti-ragging cell unit to take strong action and rusticate both students.

Today the college anti ragging cell and disciplinary committee took bold action against all the students who were entertaining the moment of ragging and supported the unlawful activity in the college. 12 students including boys & girls have been

expelled from the college. All the students who were illegally supported the anti-social activity in the college and enjoying the moment will have to face a strong action in further investigation. It is expected they may face a criminal investigation. According to the report received, some senior students of this college started ragging a first year girl in the college premises. They rounded the girl and started using filthy languages; the senior student named Abhisekh was the main victim of this ragging who kept a plastic rod and threatened the girl. Babula a student of plus

two second year started to behave badly with the girl by touching her body illegally.

They used too much bad filthy languages during ragging and other boys and girls are entertaining this unlawful activity. Nearly about 15 students gathered there and witnessed the ragging. At Abhisekh's direction Babula repeatedly touched the girl's body. Abhisekh told that it was a moment of their marriage and every one should enjoy the moment. Number of time the girl tried to escape from that place but failed as Abhisekh did not al-

low her to go. Berhampur SP Sraban Bibek immediately informed Badabajar Ps to take action against the students involved in ragging. 5 students involved in the ragging detained and questioned, based on the enquiry the main victim Abhisekh and Babula have been arrested and other students have been expelled from the college. Ragging a girl in Binayak Acharya College has blazed the district. On the report of the victim of the viral video Badabajar PS has registered a case no 308/2022 and further investigation has started.

TAKING OVER THE CHARGE OF DIRECTOR, IIT BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Shreepad Karmalkar, Professor of Electrical Engineering Department, IIT Madras, has taken over as the new Director of IIT Bhubaneswar w.e.f. 17th November 2022. He succeeded Prof. V K Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur who was in additional charge of IIT Bhubaneswar from 2nd April 2022.

Prof. Karmalkar received the B. Tech and accelerated PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), in 1983 and 1989 respectively. His areas of interest are Semiconductor Devices and Education. Prior to joining IIT Bhubaneswar, he was the Head, Educational Technology Cell, IIT Madras. The new Director took charge in the presence of Deans, Professors and the Registrar of the Institute.

SOA law student felicitated for being topper in OJS exam

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Adyasha Mishra, a student of SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL), SOA's faculty of legal studies here, who topped the Odisha Judicial Service (OJS) examination recently, was on Wednesday felicitated by the university's Founder President Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak. In fact, four students of SNIL had cleared the OJS examination this year with Sitesh Mohanty occupying the ninth place. Two others, Samikshya Sa and Ipsita Bhoi had occupied



the 15th and 17th place respectively in the examination.

Prof. (Dr.) Nayak felicitated Mishra and Mohanty at a special program held in the university while wishing them the best in their career. The other two students could

not be present as they were away. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Nayak said the students had excelled in the examination because of the continuous effort and encouragement provided by SNIL Dean Prof. S.A.K. Azad and other faculty

members. Expressing their happiness after the felicitation program, Mishra and Mohanty said they had received great support from the Dean of the institute during their preparation for the examination. The program was attended, among others, by Prof. Azad, Prof. Prabir Kumar Patnaik, Senior Professor, Prof. Madhusudan Das, Senior Professor, Dr. Chinmay Kumar Mohapatra, Associate Professor and Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare).

Affidavit

By Virtue Of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhadrak, Odisha dated 17.11.2022. I, Basudev Panda, S/O Jayadeba Panda, Address Vill/P.O.-Olaver, P.S.-Rajkanika, Dist-Kendrapara, Odisha, Pin No- 754227 have changed my surname from Basudev Panda to Basudeba Panda. Henceforth, I Shall be known as Basudeba Panda for all purpose.

Paytm investors seem not in a hurry to sell: Analysts

NEW DELHI: Paytm's pre-IPO investors, which include likes of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathway, SoftBank, Elevation Capital and Alibaba, do not seem to be in a hurry to exit the company as they continue to believe in its long-term prospect, analysts said.

On Tuesday, 86 per cent of Paytm's shares became free to trade after end of lock-in period but that had a minimal impact on the stock. Market participants have been speculating on Paytm, post expiry of lock-in for pre-IPO investors. "Paytm's lock-in expiry had no impact on the share price as the company's robust performance continues to impress investors." Avinash Gorakshakar, Director, Research, Profitmart Securities, said about Paytm. Paytm's pre-IPO investors like Warren Buffett, SoftBank, Elevation Capital, Alibaba are long-term investors. SoftBank's Masayoshi Son is reportedly not in a hurry to exit from its investments like Paytm, PB Fintech, Delhivery. The investor doesn't want to trigger panic selling. Rahul Sharma, co-founder, Equity99 Advisors, said, "The marquee investors of Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led digital company are in no hurry to sell." Paytm has impressed its investors with continued strong performance. The company recently announced Q2 FY23 financials and had posted a 76 per cent y-o-y growth in revenue to Rs 1,914 crore.

Meanwhile, the company's losses reduced by 11 per cent on a sequential basis. The company's contribution profit surged 224 per cent y-o-y to Rs 843 crore.

On Monday, the company announced that in its rapidly growing lending business, it had disbursed 3.4 million loans in October, registering a y-o-y growth of 161 per cent. The value of total loans disbursed in October grew to Rs 3,056 crore (\$407 million, y-o-y growth of 387%). Paytm's leadership in offline payments strengthened further with its total merchant subscription devices deployed increasing to 5.1 million. For October, the total merchant GMV processed through Paytm aggregated to Rs 1.18 lakh crore (\$14 billion), marking a y-o-y growth of 42%.

SBI customer alert! Now, Pay more towards THESE transactions as bank hikes processing fee

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) customers will now have to pay more on transactions related to rent payment and Merchant EMI transactions as the bank has revised the processing fee on credit card users for these category of transactions. The new charges have come into effect from 15 November 2022.

"W.e.f. 15 Nov 2022, Processing Fee on all Merchant EMI transactions will be revised to Rs.199 + applicable taxes from Rs.99 + applicable taxes. W.e.f. 15 Nov 2022, Processing Fee of Rs.99 + applicable taxes will be levied on all Rent Payment transactions," SBI website reads. It may be recalled that in September, private sector lender ICICI Bank too had revised its charges on Credit Card towards rent payment. In a message sent to its customers, the bank said, "Dear Customers, starting 20-Oct-22, all transactions on your ICICI Bank Credit Card towards rent payment will be charged at 1% fee." With this, the ICICI Bank has become the first bank to levy a charge on rent payments using credit cards.

Amazon layoffs in India may be higher than other tech majors: Report

Amazon's layoffs, announced on Monday, could result in job losses of "deeper than hundreds" of employees in India. The tech giant operates several businesses in India, including e-commerce, web services and video streaming. According to a report by The Economic Times (ET), the job cuts in India may be higher than the layoffs by other giants like Facebook.

Amazon is likely to let go of 10,000 employees globally in this round of layoffs. "The retrenchment is happening here (India) and discussions are underway on the numbers," a person aware of the matter told ET. "There is a sense it might be relatively higher as compared to peers like Meta-owned Facebook and others where India was not affected in a big way," they added. Amazon's workforce in India is estimated to be around 100,000. In India, the company has its main offices in Bengaluru. The report added that the employees work from co-working spaces in other major cities. Including direct and indirect jobs, Amazon employs over 1.1 million people in India. The layoffs may happen across several sectors,



including engineering. The company is expected to start downsizing its workforce as soon as this week, the New York Times (NYT) reported earlier. This comes amid job cuts from several big tech firms globally. Meta last week announced cutting 11,000 jobs, and Twitter has slashed its team by half since the takeover by Elon Musk. "While a hiring freeze has been operational at Amazon for a quarter now, the mandate to reallocate workforce among verticals and projects was a recent addition. Functions, projects and verticals that had generated sufficient slack to deal with the buoyancy are now in focus for the resizing," Kamal Kamath, cofounder at staffing firm Xpheno, told ET.

Hotels see uptick in revenue on strong show from wedding, MICE segments

New Delhi, Amid a strong show from the wedding, and meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) segments, hotels across the country are witnessing a handsome growth in revenue. The situation is also being aided by the domestic air passenger traffic picking up. The India-wide average daily rate (ADR) for the hotel sector in September 2022 was in the range of Rs 5,900-6,100, logging in a rise of 43-45% over the same month last year, according to hospitality consulting firm HVS Anarock. With an occupancy of 62-64%, the revenue per available room (RevPAR) came in at Rs 3,658-3,904 in September 2022. Considering that travel has picked pace this year and also wedding, events and conferences segment has bounced back, we are clocking 30% higher revenue," Rahul Joshi, general manager, Taj Hotel and Convention Centre, Agra, told India Today. "Being a convention hotel with multiple banquets and venues, wedding and MICE segments have been revenue drivers for us. We have hosted some large global conferences this year and witnessed an uptick in the number of

corporate offsites," he added.

The domestic air passenger traffic grew 46% to 10.35 million in September 2022 from 7.07 million in the year-ago month. During January-September 2022, the jump was 64.61% to 87.42 million from 53.11 million in the same period last year. Raffles Udaipur general manager Rajesh Namby said that wedding and leisure segments have been the major contributors to the hotel's revenue this year. He said that while the share of the wedding segment and leisure segment has been 50% and 40%, respectively, the MICE segment has contributed only 10% as the property is still being established as a destination for such events. We have witnessed a revenue increase of approximately 75% as the travel and tourism industry started functioning at its peak from June 2022 as the market opened after two years," said Rajiv Kapoor, general manager, Fairmont Jaipur. At Fairmont Jaipur, weddings are contributing 70% to the total revenue, followed by free independent travellers (FITs) at 20% and corporate MICE at 10%. "Our top line is growing at around



45% compared to the same period last year and we are bullish on surpassing this number by a much higher difference in the upcoming quarters," said Damandeep Singh, general manager, Karma Lakelands Gurgaon. The MICE and leisure segments were the two most significant contributors to Karma Lakelands Gurgaon's overall revenue in the June and September quarters. While conferences brought in around 45% of the total revenue, leisure FITs had a share of nearly 25%. Shangri-La Bengaluru general manager Rakesh Sethi said that the property is experiencing a return to

pre-pandemic levels in terms of occupancy and food and beverage (F&B) demand. "Currently, the overall mix of groups, local demand, corporate travellers, weddings, and airline crews account for nearly three-fourths of total revenue," he added. With numerous auspicious dates falling in December, January and February, hotels are also gearing up to cater to the rise in demand during the upcoming wedding season. "We are strongly focusing on NRI weddings to generate overall higher revenue," said Fairmont Jaipur's Kapoor. Joshi of Taj Hotel and Convention Centre, Agra, said that while conventions and weddings have been a focus area for the hotel along with leisure travel, steps are being taken to augment revenue from staycation and domestic travel segments. "We as an organisation are working towards untapped markets within the corporate segment and also marketing our property as a unique destination for a surreal wedding experience," said Karma Lakelands Gurgaon's Singh.

Steve Jobs' sandals sold for WHOPPING price of Rs 1.7 crore in an auction-- Details inside

New Delhi: A pair of sandals owned by Apple's co-founder Steve Jobs were sold for \$218,750 (approximately ₹1.7 crores). Julien's Auctions said that the "well-used" brown suede Birkenstocks, dating to the mid-1970s set a record for the highest price ever paid for a pair of sandals.

The auction company stated in the item on its website that the cork and jute footbed "retains the impression of Steve Jobs' feet, which had been sculpted after years of use." According to information on the auction house's website, Steve Jobs wore these sandals over numerous crucial periods in Apple's history. (Also Read: THIS company makes the world's most expensive beer in history at WHOPPING cost; Here's everything you need to know) He and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak conceived the company's initial ideas



in a Los Altos garage in 1976 when he intermittently wore these sandals. The Birkenstock headquarters in Rahm's, Germany, Birkenstock's first US store in SoHo, New York, IMM Koln, a furniture fair in Cologne, Germany, Zeit Event Berlin for the magazine Die Zeit in 2018, and most recently with the History Museum Wurttemberg in Stuttgart, Germany, were just a few of the exhibitions that the sandals have been a part of, according to the auction

house. (Also Read: PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Bengaluru Tech summit, says future to be much bigger due to India's Innovative youth) The sandals are used well but it is in the good condition. Each sandal has its unique, adjustable Birkenstock buckles and a stamp from the brand on the inside edge of the suede leather foot straps. Steve Jobs' feet left their mark on the cork and jute insole, which had been used well into shape over time. The sandals' rubber soles indicate how well it is used. The former spouse of Steve Jobs, Chrisann Brennan, discussed the recognisable piece of clothing in a Vogue interview. She stated: "He had a simple side, which included the sandals. They served as his attire. You don't have to stress about what to dress in the morning when you have a uniform, which is a nice perk."

India's Tata to open 20 'beauty tech' outlets, in talks with foreign brands

New Delhi, India's Tata Group is planning to open at least 20 "beauty tech" stores where it will use virtual makeup kiosks and digital skin tests to get young, affluent shoppers to buy premium cosmetic products, according to a company document and a person familiar with its strategy. The move pits Tata, whose interests range from cars to jewellery, against LVMH's Sephora and domestic rival Nykaa for a share of the fast-growing \$16 billion beauty and personal care market in the world's second-most populous country. Tata is eyeing what it calls a "beauty enthusiast" in India aged between 18 and 45 years who like to buy foreign brands such as Estee Lauder's M.A.C



and Bobbi Brown, according to the document, which lists The Honest Company, Ellis Brooklyn and Gallinee as potential partners. Tata is in talks with more than two dozen companies to supply exclusive products to the new stores, according

to a person familiar with the strategy, who did not name specific brands. Tata declined to comment on its planned beauty stores and the contents of the document seen by Reuters. Representatives of The Honest Company, Ellis Brooklyn and Gallinee did not respond to Reuters requests for comment. The store opening plans, still under wraps, follow the recent launch of Tata's beauty shopping app, called Tata CLiQ Palette. The company is already in the brick-and-mortar retail business in India, where it has joint-venture partnerships with global brands such as Zara and Starbucks.

Will keep sleeping at Twitter HQ until it's 'fixed', says Elon Musk; Tesla investors are frustrated

New Delhi In 2018, Elon Musk was working through the night and sleeping at Tesla Inc's (TSLA.O) factories in California and Nevada as the company struggled to ramp up production of the Model 3. On Monday, Musk said he had worked through the night at Twitter's San Francisco headquarters and would keep "working & sleeping here" until the social media platform - which he recently acquired for \$44 billion - was fixed. A self-described "nanomanager," Musk's penchant for working long hours in moments of crisis has been a well-known part of his brand. But the billionaire's deep dive into Twitter, after a protracted buyout that he tried to scrap, has some Tesla investors worried about his capacity to focus on his role as CEO of the world's most valuable carmaker. "Tesla investors are going to be frustrated," said Gene Munster, managing partner at venture capital firm Loup Ventures. "He's probably going to spend more time on Twitter than any Tesla investor feels comfortable about." Musk, who is expected to testify in court on Wednesday

about whether a \$56 billion pay package at Tesla is justified, did not respond to a Reuters email seeking comment. He tweeted on Monday "I have Tesla covered too," saying he planned to work at the electric vehicle maker for part of this week. Tesla has an office in Palo Alto, California, and a factory in Fremont, California. Tesla's shares have dropped by 50% since early April, when he disclosed he had taken a stake in Twitter. Sales of Musk's own Tesla shares - totaling \$20 billion since he disclosed his Twitter stake - have added to the pressure. Tesla faces a growing list of challenges from demand concerns in China to a regulatory probe of the claims it makes about the abilities of its "Autopilot" driver assistance technology in the United States. So far this month, Musk's tweets about his efforts to reboot Twitter have accounted for more than two-thirds of his postings on the platform he acquired in October, according to a Reuters tally. Tesla accounted for just 3% of his tweets from Nov. 1 to Nov. 15, down from an average of almost 16% over the previous eight

months. Munster said he expects Twitter to consume Musk's attention for the next six to 12 months, adding that Tesla was a more developed company than in earlier days and less immediately reliant on Musk. In recent days, Musk has said his workload has increased significantly after his Twitter buy. "I have too much work on my plate," he said by video link to a business conference in Indonesia on Monday, saying he was working "from morning till night seven days a week." "Once Twitter is set on the right path, I think it is a much easier thing to manage than SpaceX or Tesla," Musk said earlier this month at the Baron investment conference, referring to the aerospace company which he also runs. Tesla investor Ross Gerber, a strong supporter of Musk, said on Tuesday that Tesla needed to find a deputy for its multitasking CEO. "I think he's finally reached a point where he's really challenging himself. I think they need to find the right person. And quite frankly, they just don't have that person." The Tesla board has expressed concerns about

Musk's commitment to SpaceX and several smaller companies. Tesla board chair Robyn Denholm said in a 2018 email that the "minimal time" Musk was spending at Tesla was "becoming more and more problematic," according to court documents related to his pay trial. A Tesla shareholder says the board failed in approving a \$56 billion pay package for him without demanding his full-time attention. Another board member, Ira Ehrenpreis, noted at trial that Musk was paid for results, not time spent, a view echoed by Musk in a 2021 deposition. At Tesla's annual meeting in August, Musk responded to a question about "key-man risk" by acknowledging his colleagues, saying "We do have a very talented team here. So I think Tesla would continue to do very well even if I was kidnapped by aliens or went back to my home planet maybe." Musk has proven his doubters wrong before and some early investors say they expect him to be up for the Twitter challenge. "When you get an entrepreneur that does all that he's done, we should just be kissing his feet."

India's exports contract for first time in 2 years; imports moderate

New Delhi India's merchandise exports contracted for the first time in two years, in October, as slowing external demand amid recession fears in the West started impacting shipments from the country, further exacerbated by a higher number of holidays during the festival month.

The exports declined 16.65 per cent in October to \$29.78 billion, the data released by the commerce department showed on Tuesday. Imports, on the other hand, moderated to the lowest level in eight months, growing at 5.7 per cent to \$56.69 billion last month. This resulted in a trade deficit of \$26.91 billion, which remained above the \$25-billion mark for a fifth straight month, according to the data. It was in November 2020 when exports contracted last time, by 8.74 per cent. During October, 24 out of the 30 key export items showed contraction, while only six - electronic goods, rice, tea, oil seeds, oil meals, and tobacco - witnessed growth, the data showed. Contraction in key commodity groups such as engineering goods (-21.3 per cent), gems and jewellery (-21.6 per cent), chemicals (-16.4 per cent), and readymade garments (-21.2 per cent) dragged down the overall exports. Non-petroleum, non-gems and jewellery exports -- considered to be core exports - declined by 20.4 per cent to \$26.25 billion in October. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthal pointed out that both global as well as domestic factors had an impact on India's exports.

He also pointed out the "heavy impact" of the festival season. "Tightening of monetary policy in most of the developed world - Europe, the US and elsewhere - puts less money in the hands of the public. Therefore, consumption slows down. These are going to be tough times for us. There will be a lot of headwinds for us, and this will impact our exports too," Barthal told reporters on Tuesday. "I looked at the data of the last two years and I found that during Diwali and pre-Diwali period, there is \$4 billion less exports... We also need to look at the seasonality," he said, adding that export restrictions on items such as steel had also affected export growth. Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, said a moderation in exports and imports on a sequential basis in October was driven by a larger number of holidays in the festival season. On a cumulative basis, the growth in exports was 12.55 per cent during the first seven months of the financial year (April-October). In terms of value, exports had peaked at \$42 billion in the month of March.

NEWS BOX

Neymar joins Brazil squad for 1st practice session ahead of FIFA World Cup

New Delhi Neymar on Wednesday joined the Brazil squad and took part in his first training session with the national team ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2022. Neymar joined the group later than the rest of the players due to a flight issue from France, where he spent the first half of the season with Paris Saint-Germain.

On Tuesday, he left the training session about a half-hour before his teammates. Marquinhos, Neymar's PSG teammate, arrived later as well. On Tuesday, the defender had a light practice session.

Brazil have begun World Cup preparations in Turin, Italy, where it will remain until Saturday when it departs for Qatar. The five-time world champions, seeking their first World Cup title in two decades, will face Serbia in their opening match on November 24. In Group G, Brazil will face Switzerland and Cameroon. Brazil has not won the FIFA World Cup trophy since 2002, when a Ronaldo-inspired team defeated Germany 2-0 in Yokohama. However, the five-time world champions are among the favourites after a qualifying campaign that included 14 wins, three draws, and no defeats. The only blemish on the team's record in the 2020s is a Copa America final loss to Argentina at Rio's Maracana stadium in July of last year.

Tite has announced his intention to retire after the tournament, and he, like the 216 million football-crazed Brazilians, will not be satisfied with anything less than victory in Lusail on December 18.

Chennai Super Kings need a long-term captain if IPL 2023 is MS Dhoni's last season: Pragyan Ojha

New Delhi, Former India spinner Pragyan Ojha believes that Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will begin looking for MS Dhoni's replacement if the legendary Indian cricketer decides to retire after the next IPL season. "Till the time MS Dhoni is playing, there can't be a different captain. It became all the more clear last year. Having said that, had you asked me a year earlier, I would have thought, maybe Kane Williamson, but whatever I know of CSK, if this is MS Dhoni's last year, they would want to pass on the captaincy to an individual who can do the role for the next 5-6 years and brings stability to the team," Pragyan Ojha said while speaking on JioCinema. Ojha even praised CSK for looking for a long-term captaincy option because the franchise operates like a blue-chip team. "CSK is one such team who does not believe in a lot of changes and hence would look for a long-term captain. CSK is like a blue-chip team and not like a day trading one," Ojha added.

Dhoni's CSK, 4-time IPL champions, failed to qualify for the IPL playoff stage last season. Picked as Dhoni's ideal successor, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja chose to step down from the captaincy post following CSK's disastrous league run the previous season. Last season, the Jadeja-led CSK lost six of their eight league matches. After Jadeja decided to relinquish captaincy in order to focus more on his individual performance, Dhoni was reinstated as the leader of the Yellow Brigade. Notably, CSK ended their hugely successful 11-year association with legendary all-rounder Dwayne Bravo. Besides Bravo, CSK have also decided to let go of England's death-overs specialist Chris Jordan, a move that might surprise some. CSK chief executive officer Kasi Viswanathan said, "It's a very tough call. As far as retention is concerned and releasing of players, you know that CSK has always been very passionate about the players, and they have also been contributing to the franchise. It becomes very difficult for us to decide while releasing the players"

Carlos Alcaraz to end year as youngest No 1 after Rafael Nadal exits ATP Finals

New Delhi Rafael Nadal was knocked out of the ATP Finals on Tuesday after Casper Ruud defeated American Taylor Fritz in their round-robin match in Turin. With Nadal's exit, teenager Carlos Alcaraz was assured of finishing the year as world number one.

Alcaraz will be confirmed as the youngest year-end number one since the ATP rankings began in 1973. At 20 years and ten months, Lleyton Hewitt was the previous youngest year-end No. 1 player. Alcaraz broke that record and raised the bar for future competitors who want to challenge him. Nadal needed to win the tournament to unseat compatriot Alcaraz at the top of the rankings, but straight-set losses to Fritz on Sunday and Felix Auger-Aliassime earlier on Tuesday meant he needed Ruud to lose in straight sets to keep his hopes alive. The Norwegian, on the other hand, won the first set 6-3 against Fritz, thanks to his much-improved serve. When Ruud let a 5-1 lead slip away and an energised Fritz leveled the match at 6-6 in their first career meeting, it was anyone's match in the third-set tiebreak. But Ruud kept his cool and won 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(6) on his third match point, advancing to the tournament's semi-finals for the second year in a row. "It was a close one," Ruud said. "I guess we were both nervous there at the end but luckily I was able to pull through."

On this day in 2013: When Sachin Tendulkar's emotional farewell speech brought tears to billions

New Delhi, There are hardly more emotional moments in Indian cricket than Sachin Tendulkar's farewell at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on November 16, 2013. A billion and more fans were listening with rapt attention as Tendulkar, arguably the greatest Indian cricketer brought the curtains down on his celebrated 24-year-long career.

Sachin Tendulkar was unable to control his emotions even as the chants of "Sachin, Sachin" reverberated through the iconic stadium in Mumbai. Thousands had turned up to watch the Master Blaster's last day in international cricket and they were not disappointed as the batting great took his time to gather his thoughts and share his emotions with the world. For Tendulkar, it must have been hard to imagine not waking up and looking forward to playing the sport he loved the following day. For millions of his fans, it was hard to imagine that their idol was never going to again play those silky drives as an India cricketer anymore. Millions grew up watching the artist dominate opposition attacks and the realisation that the ritual of sitting in front of the television sets and being mesmerised by the batting great would no more exist was heartbreaking. The legendary @sachin_rt made his #TeamIndia debut and 21, 4 years later, walked out to

bat for one final time in international cricket @BCCI pic.twitter.com/ITnVtHKKA8 — BCCI (@BCCI) November 15, 2022

It was evident with the way the emotions overflowed on November 16. Every word of Tendulkar's speech was cheered, his pauses gave fans the time to let their emotions out and the chants never stopped on an eventful day. India had wrapped up a Test series victory against West Indies.

Rohit Sharma had announced his arrival as a Test cricketer. Pragyan Ojha bamboozled West Indies batters with great precision. But, none of that mattered. Only the man standing in the middle of the pitch, trying hard not to tear up, mattered. In a long speech, Tendulkar thanked nearly everyone who played a part in helping him become the legend that he is. Here are snippets from Tendulkar's iconic speech, which was the fitting end to what was one of the most memorable careers in sport. In the last 24 years that I have played for India, I have made new friends, and before that I have had friends from my childhood. They have all had a terrific contribution. As and when I have called them to come and bowl to me in the nets, they have left all their work aside to come and help me. Be it joining me on holidays



and having discussions on cricket when I was a little stressed and wanting to find a solution so I can perform better. All those moments my friends were with me. Even for when I was injured, I would wake up in the morning because I couldn't sleep and thought that my career was over because of injuries, that is when my friends have woken up at 3 o'clock in the morning to drive with me and just make me believe that my career was not over. Life would be incomplete without all those friends. Thanks for being there for me. My cricket career started when I

was 11. The turning point of my career was when my brother took me to Achrekar sir, my coach. I was extremely delighted to see him up in the stands. Normally, he sits in front of the television and he watches all the games that I play. When I was 11 or 12, those were the days when I used to hop back on his scooter and play a couple of practice matches a day. The first half of the innings I would be batting at Shivaji Park, the second half, some other match in Azad Maidan. He would take me all over Mumbai to make sure I got match practice.

Want to have an unforgettable World Cup, says Son Heung-min after joining South Korea squad in Qatar

New Delhi, In a sigh of big relief for South Korean fans, Son Heung-min arrived in Doha, Qatar on Wednesday to join the senior national team squad ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2022. Son was sporting black-rimmed glasses over his injured face as he arrived in Doha, becoming the last member to join the South Korean squad. Son Heung-min had dismissed doubts over his availability for the FIFA World Cup with a social media post earlier this month. Notably, Son's participation was in doubt after he underwent surgery to treat multiple fractures on his face on November 4. Son suffered fractures around his left eye after he collided with Chancel Mbemba during a Champions League match between Tottenham Hotspur and Marseille on November 1.

Son, according to an official of the Korean Football Association, brought with him a



specially-designed face mask to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup. Son did not reveal much about the status of his recovery when he spoke with the media at the airport on Wednesday, stressing once again that he

would give his best at the World Cup. "We'll just have to keep monitoring it and see how I recover. As I've said before, I will do the best I can and make sure I never let people down," Son said, as quoted by local media. Son, who will be featuring in his 3rd straight World Cup, will be key to South Korea's chances if they are to make the knockout stages. South Korea will open their campaign against Uruguay on November 24. They will also face Portugal and Ghana in Group H. It remains to be seen if Son, who has scored 35 goals in 104 appearances for South Korea, will be at his best from the word go but the 30-year-old is ready to give it his all at the World Cup. "Compared to the masks you've had to wear for the last two years, the mask that I will wear at the World Cup will be nothing," Son had said in his Instagram post.

Tim David could step for Mumbai Indians and do what Kieron Pollard was doing: Hanuma Vihari

New Delhi India batter Hanuma Vihari believes it will be difficult for Mumbai Indians to replace T20 legend Kieron Pollard, who announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League on Tuesday, November 15. Pollard, arguably an IPL legend, announced his retirement from the league. "Once a MI, always a MI," said the Trinidadian, who was acquired by the Mumbai Indians in a secret bidding war during the IPL 2009 auction. He will remain with the team as batting coach and will continue to play for the MI Emirates, the franchise's subsidiary in the UAE league, according to the franchise (ILT20). Pollard captained the Michigan team in nine games over three seasons. He was retained by the franchise for INR 6 crore last season, despite his meager batting returns of 144 runs in 11 games.

"It is a big loss for them (Mumbai Indians). These are big shoes to fill for a player of the stature of Kieron Pollard. You can't really replace the legend he is in the T20 format. The services he has done for Mumbai Indians, not just as a finisher, but as a fielder and as a leader as well. Five titles with a single team and he has played for one team throughout his career. So that shows the love he had for Mumbai and what Mumbai meant to him. I think it is going to be a big task to replace him. One good thing is that he is still in the dugout giving his guidance," Hanuma Vihari said while speaking on JioCinema. Vihari feels Australia all-rounder Tim David could step up and do the role which Kieron Pollard was doing for Mumbai.

"One thing Mumbai Indians were quite smart about last year was that they picked Tim David as a future replacement for Kieron Pollard. I feel this year Tim David could step up and do the role which Kieron Pollard was doing," Vihari added. Tim David made his IPL debut in 2021 for Royal Challengers Bangalore, appearing in one game. However, in 2022, the batter was given the opportunity to showcase his talent and skills by playing for MI. David, known for pitching sensational innings in the middle of the order, could provide MI with balance in the coming season.

India's roadmap for 2024 T20 World Cup starts now, lot of people will get enough chances: Hardik Pandya

New Delhi Hardik Pandya, who will lead India in the upcoming three-match T20I series against New Zealand, said the road map for the 2024 T20 World Cup starts now. Hardik further said that going forward a lot of players will be given chances to stake their claim in the side. Just a few days after the conclusion of the ICC Men's T20I World Cup, India will face New Zealand in a three-match T20I and ODI series, beginning with the first T20I on November 18 in Wellington.

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Pandya, who will be leading India in the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, starting Friday, said the team needs to overcome their World Cup failure. Pandya also went on to talk about India's big loss in the T20 World Cup semi-final to England. "Yes, we all know there is the disappointment of the World Cup but we are professionals and we need to cope with it. How we cope with our success we cope up with our failures and move forward and look forward to get better rectify our mistakes," Pandya told reporters. The next T20 World Cup will



be played in 2024 in the West Indies and the United States and the Indian squad is expected to undergo a major transition in the next two years with the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma among others being gradually eased out of the setup.

"Yes, the next T20 WC is almost two years so we have time (to unearth new talent). A lot of cricket will be played and a lot of people will get enough chances. The road map starts from now. But it's too fresh right now. We have a lot of time so we will sit down and have conversations on those grounds,"

Pandya said. "Right now it's making sure that the boys enjoy playing here. We will talk about the future later," he added.

The likes of Shubman Gill, Umran Malik, Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson have been given a chance and Pandya says it will be an important series for them in the grand scheme of things. "The main boys are not here but at the same time the talent which the guys who are already here, they have also been playing for one-and-a-half, two years now," he said. They have had ample chances and enough time in international cricket to express themselves and show what they have. Very excited for them, new bunch of guys, new energy and excitement. "Every series is important. You can't play an international game thinking its not important. Yes, World Cup is there but that's a different format, it's 50 overs. But it is an important series for a lot of boys who if they eventually do well here will be able to put a strong case going forward."

IPL 2023 Retention: Kane Williamson not surprised by SunRisers Hyderabad's decision to release him

IPL 2023 Retention: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said on Wednesday that SunRisers Hyderabad informed him about their decision to release him ahead of the mini-auction. Williamson was one of the high-profile names who was let go of on the deadline day

UPDATED New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said on Wednesday that he was not surprised when he was released by SunRisers Hyderabad on the retention deadline day for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023. Williamson was one of the big players to be released as all 10 teams finalised their list of retained and released players on Tuesday. As many as 85 players were released by franchises ahead of the IPL 2023 mini-auction, scheduled for December. Williamson, who was retained for Rs 15 crore by SRH ahead of the mega auction in 2022, was let go despite having been their captain last season.

SunRisers Hyderabad, it seems, are looking to revamp the side as big-ticket players, including



Williamson and Nicholas Pooran, were released ahead of the auction. The 2016 champions will head to the auction with the highest purse - Rs 42.25 crore. "It wasn't a surprise when it [retention list] was officially released. That's the way it goes, I

had a really enjoyable time at SRH, I have a lot of fond memories," Kane Williamson, confirming that SRH informed him about their decision a few days before the deadline day. Williamson joined SunRisers Hyderabad in 2015 and had been

an integral member of the former champions. The New Zealand skipper played 76 matches, scoring 2101 runs at an average of 36. Williamson led SRH to the final in IPL 2018 after he had taken over the reins from David Warner.

WILLIAMSON'S T20 FUTURE? However, Williamson has been struggling to get going in the shortest format of the game. The top-order batter managed just 216 runs in 13 matches at a strike rate of 93, which was severely criticised during the IPL 2022 season. Williamson also was struggling to bat at pace during the recently concluded T20 World Cup in Australia, scoring 172 runs in 5 matches at a strike rate of less than 120.

A handful of almonds promote feelings of fullness: Panelists

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) A handful of almonds may have satiating properties that promote feelings of fullness, which may keep hunger at bay between meals. Snacking on healthy foods like almonds not only keeps us from munching on junk foods but also ensures that our body gets nutrition, as almonds are a source of 15 nutrients such as vitamin E, magnesium, protein, riboflavin, zinc. These are the observations made by the panelists during a session on "Prioritising mindful eat-

ing: the new mantra for holistic family health', organized by Almond Board of California here on Thursday. The session featured well-known Odia Celebrity, Naina Dash Tiwari, as well as Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head, Dietetics, Max Healthcare - Delhi, and was moderated by RJ Shelee.

Intake of calorie-dense foods like sweets and sugar-based foods is also a routine when it comes to certain delicacies or occasions. Hence, mindful eating becomes even more necessary as it aids in

gaining control over one's eating habits, the panelists said while suggesting mindful eating which they said helps in maintaining an in-moment awareness while consuming food. Foods such as almonds have been a part of the Indian traditions and food habits for thousands of years now, and their health benefits have been widely quoted in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha texts, they said.

The panelists further said almonds, which are a source of protein and are high in dietary fiber, can



help in maintaining blood sugar levels, may improve blood sugar control in people with type 2 diabetes and help lower the blood sugar impact of carbohydrate foods, which affects fasting insulin lev-

els. Focusing on the significance of healthy eating, the panelists discussed the multiple lifestyle disorders like weight management, type-2 diabetes and heart health, and that making

minor alterations like adding a handful of almonds as part of one's daily routine can easily help in maintaining good health, and in staying fit consistently.

The panelists also urged families across the city to inculcate healthier eating habits and inspire other friends and extended family members to instil this change. Ritika Samaddar said, "Awareness of good food choices and snacking habits is key to leading a healthy lifestyle. She said studies suggest that inter-

vention techniques that enhance mindful self-awareness improve well-being, including anxiety and depression, food cravings, and weight loss. Almond ingestion at meal-time reduces postprandial glycemia and chronic ingestion reduces hemoglobin A1c in individuals with well-controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The study conducted by the researchers at King's College London also found that almond snacking led to improved heart rate variability in response to mental stress. Renowned Odia celebrity Naina Dash Tiwari

said, "For the health of your family and yourself, one must be cognisant of the kind of lifestyle and eating habits that we practice at home. Any habit that does not add up to your health goals must be avoided and even better, be replaced by something healthy or nutritious. "I would recommend everyone to ensure eating a handful of almonds regularly so that even you are able to reap its several health benefits," Naina said adding a handful of almonds every day can make a healthy difference to our lives.

OUIWJ Observed 57th National Press Day

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): The 57th National Press Day was observed here at Bhubaneswar in Hotel Keshari near Master Canteen Square on 16th November, 2022 at 10:30 A.M. Inaugurating this grand celebration in a solemn atmosphere, Hon'ble Dr. Justice Durgaprasanna Choudhury, Chairperson State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Cuttack exhorted the media to act responsibly while reporting on various issues. He explained that liberty as guaranteed in article 19 clause 1 of the constitution as freedom of right and expression ought not to be taken as a license to encroach upon the privacy and freedom of individual liberty. In that case, the jour-

nalist will be answerable within the ambits of law. He reminded the assembled media personnel that media has a great role to play in the task of nation building like Balgangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi and such other eminent personalities who were also great journalists and editors in the pre-independence era. A journalist's report must be based on truth and on facts, he opined.

Joining as the Chief Guest, Former Member of Parliament and currently member of the State Planning Board Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patsani said that when all the other three wings of democracy, the legislative, the executive and the judiciary are not that independent; media



the fourth pillar of democracy is independent and it has a major role to play in setting all the three in right order. However, he decried against the yellow journalists and observed that as bad money drives away the good money out of circulation; similarly bad politicians drive away good politicians through these yellow journalists, he observed.

Joining as the Guest

of Honour, Former Additional Director General of Police Gopabandhu Mallick, IPS (Retd.), observed that media should act with courage, conviction and with fearlessness for the creation of an emancipated society and for the establishment of a vibrant democracy in our country which is the need of the hour. Media should expose truth without fear and favour and

should not choose to crawl before insolent power; he concluded. Various personalities like international scuba diver Er. Ratnakar Dalei, horticulture officer Ajay Pradhan, ideal police officer Debashish Mishra, noted social worker Bandana Panda and others were felicitated for their contributions in their respective fields of human endeavour. At the outset, President of OUIWJ and Secretary of IJU, New Delhi Sugyan Choudhury introduced the guests while Vice President Ashutosh Rath offered a vote of thanks. This event was successfully co-ordinated by Senior Journalist Sarat Parida and State Treasurer Pramod K. Parida.

Free eye care camp At Golia village



Buguda, (TNB): A free eye care camp has been held in Golia Village under Buguda Block at Sri Sri Langaleswar Library on 17th November by Berhampur Ruby Eye Hospital and Buguda Ruby Vision Center. Manas Ranjan Pradhan, vice-chairman of Buguda block and encouraged the patients attended the free eye camp under the supervision of the camp co-

ordinator Sanatan Behera. Out of the 23 people who registered, 21 patients were diagnosed for operation were taken to Ruby Eye Hospital, Brahmampur for surgery. Cooperation of Golia Villagers and Staff Nivedita Mohanty, Bikas Pradhan, Rakesh Ranjan Behera, Jyoti Ranjan Nayak assisted in running the camp as well as conducting major eye examinations.

Free eye check-up camp organised by R.N.Pathagar



Paradeep, (TNB): The Rabindranath Pathagar organised a free eye check-up camp at Mohanpur Patahgar premises on Thursday, 17th Nov 2022. The camp was conducted with the support and co-operation of SAANVI Eye Hospital Tirtol. More than 30 patients were checked by the optometrist and his medical team.

After examining common eye problem free medicines, eye drops were provided to SAANVI Eye Hospital. After screening the patients, 7 patients identified for cataract surgery during the camp underwent additional physical examination of their blood pressure, blood sugar to determine fitness surgery. The members of Pathagar were present and co-operated the day-long programme.

40 dogs illegally kept for sale rescued in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Dog squads of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation rescued around 40 dogs of different breed from a person on Thursday. The man had illegally kept the canines for sale in a house constructed on government land.

According to information, the man had been making dog business after illegally constructing a house on a government land in Laxmisagar area. The eviction team today rescued the dogs from the house and evicted the encroached land.

8 Injured In Road Mishap In Mayurbhanj

Mayurbhanj, (TNB): As many as eight persons were injured in a road mishap at Ghulghulia area under Mahuladiha police limits in Mayurbhanj district on Thursday morning. According to reports, the incident occurred while a Bhubaneswar bound was en-route Jharkhand with 40 passengers on board when the driver of the ill-fated vehicle allegedly lost control over the wheels and turned turtle after hitting a roadside tree.

The injured persons were immediately rushed to the nearby hospital for treatment. More details are awaited.

Students involved in raging were taken in to custody

Raging at Binayak Acharya College blazed the district

Berhampur, (TNB): In the college premises one of the plus two first year girls was badly misbehaved by the senior students of this college and they made a video of this raging to depress the girl in Berhampur of Ganjam District of Odisha. The video got viral in the social media, and Berhampur police started an investigation about this raging in the college premises. On the report of the victim of the viral video Badabajar PS case no 308/22 has been registered. The main accused involved in the raging

Abhisekh Nahak (24 year) and Babula Panda (16 years) has been arrested; further one 16 year old boy, another 16 year old boy and one 17 year old boy have been detained for questioning.

The Ganjam police will recommend the college administration to rusticate the two arrested students from Binayak Acharya College. The anti-raging cell of the college and the discipline committee will take strong action against this type of unlawful activity said the principal. According to the report received,



some senior students of this college started raging a first year girl in the college premises. They rounded the girl and started using filthy languages; the senior students named Abhisekh was

the main victim of this raging who kept a plastic rod and threatened the girl. Babula a student of plus two second year started to behave badly with the girl by touching her body illegally.

They used too much bad filthy languages during raging and other boys and girls are entertaining this unlawful activity. Nearly about 15 students gathered there and witnessed the raging. At Abhisekh's direction Babula repeatedly touched the girl's body. Abhisekh told that it was a moment of their marriage and every one should enjoy the moment.

Number of times the girl tried to escape from that place but failed as Abhisekh did not allow her to go. Berhampur SP

Sraban Bibek immediately informed Badabajar Ps to take action against the students involved in raging. 5 students involved in the raging detained and questioned, based on the enquiry the main victim Abhisekh and Babula have been arrested. All other students associated (Boys & Girls) in the raging would be included in the criminal investigation. They would be recommended for suspension for 1 year from the college. The disciplinary action would be taken by the college administration.

On the occasion of National Press Day Banarpal Block Journalist Association lit a lamp wishing journalists well

Banarpal, (TNB): On behalf of the Banarpal Block Journalist Association, on the occasion of National Press Day, Banarpal has worshipped at the Jagannath temple and lit a lamp, wishing well to the journalists working in the society. Working journalists are in danger at various times while going to collect news. So wishing him well and his family lit a lamp for his welfare. Sangha President



Akhil Mahapatra, General Secretary, and Sushant Kumar Samal, Chaitanya Sahu, Priyabrat Samal, Rintu Samal, Prabhas Samal,

Vinod Nayak, Sumant Dalbehera, prominently present. He demanded a special law for journalists and free health care for all.

22nd All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2022-23 begins at PPA

Paradip, (TNB): Paradip Port Authority along with Major Ports Sports Control Board is organising 22nd All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2022-23 at Jayadev Sadan. Gracing the inaugural function as Chief Guest, Shri YK Singh, DIG, local unit of Indian Coast Guard inaugurated the cultural extravaganza and said that the Cultural Meet is life-

line of Incredible India, which will showcase rich cultural heritage of the country. Smt. Suchismita Bose, Vice President, Paradip Ladies Club was Guest of Honour.

Around 200 participants from 9 Major Ports across the country are participating in the cultural meet, which will come to an end on 20th November. Shri D.N.



Sondhi, Chairman, Organising Committee presided over the inaugural proceedings. Shri Deepak Rath, Vice Chairman and Dr. DP Sethi, Secretary, organising committee also spoke on

the occasion. Shri Ranjan Rashmi Beura, Jt. Secretary, organising committee co-chaired the programme. All the Major Ports are competing in categories like Classical Vocal, Light Vocal, Instrumental, Dance and Drama. This evening, inaugural performance will be made by JNPA followed by SMP, Kolkata

EAST COAST RAILWAY

'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The following tenders have been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in

e-Tender Notice No. SC/DM/ISBP/Stores/Tender Publication, Dated: 15.11.2022

Sl.No.01 Tender No. 40225492B, Description of Item: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF 16 PORT ROUTER (8 NOS. V.35 AND 8 NOS. G. 703 PORTS) WITH ALL THE ACCESSORIES INCLUDING THE RMK FOR INSTALLATION AT THE SITE. MAKE: CISCO MODEL:ISR_4431/KG OR SIMILAR.

Tender Value (₹) 26,67,744/-, EMD (₹): 53,350/-

Date and time of closing of tender: 1500 hrs of 09.12.2022.

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager PR-712/N/22-23 Sambalpur