

SC: No to NIA's plea for recall order in Navlakha case

New Delhi, (UNI) Supreme Court in its order Friday refused to entertain NIA's plea for recall of its order to keep UAPA accused Gautam Navlakha, allegedly associated with banned Maoist organisation, under house-arrest. The Supreme Court in its order said there was no discrepancy in the staying of the accused, Navlakha, at a place owned by CPI, a recognised political party. A bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice K M Joseph and also Jus-

tice Hrishikesh Roy passed the order after hearing an appeal filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking a direction to recall its order of house arrest of Elgar Parishad accused Gautam Navlakha.

On NIA opposing the order, the bench said, "You are unable to keep an eye on 70 year old man, the Solicitor General (SG) and Additional Solicitor Generals (ASG) saying that we can't get a 70 year old man in confinement? With all might of the state



you cannot keep 70 year old ailing man. we're getting this perception. It is strange." In addition to restrictions placed earlier, on Navlakha, the bench also allowed the NIA to seal kitchen door leading to exit

point & also lock the grill. It has asked to give effect to house arrest order within 24 hours.

"We make it clear that Nov 10 order will be given to effect within 24 hours from the date if receipt of

order," the bench of the Top Court, said, in its order Friday. In its interim order passed on November 10, the division bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Joseph and Justice Roy, allowed the plea filed by activist, Gautam Navlakha, for keeping him in house arrest, after keeping in view his "ill health", and "age", for a month. Despite its orders, this was not complied with. The Supreme Court in its earlier interim order had on November 10, had said Navlakha, ar-

rested in the alleged Bhima Koregaon case, would be shifted from Talaja jail for one month and be kept in "house arrest," after keeping in view his age and health condition.

The Apex Court also had asked the NIA to evaluate the premises where he will be placed within 48 hours from the date of the order, ie, from November 10. It also had asked Navlakha, not to use any mobile phone, internet, laptop or any other communicating device.

Odisha cabinet approves Rs.1500 crore master plan for OUTR

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) The Odisha Cabinet on Friday approved the proposal for implementation of the master plan with an outlay of Rs.1500 crore for transformation of Odisha University of Technology & Research (OUTR), Bhubaneswar. The OTR Bhubaneswar was established through Odisha Act of 2021 by upgrading the College of Engineering & Technology (CET), Bhubaneswar to promote education, research and training in engineering and technology for betterment of the society. With this upgradation, the University intends to extend its advanced technological facilities to the poor and meritorious students of the State by enhancing the existing student strength from 5000 to 10000 within the next 5 years. The implementation of the master plan for transformation of the Odisha University of



Technology and Research, Bhubaneswar will broaden the horizon and give an impetus to multi-disciplinary teaching and research.

This will also help in introducing new generation industry oriented and employment linked courses. Moreover, this will expand the scope for opening different schools to deliver multi and interdisciplinary courses. It will also enable the University to have better access to academic resources and intellectual capital worldwide. This will facilitate the University to have a strong focus on research and introduce Doctoral and Post-Doctoral programmes.

Kharge takes dig at Centre over unemployment issue



New Delhi, (UNI) Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday took a dig at the Centre over unemployment issue, and claimed that over 30 lakh posts are vacant in various departments. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised 2 crore jobs, per year. In 8 years, 16 crore jobs should have been created. More than 30 Lakh posts are vacant in various government departments. But PM Modi distributed just 75,000 odd applications. 1,600 posts vacant under Central Secretariat, directly under PMO," he wrote in a tweet.

Recently, Kharge while addressing a party programme here accused the ruling dispensation of not taking any steps to resolve the unemployment issue. "Modi government is only misleading the people. It has not taken any steps in this direction," he had said.

PGIMER at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar to impart PG courses



Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Odisha government has established "Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) and Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar for imparting Post Graduation (PG) courses in clinical and para-clinical disciplines. The PGIMER was set up for providing quality health service to denizens of Bhubaneswar and adjoining areas, Secretary Health and Family Welfare Shalini Pandit said. The National Medical Council has approved 24 seats in six clinical courses namely Surgery, Medicine, Orthopedic, Gynecology, Respiratory medicines, and Pediatrics from the year 2022-23. Official sources said presently, the admission to these courses is going on

through different rounds of counseling as per the guidelines.

The institute is simultaneously being developed for accommodating PG teaching in eleven clinical and four para-clinical courses.

As per the NMC guidelines, the OPD timing of Medical College and Hospital is 9 AM to 5 PM, with one hour lunch break between 1 PM to 2 PM. This timing is followed in all Medical Colleges and Hospitals of the State. The Health secretary said such timing would be applicable to PGIMER Capital hospital with immediate effect. The timing would also be more helpful in accommodating the increasing load of patients in this premier hospital of the State.

Odisha cabinet excludes single allottees under discretionary quota from purview of Task Force Report

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) The Odisha cabinet on Friday decided to exclude single allotment made by BDA, CDA and OSHB under the discretionary quota from the purview of Task Force Report. In the light of the recommendation of the Task Force contained in paragraph-48(7) of the report, the government has decided to exclude from the purview of the Task Force Report, the allotment made under the discretionary quota. The allotments which have been made in terms of the brochure and schemes to persons who are single allottees by BDA, CDA and OSHB which can be considered as genuine and which is in sync with judgment rendered by the High Court, official sources said. It was further decided that since the allotment to the original single allottee can be construed as valid mutations and other post allotment formalities in favour of the legal heirs of such allottees can be considered as proper and valid and no action need be taken against such allotments.

Eleven candidates remain in fray for Padmapur by election after scrutiny

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) As many as 11 candidates including the candidates of three major political parties- BJP, BJD and the Congress remain in the fray for the byelection to Padmapur Assembly constituency after scrutiny on Friday. As many as 13 candidates had filed their

nominations for the by elections but 11 remained in the fray after the nominations paper of two Independents were rejected during scrutiny. The byelection to Padmapur Assembly constituency was necessitated following the demise of BJD sitting MLA Bijay Ranjan

Singh Bariha. As per the schedule November 21 has been fixed as the last date for withdrawal of candidature. The polling will be held on December 5 and counting of votes will be done on December 8 next.

The candidates who remained in the fray were— Barsha Singh Bariha

(BJD), Pradeep Purohit (BJP), Satya Bhushan Sahu (Cong), Bidyadhar Pandav (Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha), Muktheshwara Das from Odisha Janata Party and six Independents. While the BJP and Congress candidates are former MLAs of the constitu-

ency, Barsha Bariha from ruling BJD is the daughter of the deceased BJD MLA and daughter in law of senior BJP leader Ramaranjan Baliarsingh. The six Independents are —Udit Bondia, Gangadhar Saha, Debarchan Naik, Brundaban Purohit, Rebati Giri and Seshadev Sahu.

Odisha Port policy to promote private sector investments in maritime sector

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Odisha port Policy 2022 will facilitate the promotion of private sector investments into the maritime sector of the state, helping the state to merge as a favoured investment destination. The policy formulated by the Commerce & Transport Department, Government of Odisha for the holistic development of the entire maritime ecosystem of Odisha, was approved by the cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday.

This policy aims to provide comprehensive guidelines for integrated development of non-major ports and inland waterways of Odisha. Odisha has 14 notified Non-Major ports, out of which the ports at Dhamra and Gopalpur are already functioning, while the ports at Astaranga and Subarnarekha Mouth (Kirtania) are currently under construction. The Policy will promote other maritime ventures such as Coastal Shipping, promotion of Marine Tourism, Multipurpose harbours, introduction of Sea- plane connectivity, promotion of facilities and creation of infrastructure for ship building and Ship breaking and related activities. Greater focus has been placed on adoption of latest technology and creating sustainable maritime development along the Odisha coast, official sources said.



Must impose cost on countries supporting terrorism: PM

New Delhi, (UNI) Proxy wars are dangerous and violent and there must be cost imposed on countries that support terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday launching a blistering attack on Pakistan while addressing 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing here. "There must be a cost imposed upon countries that support terrorism. Organisations and individuals that try to create sympathy for terrorists must also be isolated. There can be no ifs and buts entertained in such matters. The world needs

to unite against all kinds of overt and covert backing of terror," he said.

"It is well known that terrorist organizations get money through several sources. One source is state support. Certain countries support terrorism as part of their foreign policy. They offer political, ideological and financial support to them," the Prime Minister said adding that international organisations must not think that the absence of war means peace. In a veiled attack on China as well for repeatedly blocking India's bids to blacklist Pakistan based dreaded terrorists at the

UN, the Prime Minister said that there is no place for ambiguous approach on the issue. "Sometimes, there are indirect arguments made in support of terrorism to block action against terrorists. There is no place for an ambiguous approach while dealing with a global threat," he stressed. Modi said that terrorism is an attack on humanity, freedom and civilisation. It knows no boundaries, only a uniform, unified and zero-tolerance approach can defeat terrorism, he added.

The Prime Minister also pointed out that ideally there should be no need for anyone to remind the



world of the dangers of terrorism, however, he said, "There are still certain mistaken notions about terrorism in some circles. The intensity of the reaction to different attacks cannot vary based on where it happens. All terrorist attacks deserve equal outrage and action." The Prime

Minister emphasised that uprooting terrorism needs a larger proactive response as tactical gains against terrorists may be lost in absence of a larger strategy. "Fighting a terrorist and fighting terrorism are two different things. A terrorist may be neutralised with weapons. Immediate tactical re-

sponses to terrorists may be an operational matter. But tactical gains will soon be lost without a larger strategy aimed at hurting their finances," he said.

"If we want our citizens to be safe, then we cannot wait until terror comes to our homes. We must pursue terrorists, break their support networks and hit their finances," the Prime Minister added. The Prime Minister also stressed on the need to take concerted action against major criminal networks as they have deep links with terror outfits. "One of the sources of terror funding is organised crime.

Organised crime should not be seen in isolation. These gangs often have deep links with terrorist outfits," he said. The money made in gun-running, drugs and smuggling is pumped into terrorism, the Prime Minister added. He said that the criminal syndicates help with logistics and communication to terrorists, therefore, action against organised crime is extremely important in the fight against terror.

"At times, even activities like money laundering and financial crimes have been known to help terror funding. Fighting it needs global collabora-

tion," the Prime Minister added. The Prime Minister said that there is a need for a uniform understanding of new finance technologies as "new kinds of technology are being used for terror financing and recruitment." The Prime Minister also spoke in favour of involving the private sector in such efforts. Modi began the address by saying that India faced the horrors of terror long before the world took serious note of it. He said that the country has lost thousands of precious lives, but it has fought terrorism bravely.

NEWS BOX

US Vice Prez Kamala Harris to visit Philippine islands at edge of South China Sea dispute

Washington U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris will visit the Philippine islands of Palawan on the edge of the disputed South China Sea, a senior administration official said on Tuesday, in a move that may be interpreted by Beijing as a rebuke. The visit, scheduled for next Tuesday, will make Harris the highest-ranking American official to visit the island chain adjacent to the Spratly Islands. China has dredged the sea floor to build harbors and airstrips on the Spratlys, parts of which are also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Beijing claims some territories in the waters off Palawan and much of the South China Sea, citing domestic historical maps. A 2016 international arbitration ruling, however, said the Chinese claims had no legal basis, in a victory for Manila that has yet to be enforced.

Coming days after a three-hour, face-to-face meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping intended to ease tensions, the trip may frustrate Beijing. The South China Sea, which contains massive oil and gas deposits, is the stage for \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade each year but also a flashpoint for Chinese and U.S. tensions around naval operations. In Palawan, Harris is expected to meet with "residents, civil society leaders and representatives of the Philippines Coast Guard," the senior administration official said. The trip will show the administration's "commitment to stand with our Philippine ally in upholding the rules-based international maritime order in the South China Sea, supporting maritime livelihoods and countering illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing," that official said.

The Philippines is a defense ally of the United States, but under former President Rodrigo Duterte it avoided criticizing Beijing, eyeing Chinese investment.

Manila announced earlier on Tuesday that Washington would spend \$66.5 million to start building training and warehouse facilities at three of its military bases there under a 2014 joint security deal. Harris' trip marks her second to Asia in three months and follows Biden's week-long trip to the region. Both trips were aimed at shoring up both defenses and alliances to discourage aggressive steps by China, including in self-ruled Taiwan. The Harris trip also includes a stop in Thailand for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders meeting. During her last trip to the region, Harris accused China of actions to "coerce and intimidate" neighbors.

South China Sea expert Gregory Poling said the visit could send a strong message to the Philippines without angering Beijing because it is not a visit to a disputed territory.

These Republicans Likely To Bid For 2024 US President Election

Washington: Former U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to run for the White House again in 2024 has potential rivals gearing up to take on a divisive Republican leader left bruised by his party's midterm election losses. Here is a look at his possible challengers for the Republican nomination:

FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

Strategists and party leaders have said Trump, 76, remains the odds-on favorite for the Republican nomination in 2024. But the former president had a mixed record with the candidates he endorsed in the midterm elections and some blame him for Republicans' failure to capture control of both houses of Congress. Trump's candidacy comes as lawsuits over his alleged involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol and his business dealings continue to swirl around him.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS

Republican Ron DeSantis, Florida's 44-year-old governor, could be Trump's leading rival for the nomination. With a strong political base and war chest behind him, DeSantis cruised to a landslide victory last week in his bid for a second four-year term as governor. His resistance to COVID-19 restrictions, as well as clashes with liberals over LGBTQ rights, immigration and race-based discussions, have won praise from conservatives nationwide.

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE

Republican former Vice President Mike Pence served as a loyal, prim No. 2 to the flamboyant Trump, only to have his boss turn against him when Trump supporters rioted at the U.S. Capitol. A Republican former congressman, Pence defied Trump on that day and certified Democrat Joe Biden's presidential victory, as required by law.

Pence has walked a fine line ever since, not risking the wrath of Trump's base. The 63-year-old former Indiana governor is widely considered to be mulling a White House run. He campaigned for Brian Kemp, a Trump nemesis who was re-elected Georgia governor in the midterm elections.

Luxury Yachts, Real VIPs As Dubai Readies For FIFA World Cup

Dubai: A fleet of luxurious yachts bobbing in the harbour are among the five-star options as Dubai pulls out all the stops for well-heeled football fans who want to watch the World Cup in style. Those without tickets but with thousands of dollars to spare can view games on a big screen from the top deck of a \$20,000-a-night yacht, against a backdrop of the Gulf financial hub's skyline. With more than a hint of Dubai's trademark bling, the three-storey, 140-foot (43 metres) vessel has a big screen, jacuzzi, bar and a swanky lounge with L-shaped couches and a glittering crystal leopard statue.

The United Arab Emirates city, an hour's flight from World Cup host Qatar, is among the Gulf destinations expecting to cash in on a spillover of fans seeking more accommodation options and easier access to alcohol. This one is for \$20,000 for an overnight charter. "Exclusive Yachts marketing manager Jainney Thakker told AFP, pointing out the boat's features.

"We have a chef on board who offers gourmet cuisine from all over the world," Thakker added, as well as "free-flowing champagne." The boat, which can accommodate up to 125 people, is among a number of pristine white yachts at Dubai's Marina Harbour, docked and ready for the influx of fans once the tournament kicks off on Sunday. In one of its rooms, a large dining table flanked by upholstered chairs and bouquets of white roses is set with glass plates and silver cutlery. An outdoor jacuzzi offers uninterrupted views from the stern. And for anyone who wants to sail to Qatar during the World Cup, the same company offers a separate package for a cool \$100,000 for a roughly six-day trip. Dubai Bling!

Thakker said her company has received more than 15 nightly bookings so far, mostly for groups of two to three people. "The people who are booking with us are definitely the real VIPs... you know owners of super-cars, some of the really creme (de la creme) crowd.

With Earth's population at 8 billion, consumption not crowd is key to climate change, say experts

Egypt. The world is getting hotter and more crowded and the two issues are connected, but not quite as much as people might think, experts say. On Tuesday, somewhere a baby was born who became the globe's 8 billionth person, according to data by the United Nations and other experts. The Earth has warmed almost 0.9 degrees Celsius (1.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since the world hit the 4 billion mark in 1974. Climate and population is a touchy subject for scientists and officials.

While more people consuming energy, mostly from the burning of fossil fuels, is warming the planet, the key issue isn't the number of people as much as how a small fraction of those people are causing way more than their share of carbon pollution, several climate and population experts told The Associated Press.

"We do have a population problem and we do have a population issue," said Vanessa Perez-Cicera, director of the Global Economics Center at the World Resources Institute. "But I think most importantly, we have an overconsumption issue." And because of that the 8 billionth child born will "not have what we had ... because

there's not enough resources," she said. Kenya, which is suffering through a devastating drought, has 55 million people, about 95 times more than the population of Wyoming. But Wyoming emits 3.7 times the carbon dioxide as Kenya. Africa as a whole has 16.7% of the world's population but historically emits only 3% of the global carbon pollution, while the United States has 4.5% of the planet's people but since 1959 has put out 21.5% of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide. The average Canadian, Saudi and Australian put out more than 10 times the carbon dioxide into the air though their daily living than the average Pakistani, where one-third of the nation was flooded in a climate change worsened event. And in Qatar the per capita emissions is 20 times Pakistan's, according to the World Bank. "The question is not about population but rather about consumption patterns," said climate scientist Bill Hare of Climate Analytics. "So it's best to look



at the major northern emitters to begin with." Climate Interactive, a group of scientists who run intricate computer simulations that can be tweaked to see what factors matter the most in fighting climate change, looked at the difference population makes. It found it made a small contribution compared to other factors, like economics. Comparing two United Nations population projections scenarios of 8.8 billion people and 10.4 billion people, Climate Interactive's Andrew P. Jones found only a 0.2 degrees Celsius (0.4 degrees Fahrenheit) difference. But

the difference between no price or tax on carbon and \$100 a ton was 0.7 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit).

Hare said there is more than a tinge of racism in the myth that overpopulation is the major issue behind climate change. One of the biggest arguments that I hear almost exclusively from men in high-income countries is that, "Oh, it's just a population problem," The Nature Conservancy Chief Scientist Katharine Hayhoe said. "Nothing could be further from the truth." "The

50% poorest people in the world are historically responsible for 7% of heat trapping gas emissions," Hayhoe said. "Yet when you look at which countries are bearing the brunt of the impacts from climate change, countries like Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Afghanistan topped the list." And even within countries, it's the wealthiest who cause more of the carbon pollution, Hare said. Overall, he said, "80% of the population, the global population, emits a small fraction of emissions."

Mexico's Frida, beloved rescue dog turned national icon, dies

Frida, the rescue dog who emerged as a hero and symbol of national pride after an earthquake devastated parts of Mexico in 2017, died on Tuesday of natural causes, the Mexican Navy said.

Known for her custom-made doggy goggles and boots, Frida became a social media star and a symbol of Mexicans' resilience in the face of tragedy after the 2017 earthquake that killed hundreds in and around Mexico City. Though her feats were prone to online rumours, the Navy said Frida, who retired from service in 2019, rescued a dozen people and located the bodies of 43 people over nearly a decade. Frida began her rescue work after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where she found 12 people alive in the rubble. She also assisted rescue efforts after a landslide in Ecuador in 2017, just months before the Mexico City earthquake that saw her become a national icon. Shortly after her birth in 2009, Frida began her search and rescue training, which she finished in a record eight months, the Navy said.



The Navy remembers Frida for her "independence, concentration, balanced temperament, fearlessness, curiosity," as well as her "empathy towards people." "Frida has 'given hope to thousands of Mexican families in the most pressing moments," the head of Mexico's Navy, Jose Rafael Ojeda, said in the statement. A life-size statue

in Frida's honour was unveiled last month outside the Navy's main office in the Mexico City neighbourhood of Coyoacan, with Frida present in what would be one of her last public appearances. "Your life motivates us to continue giving everything to serve Mexico," the statue reads. "Thank you, dear Frida!"

Russian missiles aimed at Ukraine cross into Poland, claim 2 lives

Kyiv, Russia pounded Ukraine's energy facilities Tuesday with its biggest barrage of missiles yet, striking targets across the country and causing widespread blackouts, and a US official said missiles crossed into Nato member Poland, where two people were killed.

A defiant Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy shook his fist and declared: "We will survive everything." Polish government spokesman Piotr Mueller did not immediately confirm the information from a senior US intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the situation. But Mueller said top leaders were holding an emergency meeting due to a "crisis situation." Polish media reported that two people died Tuesday afternoon after a projectile struck an

area where grain was drying in Przewodów, a Polish village near the border with Ukraine. Neighboring Moldova was also affected. It reported massive power outages after the strikes knocked out a key power line that supplies the small nation, an official said. Zelenskyy said Russia fired at least 85 missiles, "most of them at our energy infrastructure," and shut down power in many cities. "We're working and will restore everything. We will survive everything," the president vowed. His energy minister said the attack was "the most massive" bombardment of power facilities in the nearly 9-month-old Russian invasion, striking both power generation and transmission systems. The minister, Herman Haluschenko, described the missile strikes as "another attempt at

terrorist revenge" after military and diplomatic setbacks for the Kremlin. He accused Russia of "trying to cause maximum damage to our energy system on the eve of winter." The aerial assault, which resulted in at least one death in a residential building in the capital, Kyiv, followed days of euphoria in Ukraine sparked by one of its biggest military successes — the retaking last week of the southern city of Kherson. The power grid was already battered by previous attacks that destroyed an estimated 40 per cent of the country's energy infrastructure. Russian President Vladimir Putin has not commented on the retreat from Kherson since his troops pulled out in the face of a Ukrainian offensive. But the stunning scale of Tuesday's strikes spoke volumes and.



SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, the lead plaintiff in the case. A spokesperson for Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, a Republican, said the state had "already filed a notice of appeal" on Tuesday afternoon, and would "continue to fight for the lives of Georgia's unborn children." "McBurney did not rule on whether the law violated the Georgia Constitution, leaving open the possibility that state lawmakers could pass the same legislation in the future. Around a dozen states have enforced near-total abortion bans since the end of Roe v. Wade, many like Georgia in the southeast region of the United States. Abortion rights advocates had argued before the judge in October that the law violated Georgians' fundamental rights to liberty and privacy under the state constitution and put women's health at risk.

Kevin McCarthy faces high-wire act as Republicans close in on US House majority

Washington With Republicans closing in on a narrower-than-expected US House of Representatives majority, their leader Kevin McCarthy took a step on Tuesday toward becoming speaker of the House, a job he has long coveted. He may get another tough job as well - a tightrope walker. McCarthy, 57, is the presumptive favourite to replace fellow Californian Nancy Pelosi in January as House speaker - a job with a lot of clout and a lot of headaches. As a speaker, McCarthy would be well placed to frustrate Democratic President Joe Biden's legislative ambitions. McCarthy overcame a challenge from hard-line conservative Representative Andy Biggs in Republican House leadership elections on Tuesday, winning a caucus vote by 188-31, according to a source familiar with the outcome. McCarthy would only be elected formally as speaker when the new Congress takes office in January, presuming Republicans take the majority as expected. Representative Steve Scalise, who was elected on Tuesday to serve as majority leader in a Republican-led House, shrugged off suggestions McCarthy could face hurdles when the

House votes for speaker in January. "The elections were intense. But we're going to win the majority. And we talked a lot about what we're going to do to get this country back on track. And that's where our focus is," Scalise told reporters. But other Republicans said McCarthy could be in for a tumultuous journey to the speakership next year. One of his most dedicated opponents, Representative Matt Gaetz, predicted as few as five Republicans would be able to block McCarthy's candidacy in a narrowly divided chamber. "It's my expectation that we'll find somebody in that room who doesn't have five folks who want to vote against him. But it won't be Kevin McCarthy," Gaetz told reporters. McCarthy has spent his adult life in politics - as a congressional staffer, then state legislator, before being elected to the House in 2006. Ascending to the speakership - a position second in the line of succession to the US presidency - would represent the pinnacle of McCarthy's career, but it could be a precarious position. As the speaker, he would have to manage a House



Republican caucus moving ever rightward, with uncompromising tendencies and close allegiances to former President Donald Trump. "House Republican leadership has a lot less margin for error. The House will more closely resemble the Senate, where a handful of members can grind things to a halt very quickly," Republican strategist Alex Conant said. "McCarthy is left with a more populist caucus that will likely push him further to the right." With votes still being counted in some pivotal races a week after the midterm elections, Republicans appear to be on the verge of securing a razor-thin House majority.

They are currently still two seats away, according to Edison Research, from claiming control of the 435-seat chamber from the Democrats. Republicans fell short of the "red wave" that some had predicted for a comfortable House majority and control of the Senate. Instead, the Democrats retained their Senate majority, meaning the two parties will need to work together to pass legislation if Republicans do take the House.

'MIGRAINE HEADACHES'

House Republicans are increasingly embracing right-wing populism and the pugilistic style of Trump, who is expected to launch his 2024 presidential candidacy on Tuesday. Republican hard-liners from the conservative House Freedom Caucus are demanding rules changes that would allow them to keep a tight rein on their leader and toss him out more easily if they sour on him. The last two Republican House speakers, John Boehner and Paul Ryan came under varying degrees of pressure from the right flank of the Republican caucus.

Discovery Channel to air 'Into the Wild with Bear Grylls' ft Vicky



New Delhi, (UNI) The most popular and loved franchise that emerged as the highest-rated infotainment show of 2021 on discovery+, 'Into the Wild with Bear Grylls' featuring Vicky Kaushal, is all set to now premiere on Discovery Channel on November 21.

like never before.

Vicky faces with challenges he has never thought of in his wildest dreams and is attempting to face his deep-sea water phobia and conquer it on this adrenaline-filled expedition.

"Going on this survival journey with the well-known explorer Bear Grylls was a tremendous experience. Without him, I would not have been able to overcome my apprehension about swimming in this vast ocean. This trip also represents a significant turning point in my life because it allowed me to face and overcome one of my many phobias. It is difficult to imagine yourself floating in the middle of the ocean without a solid surface underneath you, but Bear's constant inspiration and persistence encouraged me to win over this," Vicky shared his experience on this extreme adventure.

'Into The Wild with Bear Grylls' is an innovative format inspired by 'Man vs Wild', one of the most-watched wilderness survival television series globally.

It is produced for Discovery Communications India by The Natural Studios and Banijay Asia.

Freddy' is not conventional Bollywood hero: Kartik Aaryan



New Delhi, (UNI) Disney+ Hotstar had recently announced their upcoming spine chilling romantic thriller 'Freddy', starring Kartik Aaryan.

me explore a different side of my craft and encouraged me to challenge my abilities at every step as an actor."

Sharing his excitement about being part of the film, he added, "It's different. It's gripping. It's a dark thriller that's been missing for a while. Freddy leaves you at the edge of your seat at every corner. It's a very special film to me, and I hope audiences appreciate the effort and everything we've attempted to do with the film.

Produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd, NH Studios and Northern Lights Films, directed by Shashanka Ghosh and starring Kartik and Alaya F, the film will release on December 2 on Disney+ Hotstar.

Giving a sneak peek of his character, the actor said in a statement, "The character is dark - He is not your conventional Bollywood hero. You wouldn't consider him a hero at all. My character in Freddy helped

Odisha cabinet approves budget for crop diversification

Bhubaneswar, (UNI) Odisha cabinet on Friday approved the estimated budget of Rs 92955.65 lakh for the diversification of crop for three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Briefing newsmen after the cabinet Chief Secretary S C Mohapatra said the programme supported through the state plan scheme will be implemented in all the 30 districts of the state.

In three years a total of 3.7 lakh hectares of rice fallow areas will be covered under pulse crop, 1.5 lakh hectare upland and medium land paddy areas will be diverted to non-paddy and high value crops and an area of 0.5 lakh here of regular cultivated paddy areas will be diverted to indigenous aromatic paddy of export potential.

The programme will be implemented through community based organisations like FPOs, WSHGS, local NGOs/fpcS and research institutions with oversight from the department of Agriculture and Farm-

ers Welfare.

Crop diversification programme in Mega Lift Irrigation Projects was launched by the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare department during Kharif 2021 with an objective to diversify upland and medium land paddy areas to non paddy crops under the Ayacut of mega lift irrigation projects on pilot basis.

Based on the success of the programme a new crop diversification programme was launched in 2022-23. It is a first of its kind programme with priority on promoting crop diversification which will help in re-viving soil health, increasing the population of micro fauna, and preventing change in soil's chemical and biological properties.

It also increases the water use efficiency, the production of non paddy crops and high value crops and the socio economic status, nutritional security and income of the farmers of the state

Abhishek Banerjee blows poll bugle, confident to wrest power in Meghalaya

Tura (Meghalaya), (UNI) Sounding the poll bugle in Meghalaya, Trinamool Congress (TMC) national General Secretary, Abhishek Banerjee on Friday exuded confidence of his party wrestling power in the hill state after the assembly elections next year.

"The shoddy alliance of Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) would not secure a single seat in the Garo hills in the 2023 polls," Banerjee said, addressing his maiden public meeting of over 25,000 TMC supporters here in Garo Hills.

"In the next three months, all Meghalayans irrespective of caste, creed, and religion will unitedly fight to end the chaos of four and half years due to the incompetent leadership of the National People's Party (NPP)-led MDA government," he further told his party supporters.

Elections to the 60-member House Meghalaya Assembly are scheduled to be held in February next year.

"MDA is supposed to stand for Meghalaya's Democratic Alliance. However, the collapsing infrastructure in the state

proves that all progress has taken place in one family, to one person," the West Bengal MP said in reference to Chief Minister Conrad Sangma.

"Despite Meghalaya's rich biodiversity, there are roads with potholes, schools without teachers, and youths without jobs," he claimed.

Throwing an open challenge to the NPP-led MDA government, Banerjee said, "The NPP has not even filed its Election Expenditure report. I am challenging the NPP to come forward and face the debate: 'Why did the MDA government fail drastically in the last four and half years?' Stating that the three petals of the flower of TMC's logo stands for the three main tribes Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia of Meghalaya, the nephew of the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said, "the TMC will not cower down to autocratic forces."

Promising a brighter future for Meghalaya, the TMC leader said, "The state would be introduced to a new government in three months that aspires to bring a holistic change."

Rajiv Gandhi assassination: Centre moves SC seeking review of its order on per-mature release of six convicts

New Delhi, (UNI) The Central government approached the Supreme Court and filed a review petition against the November 11 order allowing the release of all convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, saying that it didn't get the chance to argue the case and the SC order is legally flawed.

"Granting remission to terrorist of foreign nation, who had been duly convicted in accordance with the law of land for gruesome offence of assassinating the former Prime Minister of the Country, is a matter which has international ramifications and therefore falls squarely within the sovereign powers of the Union of India," the Centre, in its review petition, filed before the Supreme Court, revealed.

The Centre said that it didn't get the chance to argue the case and the SC

order is legally flawed, and thereby the Supreme Court should consider afresh and modify its order.

Approaching the apex court the Centre contended that the order was passed without hearing it.

On November 11, the Supreme Court ordered the release of six convicts including Nalini Sriharan and RP Ravichandran, who were serving life imprisonment in connection with the assassination in the case.

A bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice BR Gavai and also comprising Justice BV Nagarathna passed the order while taking into consideration the state of Tamil Nadu government's order of releasing the six convicts pre maturely, and also good conduct of all the six convicts in the prison.

NHRC issues notice to Punjab govt over children's education

New Delhi, (UNI) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice to the Punjab government over reported lack of proper access to education facilities for children of border areas of Ferozpur district.

The Commission took suo motu cognizance of a media report about the plight of students of

Kaluwara village of Punjab especially the girls who have to first walk on foot in slushy banks of the river Sutlej then board a Berhi (a wooden boat) and cross the river to walk for another 4 kms along the border with Pakistan before finally reaching the Government Senior Secondary School in Gatti Rajoke area of the district Ferozpur of the State, NHRC in a state-

ment stated. The apex court had noted that they had been behind bars for a very long period.

Seeking review of the top court's order, the Centre said, "The order granting remission to the convicts who had assassinated the former Prime Minister of the country was passed without affording an adequate opportunity of hearing to Union of India."

It said the Central government was not made party in the case.

"No application was ever filed by the petitioners formally impleading Union of India as party respondent. This procedural lapse on the part of the petitioners resulted in non-participation of Union of India in subsequent hearings of the case," it added.

Furthermore, it is extremely crucial to mention



here that out of the six convicts who have been granted remission, four are Sri Lankan Nationals, said the plea.

The Supreme Court's November 11 order "being violative of principles of natural justice and wreaked with glaring and manifest errors apparent on the face of record, keeping in view the international ramifications it entails, there is also substantial cause in the matter warranting its review

Health Dept. in shambles under grand alliance government regime: Sushil

Patna, (UNI) Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and BJP Rajyasabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi on Friday alleged that health department and Health Services, an important pillar of public welfare was in shambles under the regime of Grand Alliance government in the state.

Modi said here that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has entrusted the responsibilities of 6 departments including health department to Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Prasad Yadav who was not giving proper attention and time to any of the department due to his busy schedule.

He said that Tejaswi neither improved the condition of district hospitals in 60 days nor took any action against 705 doctors who have been declared absent for the past several years.

The BJP MP raised fingers at the payment of

Youth punished in kidnapping and gang rape case

Patna, (UNI) The POCSO court awarded 10 years imprisonment to one Manoj Kumar of Digha police station area in connection with kidnapping and gang rape of a minor girl.

The judge Vinay Prakash Tiwari also slapped fine of Rs 30000 against the accused on Friday.

The court directed to pay the fine amount to the victim. It also ask the district law services authority to provide compensation of Rs 400000 to the victim.

salary to such doctors and asked the health minister

to explain about the announcement made for providing free treatment of Rs 5 lakh to the patients holding ration cards.

Modi said that Tejaswi had suspended a doctor during inspection when the dengue was at its peak but since then he did not reviewed the health services and left the patients at the mercy of the God.

He said that sterilisation operation of a woman without administrating anaesthesia in Khagaria indicates insensitivity and wretched condition of the health services and alleged that the assurance ensuring medicines supply and doctors presence and to improve the basic services in the district hospitals within two months stands tall promises of the health minister.

and an open hearing, wherein, Union of India could be afforded an opportunity to place the correct and germane facts before this Court to assist it to arrive at a just and correct decision in the matter i.e. why the six convicts were not entitled for any relief by this Court," the Centre further stated.

The top court in its order noted that Nalini has been behind bars for over three decades and her

conduct has also been satisfactory. She has a PG diploma in Computer Application and Ravichandran's conduct has also been found to be satisfactory and he has undertaken various studies during his incarceration including a PG diploma in Arts.

Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally.

state authorities towards the Right to Education of the students as well as the Right to Life and Dignity of the people residing in the area. The State has a responsibility to ensure their safety and to safeguard their human rights by providing them an environment to live with dignity, it added.

Accordingly, it issued a notice to the Punjab gov-

ernment, calling for a report along with the action taken report about the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to provide for better and hassle-free access to the students to the school in the area, either by creation of a new school at a nearby place or by providing better access, avoiding the river Satluj/Berhi, while reaching the school, it added.

Indian startups making their mark in space

THIS week, India's spaceport at Sriharikota will witness the launch of the country's first fully-private rocket. So far, privately-built satellites have been launched using rockets of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) such as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The rocket, 'Vikram-S', named after the founder of the national space programme, Vikram Sarabhai, has been designed, developed and fabricated at Skyroot Aerospace in Hyderabad. The sub-orbital flight of 'Vikram-S' is a developmental mission designed to validate launch-vehicle technologies and prepare for a commercial launch the next year.

Skyroot is a startup founded barely five years ago by Pawan Chandana (alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur) and Bharath Daka, a graduate from IIT, Madras, who had worked for some time with the ISRO. Within four years, the company could develop a liquid-propulsion engine, a 3D printed cryogenic engine and a solid rocket stage. The plan is to develop a series of modular launch vehicles suited for launching small satellites. Skyroot says it wants to make satellite launches as quick, precise and affordable as booking a cab through a mobile app. There can be ride-share options too, to accommodate several customers in one launch.

The private space industry in India is bubbling with activity, with the national space agency handholding private efforts. Another startup, Agnikul Cosmos based in Chennai, is also developing a launch vehicle — 'Agnibaan' — and hopes to test-flight it before the year ends. For this, the ISRO recently provided the company with a critical subsystem, the flight termination system which it has been using for its launch vehicles. Agnikul recently tested its semi-cryogenic engine 'Agnilet' at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram. In Bengaluru, Bellatrix incubated at the Indian Institute of Space is fast-expanding its engine development activities. It is engaged in the development of propulsion systems. The company has already come up with mono-propellant thrusters, green propellants and electric thrusters, and is collaborating with the state government to establish a space factory in Bengaluru to make electric propulsion systems and orbital transfer vehicles. All these developments may give the impression that the private sector's involvement in the space sector is new and that the ISRO has been working in isolation till now. It is not so. It is the culmination of technological and industrial capabilities, carefully built over decades, both within the ISRO and outside it.

Space is a knowledge and capital-intensive business. To succeed in this sector, one needs highly qualified scientists and engineers, skilled and experienced technicians for design, development fabrication, quality assurance and ground testing. Apart from rockets and satellites, a whole range of auxiliary services and facilities are needed — launching pads, control rooms, telemetry, tracking, data reception systems and so on. All this calls for industrial expertise in aerospace, avionics, materials, chemicals and other sectors. None of this industrial expertise existed when the Indian space programme was launched with ambitious goals. Scientists at the ISRO had to fabricate and manufacture everything in-house in the initial years. This had to change as the programme expanded from the experimental to the operational stage in the 1970s and 1980s. Leaders of the space programme like Satish Dhawan recognised early on that India needed to develop an industrial base if it had to grow rapidly in this sector. While the launch of the first rocket, SLV, was being planned, Dhawan sent SLV project director APJ Abdul Kalam on a nationwide tour to identify industries that can be prepared for the space programme. He identified some 250 units, which could potentially make space-grade components, subsystems, electronics, propellants etc. Each ISRO centre had a set of industries with which it worked. Technology was transferred to small and medium enterprises for production. For instance, the ISRO Satellite Centre, which develops satellites, worked with some 30 public and private sector organisations.

Combative Imran riles army

Desperate efforts being made to pit Nawaz Sharif against the former PM

HAVING lived in Karachi, the economic hub of Pakistan, and Islamabad, I have learnt that the lives of virtually all sections of society in Pakistan are affected partially by what its elected rulers do. Real power is manifested in Pakistan by the country's all-powerful army. The residence of the Indian Consul General in Karachi, which was earlier the residence of the High Commissioner of India, was located in the Clifton Area, opposite the ancestral home of the Bhutto family. Benazir Bhutto was then under house arrest, while her mother was allowed to move around freely. The then military ruler, Gen Zia-ul-Haq, felt that freeing Benazir would pose far more serious problems for him than freeing Nusrat, her mother. The Sharif family met a similar fate soon after the Kargil fiasco. Nawaz Sharif was placed under house arrest by General Musharraf. Later, he was released and exiled to Saudi Arabia due to Saudi pressure. Sharif moved to Saudi Arabia and later to the family residence in London. The Sharif family traditionally had close business and personal relations with the Saudis, and Nawaz had to be treated with due care and consideration. Musharraf was certainly not as popular in Saudi Arabia as the Sharifs. He was, therefore, assisted by the army to take up residences in both London and Abu Dhabi after he retired. No one asked him how a retired army officer could afford such luxurious properties in London and the UAE.

The leader of the Muhajirs — the Sind-based refugees from India — Altaf Hussain also leads a comfortable life in London. He spearheads a movement demanding extensive rights for the Muhajirs and urges better relations with India. Predictably, he has been accused in Pakistan as serving India's interests. Self-exiled leaders like Altaf and Nawaz Sharif are, however, asked no questions publicly about where the money for their luxurious lifestyles comes from. Like many others, the Sharifs found it safer to live in London than in Pakistan. Other Pakistani notables living for many years in London include Musharraf. But the most influential Pakistani politician who is still in self-exile in London is Nawaz Sharif, who is expected to return to Pakistan soon. Even the General Bajwa-led army now feels that Nawaz Sharif is needed in the country, and particularly in Punjab, to face the challenges posed by former PM Imran Khan. This has become more important after the growing popularity of Khan, who was shot at by an armed gunman on November 3.

Asad Umar, the secretary-general of Khan's Tehriq-e-Insaf Party, recently made a sensational statement, accusing PM Shehbaz Sharif, interior minister Rana Sanaullah and the Director-General of Counter-Intelligence, Major Gen Faisal Naseer, of plotting the attack on Khan. The shooting led to Khan being hospitalised, while he was leading a political rally, calling for fresh elections. Faced with this serious situation, the obviously rattled Director-General of the ISI, Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum, accused Khan of seeking support within



sections of the Pakistan military. This arose from the fact that younger elements in the military support Khan, who had earlier claimed that he believed that the Pakistan government had hatched a plan to kill him.

With the army chief, General Bajwa, set to retire on November 28, the search is now on for a new army chief. Bajwa took on a high-profile role in foreign relations, which only resulted in his coming under increasing criticism. There was never any love lost between him and Khan, and it was justifiably felt that Bajwa was moving too close to the US. Bajwa even acted as an intermediary with the Biden administration on issues like Pakistan's urgent need for an IMF bailout. Neither Bajwa nor the Sharif family would like to see Khan's favourite, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, who was chosen as ISI chief and later eased out of the post by Bajwa, to be appointed as the next army chief. There are at least four officials who are senior to Faiz Hameed. He is, therefore, unlikely to be included in the names to be proposed by the army to the Prime Minister, to succeed Bajwa.

Pakistan is heading for troubled times. There will be

continuing problems as an aggressive Imran Khan moves ahead by demonstrating his power and popularity across the country. There is no question that as of now, he is the most popular politician. His popularity was demonstrated across the country, and particularly in the populous Punjab province, when his party swept the recent by-elections.

Like Bajwa, Nawaz Sharif would also like to see Khan prevented from assuming power. Nawaz Sharif would like to return to Lahore as soon as legal cases against him are withdrawn. While his younger brother and PM, Shehbaz Sharif, is a good administrator, he lacks the political skills, stature and acumen necessary to take on Khan. There are presently four officials of the rank of Lt General who are senior in service to Khan's protégé. Any one of these four officials could be chosen as the next army chief. The names will obviously not include Faiz Hameed who is junior to other nominees. There are indications that this issue has been discussed in detail with Nawaz Sharif by his brother Shehbaz, who met him recently in London.

Rotting wheat stocks

Reeking of graft, Haryana case calls for deeper probe

THE saga of damaged wheat grains weighing nearly 45,000 metric tonnes and worth Rs 83 crore that could have fed lakhs of people is, sadly, more than just the story of precious foodgrains being left to rot in open plinths at Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra and Fatehabad in Haryana over the past four years. It smacks of corruption and is a poor reflection on the working of a network of agencies meant to procure, protect and distribute the golden yield for consumption by millions of hungry mouths in the country. The investigation by the Food and Civil Supplies Department of Haryana points to a system that has become rotten as greed eats into the conscience of the authorities concerned.

The inquiry into why thousands of sacks of wheat had been allowed to decay as they lay stored in the plinths, exposed to inclement weather (mainly rains), since 2018 has led to the segregation of the decomposed and edible grains. Around Rs 43-crore worth of wheat has been found to be worthy of sale



through auction. The remaining produce has been rendered irretrievably damaged and five officials of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

Department have been held accountable for the lapse, with the loss of Rs 40 crore to be recovered from them.

The exposure has led to a blame game as certain sections put the onus of the decomposition of wheat on the Food Corporation of India's failure to lift the stored stocks. Allegations of 'ghost billing' add to the stink of pilferage among the rotten goings-on as the probe into the registration numbers of vehicles used to transport huge quantities of wheat have been found to be those of two-wheelers, not trucks. The state of affairs reeks of a bigger racket and the involvement of more officials and patronage in the highest echelons of the system cannot be ruled out. While weeding out the corrupt officials is commendable, a total cleansing of the fishy deals necessitates further inquiries and netting of the big fish. For, despite producing bumper crops, India, shamefully, is home to the largest number of food-insecure people in the world.

Curb under-invoicing of imports from China

THE news report — 'Under-invoicing of Chinese imports under taxman's lens; 32 traders get notice for suspected tax evasion of Rs 16,000 crore' (published on November 14) — is important because India's foreign trade-origin current account deficit could soon reach a disconcertingly unacceptable level, if not controlled urgently. Indeed, there exist several connected factors that need to be addressed in unison, and not in a compartmentalised way.

Today, however, one would like to focus on one of the most worrying issues of reported 'under-invoicing' inflicted by an influential section of unscrupulous Indian traders/importers in league with an equally money-at-any-cost act of 'cunning' Chinese exporters.

Under-invoicing happens when the price of an item on an invoice is less than the price paid. An invoice is an itemised list of goods or services furnished by a seller to a buyer, usually specifying the price and terms of sale; it's a bill of costs. In trade practice, the invoice is a recorded description of the quantity and value of the transacted goods pertaining to import/export, issued by the exporter/seller to the importer/buyer of goods. Let's assume that, going by the description, a commercially transacted item is sold by a Chinese seller/exporter for \$10 per unit in Wuhan; but it is found to cost \$5 at an Indian port of entry (Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai or Kochi). That would be under-invoicing of \$5 per unit, thereby leading to undervaluation and ultimately loss of tax because it's imposed on the landed value of the goods. Hence, if the tax rate is 50 per cent on a particular item, 100 per cent under-invoicing/undervaluation would result in 100 per cent loss of tax to the state exchequer.

And here starts the cat-and-mouse game ceaselessly



played between an unscrupulous section of India's (much-vaunted private sector) traders/importers and exporters and the state establishment (constantly targeted for inefficiency). The worst part is that the Chinese are playing the game with glee as they are keen to make money by issuing under-invoiced documents to a section of profiteering Indian importers/buyers to present it to the authorities at Indian ports and airports. Thus, a probe to prove that a particular imported consignment is under-invoiced and hence undervalued, thereby resulting in loss of state revenue, is unlikely to reach any conclusion in a majority of the cases because mere suspicion on the part of the importing country's officials, followed by orders to pay tax on "under-invoiced/undervalued" goods, won't pass the scrutiny of the judiciary and the law of the land. Indeed, prima facie, the goods appear to be under-invoiced and undervalued. But where's the proof? Could you make a case on the basis of authentic documents originating

from the country of import? Do you have direct or circumstantial evidence pertaining to the allegations which you have brought forward before the court? Hence, the benefit of the doubt goes to Indian importer/buyer of Chinese-origin goods and the case is dismissed. This happens in most of the cases.

Frankly speaking, the entire gamut of the legal procedure of the present times needs an urgent relook because China, being the monopolistic manufacturer of most goods, is in an unassailable position to manipulate the listed price in whatsoever way it feels like. That makes it well-nigh impossible for an Indian law enforcement agency to make a correct assessment, valuation and a foolproof chargesheet. One can challenge or prove or disprove a case in an environment of competition, but how does one deal with a monopolistic exporter, patronised by Indian

traders? All in the name of being 'cheaper' and having an 'affordable' price.

How about importing a product for \$5 and selling it during Diwali for Rs 5,000! That's business and the globalised way of trade and commerce, even if you are the loser.

Quoting from a Global Financial Integrity think tank report, "India lost a staggering \$13 billion (over Rs 90,000 crore) to trade under/mis-invoicing in 2019, and that most of it relates to imports from China." Unsurprisingly, the position India is in today, there's every possibility of Delhi-Beijing bilateral trade deficit touching minus \$100 billion for the former in the near future.

The situation is becoming more complicated by the day because of increasing dependence of an influential section of traders on Chinese-origin consumer goods, which have a large customer base in the Indian hinterland where the preference for fancy consumer

items and 'affordability' have exhausted all alternatives. Also, thanks to successive Indian governments' 'free market' thinking and its cheerleaders at the turn of the 20th century, communist China has grown into a draconian exporter to India's captive market of over one billion consumers. Indeed, the agenda of the Communist Party of China (CPC) creates dismal prospects for India, soon to be the most populous country of the world. India has to be fast to decouple herself from the CPC through various ways. Simply, because today's CPC-state is more than a rapacious avatar of western imperialism of the past. China exemplifies the classic case of "triumph of mercantilism". Every aspect of the economy is state-controlled, concentrated in the hands of a monolith called the general secretary of the CPC. The core of 'mercantilism' is export. Growth, through prosperity, and cash flow from exports is the way. Thus, from Berlin to Beijing today, and the British imperialism of yesteryear, surplus export (and controlled import) led to a prosperous foundation at home and ruthless measures for export growth abroad.

Contextually, however, India presents a glaring contrast. Her exports invariably are a fraction of the gargantuan import bill, leading to a perennial current account deficit. On top comes the unstable, depreciating and fluctuating currency, which inevitably sends her deficit skyrocketing. Hence, exporters prefer delayed 'remittance', knowing well that rupee depreciation will make their profit fatter, and importers too fix and mix up to ensure 'under-invoicing/undervaluation', knowing very well that suspicion of the Indian state is unlikely to result in punishment in most of the cases. Result? Loss and more loss to the Indian exchequer.

Unbridled import is not curbed owing to the West-controlled World Trade Organisation and exports are impacted because of lack of quality and competitive prices. So much for the economics of globalisation for India. Deficit is inflicting damage on development.

Innovation Carnival 2022 Started at Foundation for Technology and Business Incubation (FTBI)-NIT Rourkela

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Two-day Innovation Carnival 2022 is today inaugurated in Foundation for Technology and Business Incubation (FTBI) - NIT Rourkela. A total of 30 schools from the city with approx. 200 school kids are showcasing their projects in this carnival. 12 startups from FTBI-NIT Rourkela also exhibiting their commercial product at the event. Prof. Manoj Kumar Mishra, Head of Centre, FTBI welcomed the gathering and gave the opening speech on the

history of FTBI along with sharing the achieving and current working status. He told the audience how in 2016 FTBI started with a few students of NIT Rourkela and now it is housed with startup members belonging to a different part of the country. Moving the session forward, Prof. K C Pati (Steering Committee Chairman) of FTBI also interacted with participants and urged them to believe more in experimenting with ideas rather than thinking about its consequences.

Gracing the event on this occasion, Chief Guest, Shri Rajanikanta Panigrahi (General Manager, CSR, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited) congratulated the FTBI team and incubated startups for their achievements and said, "On behalf of MCL, I congratulate FTBI-NITR for giving the platform to talented students. Students should aim to build a product for social cause and come out with universal ideas to create a global impact." Welcoming the school



students at the inaugural session, Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao (Director, NIT Rourkela) said, "Students must know the difference between 'invention' and 'innovation'.

The invention is based on a theory and innovation is using that theory in useful products. Giving different approaches to any concept and converting them into a commodity

adding commercial value to it, is what innovators or startups do. So, you can be also one of the innovators, if you work on skills, teamwork, and think differently. Always remember we all are living with a purpose on this planet and that is mostly to serve humanity so we must aim for that." The end of the inaugural session involved the felicitation of a few FTBI startups by dignitaries and a vote of thanks by Mr. Chiranjibi Samal (CEO of FTBI). The program is being sponsored

by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited. Day one of the event included an 'Innovation Exhibition' by school students and an exhibition-cum-sale by startups. The startups' team also conducted a panel discussion on 'Technology Innovation'. A workshop on 'Entrepreneurship Development' was also organized for helping budding entrepreneurs. Along with these exhibitions, and workshops, day two of the event will have a 'Startup Hunt Challenge' in which

8 teams from NIT Rourkela will share their ideas and get rewarded. This 2-day event will conclude on 19th Oct 2022. Currently, FTBI has incubated 60+ startups. It has 12 patents granted and 15 more patents have been filed. It has generated hundreds of jobs and has received Startup India grand of Rs. 2 crores this year. 35+ pre-incubation teams (startups that have started working but have not been incorporated) are also registered with FTBI-NITR.

Upgradation of Pay Structures of Supervisory Cadres: GM, ECoR

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Shri R.N.Sunkar, General Manager, East Coast Railway has addressed the media during a press conference today and detailed about the policy decision of the Indian Railways regarding upgradation of pay structures of Supervisory Cadres of Indian Railways. The General Manager said that due to the decision of Indian Railways, 3521 Supervisors working under East Coast Railway will get the benefit of upgradation.



Hon'ble Railway Minister, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced about the upgradation of pay structures of Supervisory Cadres of Indian Railways. This was long pending demand of large number of supervisors on Indian Railways. This is an important step to boost the morale of Supervisors over the Indian Railways. This will benefit nearly 80000 Supervisors over the Indian Railways.

output for the entire Railways network spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. Amongst these departments, Supervisory Cadres of various departments is most important and considered as the back bone, playing a vital role in the smooth operation of Indian Railways thereby ensuring safety of the entire Railway system.

Supervisory Cadres of Indian Railways are reeling under acute stagnation primarily due to saturation of promotional channels to those directly recruited in the grade of Level-6 (PB-2/Grade Pay-4200) in Group 'C'. As Indian Railways is going through the process of technological upgradation and to ensure that transi-

tion is seamless for attracting quality manpower, sufficient avenue of promotions has to be ensured which do not exist as of now. Taking these factors into account and to ensure career progression for Supervisory Cadres of Indian Railways and also to attract quality manpower to Supervisory Cadres, the issue was examined holistically by the Indian Railways and proposed upgradation of (50%) of Supervisory Cadres from Level-7 (PB-2/GP-4600) to Level-8 (PB-2/GP-4800) and further upgradation of these posts in Level-8 (PB-2/GP-4800) to Level-9 (PB-2/GP-5400) on non-functional basis after 4 years of service in Level-8 (PB-2/GP-4800) was announced by the Indian Railways.

Prof. Tripathi, in his speech, stressed the need for education in human development. He opined

CUO Special Lecture on "Indian Ethos in National Education Policy-2020"

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): The Central University of Odisha organized a special lecture on "Indian Ethos in National Education Policy-2020" at its Landiguda Campus on 16 November 2022. The Vice Chancellor of CUO Prof. Dr. Chakradhar Tripathi presided over the meeting. The Special lecture was delivered by Prof. Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism & Mass Communication, Raipur. Prof. Siba Prasad Adhikary, former Vice Chancellor, FM University, Balasore was the guest of honour.

that education is the light of society. He praised the Indian traditional education system where character building was given more importance than career building. Upholding cultural values is very important for the growth of education, he said. Strengthening education will make India strong. He also stressed the need for studying the freedom fighters of Odisha like Gopabandhu Das in our curricula as compulsory subjects. He hoped the students of Central University of Odisha can change the future of Odisha and make the state one of the best states in the world.



Prof. Sharma, in his speech, gave a brief summary of the National Education Policy 2020 and highlighted the key areas of the Policy. He opined that India has a rich history of advanced education, but due to British tyranny, everything destabilized. He urged the students to follow the rich Indian culture instead of following western culture and western patterns of education blindly. The Indian education system is fit for Indian people and the new policy will enhance the Indian values

system, he added. Education should teach us how to be good human beings, instead of being highly salaried people.

Dr. Pradosh Kumar Rath, Head I/c, Journalism & Mass Communication delivered the welcome note and Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, PRO proposed the vote of thanks. Also present on the occasion were Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean, School of Biodiversity; Dr. Jayanta Kumar Nayak, Controller of Examinations I/c; Dr. Ramendra Kumar Parhi, Dean Students' Welfare; Shri Sanjeet Kumar Das, HoD I/c. English and NSS Programme Coordinator; faculty members, research scholars, staff and students of the University. The meeting was followed by a cultural programme led by Cultural Coordinators Dr. Kakoli Banerjee and Dr. Rudrani Mohanty.

Mining companies should look at forging strategic alliances to Optimize risk-reward equations and achieve economies of scale: Minister

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Odisha is a key mineral state in India and has rich reserves. The state has been active in leveraging its mineral wealth and is the sixth largest state in India in terms of value of mineral production. Mining & Metal industry has a significant multiplier effect in the economy. It also contributes to employment generation, foreign exchange earnings, freight

earned by railways and the earnings on export and import cargo handled by ports and tax revenue, said Shri Prafulla Kumar Mallick Hon'ble Minister, Steel & Mines and Works, Govt. of Odisha at the Odisha Minerals and Metals Industry Conference organised by ASSOCHAM.

ing and metals industry and to enhance and optimize logistics configuration between mines, plants, railways and ports. The mining sector contributes about 8.98% of the real GSDP of Odisha. To optimize risk-reward equations and achieve economies of scale, mining companies should forge alliances with infrastructure players, technology and equipment suppliers and

financiers (including infrastructure financing) in innovative ways, including the PPP model" he added. Addressing the gathering, Shri Deoranjana Kumar Singh, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha said, "Mining is getting organised and fragmentation is going away. Bigger blocks for mining not only fetches higher revenue but they

are also more efficient. A committee has been constituted to amalgamate blocks which are co-terminus and do not have a natural boundary. More than 40 blocks have already been amalgamated and put for auction. About 300 million blocks that are there in the state will be re-organised to less than 100 blocks. This will pave the way for increased efficiency in the mining industry."

Panasonic launches its I-Class Kitchen-a bridge to luxury kitchen solution for India

Bangalore, (TNB): Panasonic Life Solutions India, one of the largest domestic manufacturers of electrical construction materials, housing, and diverse electronics technologies, announced the launch of its exclusive I-Class Modular Kitchen range. This new range will be a one-stop shop for homeowners looking to customise their kitchens using a combination of

Japanese technology and Indian production, as well as customisable aesthetics for users seeking affordable luxury options. The new range will be available in 23 cities across India via 25 retail stores.



This new I-Class Kitchen range is a great combination of best-in-class material sourced across India and the latest technology from Japan. It boasts of an array

of highly customizable features including 100% smart storage to provide maximum space utility for Indian

households. The countertops are reinforced by crosspiece which offers solid durability and resilience

for our overseas business. And this month, we release a new product, "I-Class kitchen," made in India. Mr. Dinesh Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director, Panasonic Life Solutions India added, "With the economic growth, India is witnessing a paradigm change in user expectation, design and utility of kitchen spaces.

Let's prepare it to play, forget the damage Let the people to decide who is the more conscious one?

Berhampur, (TNB): Sorada Mini Stadium destroyed badly due to Ramdoli and other entertaining event during Kantapidha Yatra and Mahotsav. The Yatra committee organised this event at the Mini Stadium during the festival which costs a heavy loss of this playable stadium. The sports department has clear guidelines that no entertaining event can be amused in the playable stadium but it is unfortunate that the entertaining event like Ramdoli was allowed to set up in the Mini Stadium. Despite number of complains the district and State Sports remained silence which encouraged these type of unlawful activity. Now the sports season is about to start. Rushikulya Cricket Club is organising district level cricket tournament in this stadium every year. The annual sports of different school is about to begin



very soon. In this crucial moment the stadium need to be renovate as soon as possible. Without waiting anyone the students of Saraswati Sishu Bidya Mandir now started to clean the stadium as per their capability. The annual sports of this school are scheduled to be start from tomorrow and this stadium is the only source for outdoor sports. So all the students are engaged to clean the stadium and did their effort positively to make it in to playable condition, and somehow they succeed but it is very painful to see that the students selflessly did the effort. In the past

few days, the ground was cleaned in some extent by the NAC on the request of the Cricket Club. But even if it is cleaned, this ground is not in playable condition. The stadium has been extensively damaged due to Ramdoli. Even after 3 months, no steps are being taken to renovate it. The sports personal now asked who is more aware about the sport here. The administrative officers who gave permission for the Ramdoli here or the students who are now cleaning the grounds for their Annual Sports. Let the public, intellectual and sports personal decide?

Mo Bus service in Rourkela during Men's Hockey World Cup

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): The Odisha Government will launch the Mo Bus service in Rourkela, one of the host cities for the mega sporting event Men's FIH Hockey World Cup 2023. It was decided in the State Council of Ministers' meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday.

In the meeting, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra informed Council of Ministers about the various programs for organizing the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup, which will be held from 13 to 29 January 2023 and see the participation of 16 countries. The host cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela will be beautified for the international event. Regular flight services will start from Rourkela airport.

7th Pay Commission: Maharashtra govt approves 6% hike in DA for MSRTC employees

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government has approved a six per cent hike in dearness allowance for the employees of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), a top official said on Wednesday.

Shekhar Channe, vice chairman and managing director of MSRTC, told PTI that the government has given the nod for increasing DA to 34 per cent from the existing 28 per cent. The hike will put a financial burden of Rs 15 crore per month on the state-owned public transport body.

Shrirang Barge, a union leader, said they were happy with the decision though it was pending for four months. "MSRTC employees should also get dearness allowance arrears as in the past the state government has not paid it," Barge said. The corporation has a workforce of more than 80,000 employees. Last year, MSRTC employees had gone on a strike for more than five months for various demands including merger of the corporation with the state government. MSRTC is one of the biggest state-owned public transport undertakings in the country with a fleet of over 16,000 buses.

Petrol- Diesel Price Check latest fuel rates in your city

New Delhi: As anxieties about geopolitical tensions subsided and concerns about demand in China, the world's largest crude importer, increased, oil prices fell for the second day in early Asian trade on Thursday. The price of Brent crude futures had fallen by 62 cents, to \$92.24 per barrel. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil futures in the United States decreased by 65 cents, to \$84.94 per barrel.

After knowing that oil supplies to Hungary via the Druzhba oil pipeline have been temporarily halted due to a drop in pressure, oil prices increased on Tuesday and continued to rise. (Also Read: Financial Crisis? Get loan up to Rs 35 lakh online from SBI in few clicks; check details)

However, since the central government reduced the excise charge, the cost of gasoline and diesel in India has remained fairly constant. The last significant drop in fuel costs was in May of this year when the Center cut the excise duty on gasoline by Rs 8 per litre and on diesel by Rs 6 per litre. (Also Read: BIZARRE: A house up for sale for Rs 1.6 crore has shower cubicle in the middle of bedroom—Check pic)

Windfall profit tax on crude oil hiked, levy on export of diesel cut

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday hiked windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil while reducing the rate on export of diesel. The tax on crude oil produced by firms such as state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), was hiked to Rs 10,200 per tonne, from Rs 9,500 per tonne, with effect from November 17, a government notification said.

In the fortnightly revision of windfall tax, the government cut the rate on export of diesel to Rs 10.5 per litre, from Rs 13 per litre. The levy on diesel includes Rs 1.50 per litre road infrastructure cess. The export tax on jet fuel or ATF, which was set at Rs 5 a litre in the last review on November 1, has not been altered. When the levy was first introduced, a windfall tax on export of petrol alongside diesel and ATF was levied. But the tax on petrol was scrapped in subsequent fortnightly reviews.

While the windfall profit tax is calculated by taking away any price that producers are getting above a threshold, the levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference of international oil price realised and the cost. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and aviation turbine fuel and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel. A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied.

The duties were partially adjusted in the previous rounds on July 20, August 2, August 19, September 1, September 16, October 1, October 16 and November 1.

Indian refiners wary of buying Russian oil after Dec 5 as EU sanctions loom

New Delhi: Indian refiners are wary of buying Russia crude oil loading after Dec. 5 when European Union sanctions take effect, pending clarity on the proposed G7 price cap mechanism, according to sources familiar with the refiners' crude purchase plans.

Chinese refiners have already begun slowing down Russian oil imports from next month.

The Asian giants, who are two of the world's top three importers, had become Russia's biggest customers after the West shunned Russian oil after the outbreak of war in Ukraine. Reduced buying by both of them would leave Russia chasing alternative customers, potentially depressing prices even if those new buyers are unlikely to join a plan by rich nations in the Group of Seven (G7) to cap Russian oil prices. Eliance Industries Ltd, operator of the world's biggest refining complex and a major customer for Russia, has not placed orders yet for Russian cargoes loading after Dec. 5, two sources familiar the refiner's purchase plans told Reuters.

Neither has state-run Bharat Petroleum Corp, they said. The Indian companies did not respond to Reuters email seeking comments. According to the sources, Reliance is cautious about reactions from foreign banks given its exposure to the western financial system and overseas sales of refined products. "There are too many uncertainties attached to the cap mechanism. We don't know what the payment mechanism could be and what could be the cap level," said a source at one of the state refiners. Still, Indian Oil Corp, the country's top refiner, has placed orders for Russian cargoes, including for loading some parcels beyond Dec. 5, under term and spot deals, said one of the sources.

Govt may review blanket ban on broken rice exports if procurement steadies

New Delhi: With rice procurement progressing steadily and with prices starting to moderate, the Central government might review the ban on the export of broken rice, though an outright lifting is ruled out for now, two people aware of the development said.

Exports may still face some curbs with the imposition of a duty instead of the complete ban that is currently in place, but matters are still at a discussion stage, they added. India, the largest exporter of broken rice, had imposed the ban in September to stabilise domestic prices and ensure the availability of the grain in the domestic market particularly for the ethanol and poultry industries.

Prior to the ban, broken rice exports between April and August of FY23 has risen by a mind-boggling 4,178 per cent from the corresponding period of 2019, while between FY18 and FY19, they had jumped by almost 319 per cent.

Data shows that in FY22, of the 3.8-3.9 million tonnes of broken rice exported, around 1.6 million tonnes (over 41 per cent) went to China for use as feed meal for the poultry industry there.

The share of broken rice in India's total exports—estimated to be about 21.2



million tonnes in 2021-22—rose to 23 per cent in April-August 2022 from 1.34 per cent in the same period in 2019.

However, some softening of domestic prices, a steady start to 2022-23 rice procurement season and demand from southern millers may have prompted the Centre consider revoking the ban, sources said. Till November 10, paddy procurement in the central pool for the

2022-23 season that started on October is estimated to be about 23.1 million tonnes—1.31 per cent more than the paddy procured during the same period last year. In the 2022-23 season (October to September), the Centre has planned to procure 77.1 million tonnes of paddy which is more than the 75.9 million tonnes procured last year. Meanwhile, sources said the commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal had discussed the matter

during a review of the sectoral progress in exports with export promotion councils and industry bodies. "The industry had expressed their concerns regarding the continuation of the ban on broken rice," one of the persons cited above said.

Market sources said India annually produced around 5-6 million tonnes of broken rice which is mainly used as poultry and cattle feed.

India's rice production in 2022-23 kharif season is estimated to be around 6.05 per cent less than the same period last year at 104.99 million tonnes as per the first advance estimate of agriculture production for 2022-23 crop year (July to June) released a few months back.

Rice production in the 2021-22 kharif season was a record 111.76 million tonnes. If the numbers hold firm, then this will be the lowest rice production in the kharif season since the 2020-21 crop year. The production is expected to be down due to drought like conditions in main growing regions of East India namely in the states of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal and also shift towards other competing crops in some other states.

Amazon begins mass layoffs; data scientists, software engineers hit

New York: Amazon has begun mass layoffs in its corporate ranks, becoming the latest tech company to trim its workforce amid rising fears about the wider economic environment. On Tuesday, the company notified regional authorities in California that it would lay off about 260 workers at various facilities that employ data scientists, software engineers and other corporate workers. Those job cuts would be effective beginning on January 17. Amazon would not specify how many more layoffs may be in the works beyond the ones confirmed through California's Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, also known as WARN, which requires companies to provide 60 days' notice if they have 75 or more full-time or part-time workers. Amazon employs more than 1.5 million workers globally, primarily made up of hourly workers. The online retail giant, like other tech and social media giants, saw sizable profits during the Covid-19 pandemic, as homebound shoppers purchased more items online. But revenue growth slowed as the worst of the pandemic

eased and consumers relied less on e-commerce. The Seattle-based company reported two consecutive losses this year, driven mainly by write-downs of the value of its stock investment in electric vehicle start-up Rivian Automotive. The company returned to profitability during the third quarter, but investors were gloomy about its weaker-than-expected revenue and lackluster projections for the current quarter, which is typically good for retailers due to the holiday shopping season. In an effort to cut back on costs, Amazon has already been axing some of its projects -- including subsidiary fabric.com, Amazon Care and the cooler-size home delivery robot Scout. It has also been scaling back its physical footprint by delaying -- or cancelling -- plans to occupy some new warehouses across the country. And Amazon Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky has said the company was preparing for what could be a slower growth period and would be careful about hiring in the near future. Mass layoffs are rare at Amazon, but the company has had rounds of job cuts in

2018 and in 2001 during the dot-com crash. On the warehouse side, the e-commerce giant typically trims its workforce through attrition.

Faced with high costs, the company announced earlier this month it would pause hiring among its corporate workforce, adding to the freeze it put a few weeks earlier on its retail division. But the layoffs were not far off. Employees who work in different units, including voice assistant Alexa and cloud gaming platform Amazon Luna, said they were let go on Tuesday, according to LinkedIn posts. Some of them were based in Seattle, where the company has its headquarters.

"As part of our annual operating planning review process, we always look at each of our businesses and what we believe we should change," Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said in a statement. "As we have gone through this, given the current macro-economic environment (as well as several years of rapid hiring), some teams are making adjustments, which in some cases means certain roles are no longer necessary."

Fairfax weighing Bangalore airport IPO at \$3.7 billion value: Reports

New Delhi: Fairfax India Holdings Ltd. is considering an initial public offering for Bangalore International Airport Ltd. that could value the asset at about 300 billion rupees (\$3.7 billion), according to people familiar with the matter.

The Indian arm of Canadian investment group Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. is working with an adviser on the potential listing that could take place as soon as next year, the people said. Fairfax India holds a majority stake in the owner of Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, located in the southern Indian city also known as Bangalore. The Mumbai offering may raise between 30 billion rupees and 40



billion rupees, they said, asking not to be identified as the information is private. The IPO may consist of about 75% primary shares and the rest in existing shares, one of the people said. Deliberations are ongoing, details of the listing could change and Fairfax could decide not to proceed with a share sale, the people said. A

representative for BIAL couldn't immediately comment, while Fairfax didn't immediately respond to calls and emails requesting comment. Fairfax India owns a 54% interest in BIAL as it built up its shareholding after acquiring its initial stake in 2017. It counts Siemens Projects Ventures and governments among its minority investors, its website shows.

Launched in 2008, BLR Airport has been visited by more than 250 million passengers as of June this year, according to a recent press release. The airport serves 61 domestic and 14 international destinations, the website shows.

Blackstone to acquire majority stake in R Systems for Rs 2,904 crore

Blackstone is buying the promoters' stake for Rs 245 per share, a premium of 3.9 per cent on the current price of Rs 235.8 per share. The promoters will get around Rs 1,496.95 crore

Private equity player Blackstone is set to acquire a majority stake in digital services and product engineering firm R Systems for Rs 2,904 crore (\$359 million). This includes the 52 per cent stake held by founder Satinder Singh Rekhi and other promoters.

Blackstone is buying the promoters' stake for Rs 245 per share, a premium of 3.9 per cent on the current price of Rs 235.8 per share. The promoters will get around Rs 1,496.95 crore for their 52 per cent stake.

The PE player will also launch a conditional delisting offer, at a price of Rs 246 per share. The transaction is expected to be completed in the coming months, subject to customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals. Rekhi will continue to guide the company in his role as a non-executive advisor, said Blackstone in a statement.



R Systems, founded in 1993 by Rekhi, specialises in digital information technology services, specialising in product engineering, and serves over 250 customers in technology, media, telecom, and financial services sectors globally. The company is employing over 4,400 people across 18 delivery centres in North

America, Europe, Asia Pacific, and India. R System's revenue for the last twelve months, as of September 30, 2022, was Rs 1,445 crore (\$189 mm), registering a 36 per cent year-on-year growth. Mukesh Mehta, senior managing director at Blackstone, said: "Their domain knowledge, service quality and global

Paytm slips 10% after nearly 6% equity changes hands on NSE via block deal



New Delhi: Shares of One97 Communications, which operates India's largest payments platform Paytm, slipped 10 per cent to Rs 541.40 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Thursday's intra-day trade after nearly 6 per cent equity of the company changed hands on the exchange via block deals.

Till 09:22 am, around 38 million shares, representing 6 per cent equity capital of Paytm, had changed hands on the NSE, the exchange data shows. While the names of the buyers and sellers could not be ascertained immediately, a Business Standard report said SoftBank planned to offload 29 million shares in One97 Communications.

The global tech investor was expected to offer shares in the range of Rs 555-Rs 601.45 via block deals, to be executed on Thursday. The floor price for the share sale is nearly 8 per cent lower than Paytm's Wednesday's closing price of Rs 601.6. The share sale comes close on the heels of the end of one-year post-IPO lock up period on Paytm shares.

Currently, Paytm shares are 75 per cent below its IPO price of Rs 2,150 per share. Paytm came out with a Rs 18,300 crore IPO in November 2021. The stock had hit a record low of Rs 511 on May 12, 2022. Post its brief recovery to Rs 840-odd level in early August, shares of Paytm once again resumed the downward trend. At current level, the stock is down a whopping 36 per cent in just three months. Technically, the stock looks fairly weak on the daily charts, with the price-to-moving averages strongly favouring the bears. The short-term (20-Daily Moving Average) stands at Rs 634.20, way below the other key moving averages such as 50-DMA, 100-DMA and 200-DMA at Rs 669, Rs 701 and Rs 691, respectively.

With today's sharp fall, the stock is now seen trading below the lower-end of the Bollinger Bands on the daily chart.

delivery centers make them a partner of choice for their customers. As a leader in outsourced software product development, R Systems is well-positioned to benefit from digitalization tailwinds, shorter product launch cycles and increased openness to outsource product development. This investment follows Blackstone's long-standing conviction in IT services and builds on the firm's robust track record in the sector globally."

Rekhi said: "I am excited that our partnership with Blackstone will take R Systems on the path to its next level of growth. Today, R Systems is a well-known product engineering brand that attracts top-notch talent looking to work on cutting-edge solutions for our global clients. The company's management team will be excited to welcome Blackstone and benefit from their scale, expertise, and global track record in IT services. Our employees, customers, and partners will gain immensely from this partnership with Blackstone. I am happy for my new role as an advisor to the company under Blackstone's ownership." BDA Partners acted as the financial advisor to the sellers of R Systems. AZB & Partners acted as legal advisor to the sellers. KPMG, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas and Simpson Thacher & Bartlett acted as advisors to Blackstone.

NEWS BOX

Manchester United made zero progress: Cristiano Ronaldo compares English club to Real Madrid and Juventus

New Delhi Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo has said that the English club has made zero progress when compared to teams like Real Madrid and Juventus when it comes to following new technologies and infrastructures. Ronaldo's interview with Piers Morgan got the football world talking as the Portuguese superstar lashed out at the owners of Manchester United, the Glazers, his current manager Erik ten Hag, and former teammate, Wayne Rooney. Ronaldo spoke about how United hadn't made any changes in terms of facilities and everything was the same as it was when he left the club for the first time. Speaking to Morgan, as quoted by Realchamps.com, Ronaldo said that United has made zero progress and his former clubs like Real Madrid and Juventus have followed new technologies and infrastructures. He said that Madrid and Juve have always looked to progress in terms of training, nutrition, and player recovery after games, while the Red Devils have been left behind. "Manchester Utd made zero progress. Real Madrid and Juventus followed recent technologies, infrastructures." They always tried to progress even in terms of training, nutrition & how to recover from games. Man United is behind clubs like those," said Ronaldo. Ronaldo also spoke about how close he was to joining United's crosstown rivals, Manchester City, last summer.

Well, honestly, it was close... It's something they spoke (about) a lot and (Manchester City manager Pep) Guardiola said two weeks ago, I guess, that they tried hard to have me." Ronaldo told Piers Morgan in an interview for TalkTV, the first part of which was aired on Wednesday. "But as you know, as my history (was) in Manchester United, your heart, your feeling... make the difference. And of course, as well, Sir Alex Ferguson."

Michael Vaughan trolls Wasim Jaffer as former India opener takes up Punjab Kings batting coach role

New Delhi, Former England captain Michael Vaughan has trolled Wasim Jaffer after the former India opener took up the role of batting coach with IPL side Punjab Kings on Wednesday. Jaffer was announced as the batting coach by the Mohali-based franchise yesterday as PBKS has undergone a major overhaul of their backroom staff. The IPL side appointed Trevor Bayliss as their head coach, while Charl Langeveldt joined as the bowling coach for the franchise. Brad Haddin was roped in as their assistant coach. PBKS took to Twitter to announce Jaffer as their batting coach. "The one you had been waiting for, introducing our Batting Coach, Wasim Jaffer! Reply with a meme to welcome the King!," Punjab Kings posted on Twitter. Vaughan decided to take to Twitter and troll the former India opener after his appointment. Both men have been known to pull the leg of each other on the social media platform over the years, especially during India vs England matches.

The former England captain joked that he was surprised to see someone who got out to his bowling is now a batting coach. "Someone who got out to me is a batting coach !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" said Vaughan on Twitter.

PBKS has not only undergone a change in their backroom staff but also when it comes to the squad as well. During the retention ahead of IPL 2023, the Mohali-based franchise decided to cut ties with last season's captain Mayank Agarwal and appointed Shikhar Dhawan as their new skipper.

West Indies allrounder Odean Smith, Prerak Mankad, Wriddick Chatterjee, Ishan Porel, Vaibhav Arora, Benny Howell and Sandeep Sharma have also been released along with Agarwal.

Cristiano Ronaldo admits he was close to joining Manchester City last summer

New Delhi, Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo has admitted that he was close to joining Manchester City last summer before returning to Old Trafford.

Ronaldo left Juventus last summer and there were rumors suggesting that he would return to England by joining Pep Guardiola's team. However, he ended up returning to Old Trafford from Turin. Speaking with Piers Morgan, the Portuguese Superstar admitted that he was close to joining City. Well, honestly, it was close... It's something they spoke (about) a lot and (Manchester City manager Pep) Guardiola said two weeks ago, I guess, that they tried hard to have me," Ronaldo told Piers Morgan in an interview for TalkTV, the first part of which was aired on Wednesday. "But as you know, as my history (was) in Manchester United, your heart, your feeling... make the difference. And of course, as well, Sir Alex Ferguson."

"I was surprised... But it was a conscious decision. Because the heart speaks, speaking loud in that moment," said Ronaldo. Ronaldo also spoke about how Sir Alex Ferguson helped him make up his mind and return to Manchester United and not join Manchester City. The Portuguese superstar said that communication with the legendary manager was key and revealed that Ferguson told him it was impossible for him to join City.

"I think it was the key. It was the difference in that moment, but I cannot be loyal if I will, I wouldn't say that Manchester City wasn't close," Ronaldo said.

Argentina, Germany, Croatia win in FIFA World Cup warm-up; Mexico lose

ABU DHABI: Lionel Messi played the entire game in Argentina's final World Cup warm-up and scored in a 5-0 rout of the United Arab Emirates as the pre-tournament favorites stretched their unbeaten run to 36 games. Messi scored his team's fourth goal right before the break, having also set up Julián Álvarez to open the scoring in the 17th minute. Ángel di María scored twice in between. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni made four changes at halftime but opted against resting his star player, leaving Messi on for the full 90 minutes. Messi has now scored 10 goals in his last five appearances for Argentina and took his overall tally to 91 goals. Inter Milan forward Joaquín Correa scored the visitors' fifth goal on the hour mark. Argentina start their World Cup tournament against Saudi Arabia on November 22. They also face Mexico and Poland in Group C. "We're confident," midfielder Rodrigo De Paul said. "But for many it will their first World Cup so the first game will be very important."

FULLKRUG RESCUES GERMANY
Niclas Fullkrug scored on his Germany debut as the four-time World Cup champions earned a 1-0 win over Oman in Muscat. It was far from a convincing performance from



Germany, which looked susceptible in defence and prone to mistakes. But Fullkrug's introduction for the second half brought a new dimension to an attack that had failed to spark in the first half. Youssoufa Moukoko struck the post on his Germany debut right before the break, which as close as the visitors got in the first half. The 17-year-old Moukoko was Germany's youngest

debutant since Uwe Seeler, who was younger by 16 days in 1954.

Moukoko then made way at the break for Füllkrug. The 29-year-old forward almost scored early in the second half only to be denied by a good save from the impressive Ibrahim Al-Mukhaini. Germany remained vulnerable at the back but Oman substitute Muhsen Al-Ghassani somehow missed with

the goal at his mercy in the 72nd. The hosts were to rue the miss when Kai Havertz set up Füllkrug to score what proved the winner in the 80th. Germany face Japan, Spain and Costa Rica in Group E. Robert Lewandowski watched from the bench as Poland edged Chile 1-0 in a bruising encounter thanks to a late goal from Krzysztof Piatek in Warsaw. Lewandowski didn't play but will likely start Poland's tournament-opening game against Mexico on Nov. 22. Mexico lost their final warm-up game 2-1 to Sweden in Girona, Spain. CROATIA BEAT SAUDI ARABIA

Andrej Kramaric's late goal was enough for Croatia to beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Riyadh. Croatia star Luka Modric played only the last 25 minutes, enough to set up Kramaric for the winner in the 82nd. Kramaric still had to elude five Saudi defenders before scoring his 20th international goal inside the far post.

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic began with an unfamiliar lineup and gradually brought on his established players. Chelsea midfielder Mateo Kovacic, Hoffenheim forward Kramaric, Tottenham midfielder Ivan Perisic and Real Madrid's Modric all came on in the second half.

FIFA World Cup: Cristiano Ronaldo misses Portugal training amid Manchester United interview controversy

New Delhi, Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo missed training in Portugal on Wednesday due to a stomach illness and the fallout from his public criticism of the Premier League club. Ronaldo's World Cup preparations have been fraught by the release of excerpts from a TV interview in which Portugal forward stated that he feels 'betrayed' by Manchester United and does not respect manager Erik ten Hag. Ronaldo's future at Manchester United is uncertain, with reports claiming that the club may cut ties with him due to his public insults at manager Erik ten Hag and others. For the time being, he is hoping to help Portugal in the Qatar



World Cup. United said they would address Ronaldo's comments that he felt betrayed by the club and was being forced out only after establishing the full facts. Portugal is scheduled to play Nigeria in Lisbon on Thursday before flying to Qatar, and coach

Fernando Santos has stated that Ronaldo will not play. Portugal's first World Cup group game is against Ghana on November 24. South Korea and Uruguay are also represented in the group. Portugal coach Fernando Santos confirmed that Ronaldo was recovering from a stomach problem and would miss Wednesday's practice session and Thursday's friendly with Nigeria. "He is in his room resting and recovering. He won't practice and won't be ready for tomorrow's game either," coach Santos said. "I have full confidence in the group.

Not only Ronaldo but all the players are very focused." The players have given me absolute guarantee - not that I need it - of the total focus and ambition they have for this World Cup."

England T20 World Cup hero Alex Hales reprimanded over 'blackface' social media posts



New Delhi England's T20 World Cup winner Alex Hales has been reprimanded for a historical social media post in which he appeared in blackface. The CDC reprimanded Hales after a photo of him in "blackface" at a student party was published in a national newspaper last year. Hales, who starred in England's T20 World Cup triumph in Australia, was pictured in a 2009 Facebook post dressed as rapper Tupac Shakur at a fancy dress party; the image was made public in 2021. When The Sun

published the photo last year, the opener questioned the need for "repeated publication of these old matters" during the CDC's investigation, but adjudicator Chris Tickle ruled that "the interests of transparency should prevail."

On the other hand, Javid, who retired in 2019, apologised for an anti-Semitic Facebook exchange he had with Azeem Rafiq in 2011. Rafiq was chastised for his role in the exchange last month. "Neither of those breaches related to

The Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC) reprimanded England batter Alex Hales and ex-player Ateeq Javid on Wednesday for historic social media posts.

discriminatory conduct. They were wholly dissimilar. Further, they occurred some eight years after the breach in this case. It would be different if it were a case of repeat offending, of Mr. Hales not having learnt his lesson. At the material time - 2009 - he had a clean record. This was his first offence and it is appropriate to treat it as such," he wrote in the report. Hales, who was a member of the England squad that won the T20 World Cup on Sunday, has previously been investigated and warned by Nottinghamshire, his county, and questioned the need to give the subject "more airtime", according to the CDC report. I have taken this into account but consider that the interests of transparency should prevail. I direct that this decision should be published to emphasise that such posting on social media, however historical, will not be tolerated," Tickle wrote.

Novak Djokovic confirms he has visa to play in 2023 Australian Open

New Delhi Novak Djokovic has confirmed that he has got the visa to play in the Australian Open 2023 and he will be able to compete for a record-extending 10th men's singles title in Melbourne. The 35-year-old was deported on the eve of this year's tournament in Melbourne after arriving without having been immunized against COVID-19.

"I was very happy to receive the news yesterday," Djokovic told reporters after his victory over Andrey Rublev at the ATP Finals in Turin. It was a relief obviously



knowing what I and the people closest to me in my life have been through this year with what happened in Australia and post Australia obviously." Djokovic, the former world number one who has 21 Grand Slam titles, was originally barred from the country until 2025 but that decision has now been reversed. "I could not receive better news for sure -- during this tournament as well. The Australian Open has been my most successful Grand Slam. I made some of the best memories there," he said. "Of course, I want to go back there, I want to play tennis, do what I do best, hopefully have a great Australian summer." Djokovic would be welcome in January if he could obtain a visa, according to Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley, but Tennis Australia could not lobby on his behalf. Australia repealed a rule requiring international travellers to declare their COVID vaccination status in July, and Djokovic said in October that he had received "positive signs" about the status of his ban's appeal.

Djokovic will now have the chance to reclaim the title at a tournament he has dominated since his first triumph there in 2008. "Just giving that clarity (that I will start my season in Australia) makes it great for us," Djokovic said.

Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni hints at making changes to FIFA World Cup squad: There is a possibility

Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni has hinted that he could make changes to the final World Cup squad ahead of the tournament. Teams are allowed to make changes to their squad 24 hours before their World Cup opener.

New Delhi, Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni has hinted that he could change his World Cup squad on Wednesday as the former Champions have a few injury concerns on their list.

Argentina secured a 5-0 win over the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, which was their warm-up match before the mega event in Qatar. The Albiceleste has been dealing with a lot of injuries ahead of the tournament with Defender Cristian Romero and forwards Nicolas Gonzalez, Alejandro Gomez and Paulo Dybala being left out of the friendly match against UAE as they're still on the road to recovery. The full squad of Argentina is as follows:

Goalkeepers: Emiliano Martínez, Gerónimo Rulli, Franco Armani

Defenders: Nahuel Molina, Gonzalo Montiel, Cristian Romero, Germán Pezzella, Nicolás Otamendi, Lisandro Martínez, Marcos Acuña, Nicolás Tagliafico, Juan Foyth

Midfielders: Rodrigo De Paul, Leandro Paredes, Alexis MacAllister, Guido Rodríguez, Alejandro Gómez, Enzo Fernández, Exequiel Palacios



Forwards: Ángel Di María, Lautaro Martínez, Julián Álvarez, Nicolás González, Joaquín Correa, Paulo Dybala, Lionel Messi

After the friendly against UAE, coach Scaloni admitted that the

change, hopefully not, but there is a possibility," Scaloni told reporters. "I'm not saying they are going to be dropped from the list. There are players who are not well, who have been left out of the squad today because they were not fit to play or there was a risk."

"We have to be cautious because there is a reason why they were left out." FIFA rules state that teams can replace players in their World Cup squads up to 24 hours before their opening match. Argentina will face Saudi Arabia in their first match of the tournament on 22nd November.

SSEPD Department gears up interventions for special schools MoU to be signed with Vision Empower

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Hon'ble Minister congratulated the startup NeoMotion and the co-founder Swostik Sourav Dash. He said "Odisha is proud to have a son of the soil who has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair attachment NeoBolt, and a personalised wheelchair called NeoFly that aims to enhance the health and lifestyle of the differently-abled." Distributing NeoBolt motorised chairs, he also congratulated the youth with disabilities for having been selected for such unique modes of transport.



Today, at Terapant Bhawan, in a historic first Hon'ble Minister Sri Ashok Ch Panda of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of Odisha, distributed the first eight smart rides "NeoBolt," developed by NeoMotion Assistive Solutions Private Limited - IITM Incubation Cell, IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai. NeoBolt is the ultimate innovation that helps Wheelchair Users move around

independently, not within the house, but to Work, to Shop, to Anywhere. All the user needs to do is, to Strap on a front scooter. The user can do this independently without anyone's help. Move around the city independently. Swabhiman has been associated with IITM Incubation Cell and NeoMotion since 2018. Presently, as

outreach partner, they are identifying beneficiaries and networking for wider reach of NeoFly and NeoBolt. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Sruti Mohapatra said "NeoMotion is creating life transformative products for the physically challenged and the elderly. She praised NeoBolt as an all-terrain bike "it is designed for safety with a sideways anti-tipper and speed regulator so even severely disabled like me can drive without any fear and at the pace I like. It serves as a wheel-chair and becomes a bike in a jiffy the front is strapped." Eight orthopedically challenged youth, students and job-doers, beneficiaries went through a rigorous

assessment process to qualify as recipients. Baraj Kumar Das (Kendrapada), Jagannath Nayak (Nayagarh), Sarojini Sethy (Ganjam) Mamatarani Panda (Balangir), Arati Bera (Mayurbhanj), Santosh Pradhan (Khordha), Debashis Mallick (Puri), Sasmita Swain (Puri), Rakesh Kumar (Khordha). Swostik Sourav Dash, Co-Founder and CEO at NeoMotion, joined on a video call and interacted with guests and beneficiaries. He is a mechanical engineer and product designer graduated in 2013 from IIT Madras and his interest in product design brought him back to IIT after two years, to design products for people with disabilities.

Odia movie DAMAN declared tax free



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Odia movie DAMAN was on Friday declared tax-free in Odisha. The film, inspired by real events, depicts the dedication of a government doctor in Malkangiri district in fighting the malaria menace.

According to a release from the Chief Minister's Office, DAMAN features the success story on Malaria eradication from the off-reach area of Malkangiri district. The story of the movie and the characters played in it will inspire the doctor and paramedical communities to excel in selfless services, it said.

Scientist-farmer interface meeting held at AFS, Sarakana



Bhubaneswar, (TNB): A Scientists-Farmers Interface meeting was held at Aquaculture Field School, Sarakanatoday. ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture under the project Farmer First organized this and around 70 farmers and farm women took part. This meet was held to share with the farmers new developments in freshwater aquaculture and to elicit feedback from practicing fish farmers. Regular scientists-farmers interface is an essential component of farmer first and it helps establishing connection with the clientele.

goals of Aquaculture field school and tasks undertaken by CIFA since last many years and encouraged the farmers for optimum utilisation of resources using latest technologies of fish farming. Dr. C.K. Misra, interacted with the audience explaining in depth details about ornamental fish farming comprising its seed rearing as well as about the Bio-floc fish farming.

A Scientists-Farmers interface was conducted to discuss about the problems faced by the farmers in aquaculture. Padmasri Awardee farmer Sri Batakushna Sahoos hared his farming experience and urged the fellow farmers to take advantage of the knowledge products of CIFA. The team along with the farmers visited hatchery and ornamental fish unit of Sri Sahoo.

Five arrested with brown sugar in coastal Odisha



Kendrapara, (TNB): Pattamundai police of the coastal kendrapara district arrested five persons with lakh of rupees brown sugar and forwarded them to court today. In a press meet Pattamundai sub divisional police officer Sandhyarani Beuria said, Pattamundai police came to know from a reliable source that some illegal transaction was operates in MKC ground under Pattamundai police station limit. Immediate a police team headed by Assistant sub inspector of police Antarjami Biswal surrounded the ground and captured the five persons on the spot.

Police has recovered 10.4 miligram brown sugar, which cost near about one lakh twenty four thousand in market and a number less motor cycle, five thousand five hundred cash. Pattamundai Police registered a case no 562 and forwarded to Sanjay Das, Mathura Mallick, Ranjit Rout, Mukesh Sahoo, Aditi panda to the court. In last some days public noticed that the illegal intoxicants operates in that area and among the college students also.

Public awareness programs and preparatory meeting

Buguda, (TNB): In the Buguda block samiti meeting hall on 18th November, an awareness and preparatory meeting for the loan fair was held in the presence of women self-help groups and bank workers to discuss how women can get all the government benefits. Buguda BDO Basudev Nayak elaborately explained the various assistance provided to women self help groups and women unions in by the Mission Shakti department of the state government.

In the program, representative of Buguda Block Chairperson K.



Nilamadhav Achari, CDPO Ranjita Tripathi, BSSO, OLM, all bank branch managers of Buguda Block attended the meeting and discussed about loan fair.

After discussion with the local MLA and Hon'ble Minister Shrikant Sahu, a proposal was made to fix the loan fair day. Block staff contributed to group management.

Vigilance apprehended a line man

Berhampur, (TNB): Sri Kalu Charan Palei, Line man, Tikabali Electrical Section (TPSODL) of Khandhamal has been apprehended by Odisha Vigilance while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 5000/- from a Complainant for providing a new electric connection to his new grocery shop for which he had already applied and deposited the required money.

The entire bribe money of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) has been recovered from the accused Sri Palai and seized. Following trap, house search has been launched on his rented house at Rajiba Nagar, Tikabali from D.A angle. In this connection, Berhampur Vigilance PS Case No. 25 dt 17.11.2022 U/s 7 P.C. (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been registered. Investigation is in progress against accused Sri Palai, lineman.

Chandigarh Pracheen Kala Kendra Organized Sangeet Sandhya

Bhubaneswar, (TNB): Chandigarh Pracheen Kala Kendra Organized Sangeet Sandhya on Thursday evening in Bhanja Kala Mandap, Bhubaneswar. Guru Anil Kumar Jena & his Group's

Vocal Recital and Guru Sangeeta Sahoo & her Troup's Kathak Dance were main attraction to the audience.

Vice Chancellor of Kalahandi University Prof. Dr. Sanjay Kumar

Satapathy as Chief Guest, HOD of Sanskrit Dept., Utkal University Prof. Dr. Subash Chandra Dash as Guest of Honour and Musicologist & Linguist Dr. Kirtan Narayan Parhi as Special Guest Participated

in the function and inaugurated this by collectively lighting the Lamp. Supertending accountant Byomokash Jena gave welcome address and read the activities of the Pracheen Kala Kendra.

Computerized navigation of cadaveric spine surgery in KIMS

Bhubaneswar, November 18: The first-of-its-kind cadaveric workshop on spine, which was organised at the Department of Anatomy in Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS-Bhubaneswar) as part of the programmes of the Instructional Course on Spine (ICS) 2022 under the aegis of the Association of the Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI), has received rave reviews from the participating spine surgeons, drawn across the leading medical institutes of India.

According to HoD, Department of Orthopaedics KIMS and a senior member of ASSI Prof (Dr) Tanmoy Mohanty "the workshop for the first time in Odisha used the digital interfaces like computer-aided 3D navigation system on spine. It was demonstrated on the cadaver specimens and the event was successful as the "feel of live surgery" with the seven cadaveric specimens was an immensely educative, useful and state-of-art experience." The proper and scientific

presentations of cadavers were prepared by Prof Satyashree Ray, HoD, Anatomy from SCB Medical College and Hospital, (SCBMCH) Cuttack. The demonstration on the cadaveric spine workshop was headed by organizing chairman Prof (Dr) MM Sahoo from Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital, Baripada. Prof (Dr) Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra HoD, Orthopedics SCBMCH Cuttack and Assistant Professor Dr Amit Guru of the



same department were also part of the team of ICS 2022. On behalf of KIMS-Bhubaneswar, the expert surgeons attending the cadaveric workshop on the

spine were felicitated by Group Director Dilip Kumar Panda. During the workshop, the participating surgeons updated their knowledge of various sur-

gical methods on the cadavers including the implant fixation techniques.

Reputed spine surgeons from across the nation, i.e. Dr Ishwar Kirti, Dr Janardhana Aithala, Dr Appaji Krishnan, Dr Kiran Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Dr Anindya Basu and Dr Jaydeep Ghosh joined the cadaveric workshop and contributed as the distinguished guides and table instructors. The spine surgeons assembled at KIMS Anatomy Department were of the view that the ar-

range ment of the cadaveric workshop at KIMS was of very high order and they also felt that they never knew that such a medical facility ever existed in this part of the country. HoD Prof (Dr) Satyanarayan Shamala and Prof (Dr) Bijay Kumar Dutta, Department of Anatomy KIMS coordinated the event. It was learned that there would be more such cadaveric workshops on different subjects to train budding surgeons in near future.

Ragging in OSME, Keonjhar, Principal ordered inquiry

Keonjhar, (TNB): Principal of Odisha School of Mining and Engineering (OSME) Gyana Ray has ordered a probe into the alleged ranging in the hostel. The Principal has denied it. "The senior boys have called the junior boys and told them to sing song, dance. He was ordered immediately after receiving a complaint by the committee. If found



guilty, they will be penalised". Sources said that the incident took place on Friday evening. Some third year students allegedly

called on some junior students in Khandadhar hostel and allegedly started ragging. In fear though no one came forward to lodge a complaint, but after re-

ceiving information internal inquiry has already been started by the school authority.

As most of the time, the principal of OSME remain absent in the school, many disturbances have been taking places in the campus. Despite internal examination in the school is going, the principal remain absent resented some of guardians.

Demand for development of railway in South Odisha

Buguda (TNB): Demand letter from 'Odisha Development Forum' to Railway Minister, East Coast Railway General Manager and Khurda Road DRM through Berhampur Station Master to include the demand for the development of Odisha's old Brahampur railway station and railway development in South Odisha in the rail budget provided. In this demand letter, construction of coach terminal for boarding and departure of railway vehicles at Odisha's oldest Brahampur station or any place near Brahampur, com-

plete development of 100 years old station building, construction of platform number 5 and 6, lift, coach position display board, lighting, running local trains with water, food facilities, toilets on all platforms and outside stations and early opening of local ticket sales centers have been demanded. In addition, the much-anticipated Brahmapur-Sambalpur Via Phulbani, Gopalpur-Rayagada, Gopalpur-Talcher, Gopalpur-Nayagarh Via Tarataarini and Bugada, Gunupur-Rayagada, Jaipur-



Malkangiri and Malkangiri-Nabarangpur railways will be started early, wagon factory at Shitalapalli and Brahmapur-Mumbai railways will be started soon, to run daily express trains to Surat, Delhi, Jaipur, Puri and other cities, to extend many trains stopping at Bhubaneswar and Puri to Brahmapur and to run the

Bhubaneswar-Delhi Rajdhani train through South Odisha. Apart from this, demands were made to name the long-distance train named of Upendra Bhanj, Krishna Chandra Gajapati, Chakra Bishoi, Laxman Nayak. Forum Secretary V. Someshwar Rao, Asst. Secretary Manas Ranjan Patra, Senior Executive members Kiran Kumar Panda, Satish Kumar Sahu, Adviser Ramesh Chandra Sahu, T.Sudesh Patra, B.Shankar Patra and other activists were present.