



## STAUNCH SAMANTHA

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu says she has taken a day off from Myositis treatment for promotions of Yashoda

LEISURE P2



## N KOREA'S BIG PLAN

North Korea says its recent barrage of missile tests were to "mercilessly" strike key targets in South Korea, US

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SABALENKA THROUGH

Aryna Sabalenka stuns Iga Swiatek for a spot in the title round of the WTA Finals, where she will face Caroline Garcia

SPORTS P12

## Cop suspended for hitting lady pilgrim in Puri

AGENCIES

**Puri, Nov 7:** A senior police constable (Havildar) was placed under suspension in Puri district after he allegedly hit an elderly woman pilgrim with a cane stick inside Srimandir here, a senior officer said. The 65-year-old woman, who sustained injuries on her head, was immediately taken to a hospital by other security personnel posted there.

According to police, Madhuri Das, a resident of Berhampur, got into an argument with the constable, after she was stopped from rushing into the sanctum sanctorum. Havildar Prashant Dalai, who was managing the crowd, allegedly hit Das with his stick in the midst of the argument, the sources said.

The shrine has been witnessing heavy footfall over the past few days with devotees making a beeline to offer prayers to the Trinity on the occasion of 'Panchuka', a festival marking the end of Kartik month in Hindu calendar. A thorough probe will be conducted to ascertain the circumstances that led to the incident.



ARTSY MINDS: Artists give finishing strokes to their paintings during the National Artists' Camp and Film Festival at Ekakra Haat in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

## Two suicides in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** Two persons including a youth committed suicide under Saheed Nagar police station limits here, police said Monday.

In the first incident, a 25-year-old youth identified as Anurag Das was found hanging in his room at an apartment in Bomikhal area here late Sunday night.

Das who hailed from Mangalpur police station area of Jajpur district was working in a showroom in city. He was staying in a mess along with other colleagues.

Sources in the police also revealed that Das had cut his wrist before hanging himself with a rope from the ceiling fan. His roommates told police that the deceased's brother, who stays nearby, asked them to check on him as Das was not answering his calls.

Subsequently, they found his room locked from inside. Assuming something wrong, the roommates informed the police at around 12.30am Monday.

Police broke into the room and brought Das's body in the presence of his brother. His body was later sent to Capital Hospital

for post-mortem.

Police have started investigation registering an unnatural death case (77/22) in this regard. Police suspect unsuccessful love affair might be the reason behind Das taking the extreme step. However, the family members are yet to lodge any complaint alleging foul play.

In the second incident, a 40-year-old person committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan with a towel in his rental accommodation at Basuaghai area here, Monday. The deceased identified as Ramesh Chandra Patra was a resident of Berhampur.

Police sources claimed that Patra was a drug addict under severe mental pressure over monetary issues. The deceased's wife had gone to temple when Patra hanged himself.

Informed, police reached the spot and sent the body to capital hospital for post-mortem.

It is pertinent to mention here that a 20-year-old engineering student identified as Ratikant Das of Khurda had ended his life by consuming poison in front of his hostel room on the outskirts of the city, Sunday.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thank God we have a new non-Gandhi party president to lay the blame on!

## SC clears EWS quota

A 5-JUDGE BENCH HEADED BY CJI UU LALIT PRONOUNCED 4 SEPARATE VERDICTS ON 40 PETITIONS CHALLENGING THE VALIDITY OF THE 103RD CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court by a majority view of 3:2 Monday upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitution amendment providing 10 per cent reservation to people belonging to the economically weaker sections (EWS) in admissions and government jobs.

The court said the quota does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution. A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit pronounced four separate verdicts on 40 petitions challenging the validity of the 103rd Constitution amendment promulgated by the Centre in 2019.

While Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Bela M Trivedi and JB Pardiwala upheld the law, Justice S Ravindra Bhat along with the CJI shot down the same in their minority view. The judges read four separate judgements for over 35

The idea of Baba Saheb Ambedkar was to bring social harmony by introducing reservation for only ten years. However, it has continued past seven decades. Reservation should not continue for an indefinite period of time so as to become a vested interest

J.B. PARDIWALA | JUSTICE, SC



minutes in the courtroom. Justice Maheshwari, who read the judgement for himself, said the 103rd constitutional amendment cannot be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution.

He said reservation is an instrument of affirmative action so as to ensure an all inclusive march towards goals of egalitarian society and it is a means of inclusion of any class or section so disadvantaged. Justice Trivedi said the 103rd constitutional amendment cannot be struck down on grounds of being discriminatory.

She said the 103rd Constitution amendment has to be treated as an affirmative action by Parliament for the benefit of EWS class.

Justice JB Pardiwala concurred with their views and upheld the validity of the amendment. Justice Pardiwala, however, said reservation is meant to secure social justice but it should not continue for indefinite time so that it becomes vested interest. Justice S Ravindra Bhat, in a minority view, dissented and struck down the constitution

## TURN OF EVENTS 2019

- JAN 8:** Lok Sabha clears the 103rd Constitution amendment Bill
- JAN 9:** Rajya Sabha clears the 103rd Constitution amendment Bill
- JAN 12:** Ministry of Law and Justice notifies Prez's assent
- FEB:** New law challenged before SC
- FEB 6:** SC issues notice to govt on pleas challenging amendment
- FEB 8:** SC declines to stay 10 per cent EWS quota

## 2022

- SEP 8:** SC bench headed by CJI UU Lalit constitutes bench to hear appeals
- SEP 13:** SC starts hearing arguments
- SEP 27:** SC reserves order
- NOV 7:** SC upholds validity of 103rd Constitution amendment

amendment on EWS quota. He declared the 103rd Amendment Act as unconstitutional and void on grounds that it is violative of basic structure of the Constitution.

Continued on P4

## 3 die in series crash on NH-16

PNN & AGNECIES

**Balasure, Nov 7:** At least three people were killed and four others sustained critical injuries Monday after one of two vehicles carrying them collided with an oil tanker in Balasure district, police said.

The accident took place around 6.30am on National Highway-16 near Radhaballavpur area, when one of the two SUVs rammed into the oil tanker from behind, following which the second car crashed into the first one. Seven people were travelling to Puri from Hooghly in the two cars. According to locals, a tyre of the tanker burst leading to the accident.

Two people died on the spot, while the driver of the vehicle that hit the tanker succumbed to his injuries at the nearby Soro hospital, police sources said.



The injured were undergoing treatment in the health facility, they added. The mishap occurred when an empty oil tanker was on its way to Balasure. However, the front tyre on the right of the tanker suddenly burst at Chingudi Square. As a result, it lost control leading to the series accident.

The car driver Ibrahim Qazi, 35, and a woman Parbati Das, 50, died on the

spot while another occupant Shankar Rao, 45, succumbed to his injuries at Soro hospital. A total of seven persons including two children were travelling in these two cars.

The injured persons returned to Kolkata after treatment while the bodies were sent for post-mortem. The tanker driver is absconding while police seized the three vehicles and started an investigation.

## JUMBO, CALF FOUND DEAD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Nov 7:** Forest officials Monday recovered carcasses of a female elephant and its calf from Kalapata reserve forest near Kuliapala village under Telkoi forest range in Keonjhar district.

The matter came to the fore after locals, who had gone to the forest, found stench emanating from somewhere and informed the Forest officials.

Talpada Forest personnel rushed there and traced the carcasses of one female adult elephant and



that of its calf from the jungle. The cause behind the death of the two elephants is unclear. It is suspected that the two animals might have died two weeks ago.

MORE P5

## Woman carrying reptiles worth ₹50cr on train arrested

AGENCIES

**Jamshedpur, Nov 7:** A woman travelling with rare species of snakes including pythons, and chameleons worth more than Rs 50 crore was arrested from the general compartment of Neelachal Express at Tatanagar station in Jharkhand.

The arrest was made by a joint team of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP) and Crime Intelligence Branch (CIB). The seized animals will be handed over to the Forest department. The accused has been identified as Devi Chandra hailing from Pune, said RPF in-charge SK Tiwari.

Tiwari added that the woman was identified and searched as soon as the train reached Tatanagar station. The team recovered a total of 28 snakes from the bag besides chameleons, spiders etc.



The RPF called snake catchers to take the reptiles out of the bag. Two Sand Boas and an Albino Python worth Rs 25 crore each were rescued. Apart from these, 19 ball pythons and four red pythons were found in nine boxes, added Tiwari. Twelve chameleons, beetles, and spiders were found in another box. During interrogation, the woman revealed that a person in Nagaland had given her the bag to deliver to Delhi in exchange of Rs 8,000.

## Billionaires emit million times more greenhouse gases

FOR EACH OF THESE 125 BILLIONAIRES, IT WOULD TAKE 1.8 MILLION COWS TO EMIT THE SAME LEVELS OF CO2e

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** The investments of 125 of the world's richest billionaires yield an annual average of three million tonne of carbon dioxide emissions a year, more than a million times the average for someone in the bottom 90 per cent of humanity, according to a new report by non-profit group Oxfam.

These super rich people have a collective USD 2.4 trillion stake in 183 companies.

Their investments in polluting industries such as fossil fuels and cement are double the average for the Standard and Poor group of 500 companies, said the report titled 'Carbon Billionaires: The investment emissions of the world's richest people'. Cumulatively, these 125 billionaires fund 393 million tonne



of CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per year, which is equal to the annual carbon emissions of France, a nation of 67 million people.

To put things into perspective, each of these billionaires would have to circumnavigate the world almost 16 million times in a private

jet to create the same emissions, the report said.

It would take 1.8 million cows to emit the same levels of CO2e as each of the 125 billionaires. Almost four million people would have to go vegan to offset the emissions of each of the billionaires, it said.

We need COP27 to expose and change the role that big corporates and their rich investors are playing in profiting from the pollution that is driving the global climate crisis

NAKOTE DABI | CLIMATE CHANGE LEAD, OXFAM INT'L

"The major and growing responsibility of wealthy people for overall emissions is rarely discussed or considered in climate policy making. This has to change. These billionaire investors at the top of the corporate pyramid have huge responsibility for driving climate breakdown. They have escaped accountability

for too long," said Amitabh Behar, CEO of Oxfam India.

Often the high-profile commitments made by corporates do not stand up to scrutiny. The flurry of net zero goals that depend on offsetting are at best a distraction from the need to take short-term measures to reduce corporates' emissions and have the potential to derail climate action, Oxfam said.

In 2021, Oxfam revealed that using land alone to remove the world's carbon emissions to achieve 'net zero' by 2050 would require at least 1.6 billion hectares of new forests, an area equivalent to five times the size of India.

"We need COP27 to expose and change the role that big corporates and their rich investors are playing in profiting from the pollution that is driving the global climate cri-

sis. They can't be allowed to hide or greenwash. We need governments to tackle this urgently by publishing emission figures for the richest people, regulating investors and corporates to slash carbon emissions and taxing wealth and polluting investments", said Nakote Dabi, Climate Change Lead at Oxfam International.

Oxfam also estimated that a wealth tax on the world's super-rich could raise USD 1.4 trillion a year, vital resources that could help developing countries - those worst hit by the climate crisis - to adapt, address loss and damage and carry out a just transition to renewable energy.

Oxfam also called for steeply higher tax rates for investments in polluting industries to deter such investments.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today, you will show every- one what you're capable of. You are likely to come up with great ideas and work strategies, which will prove productive. However, if appreciation doesn't come your way, Ganesh says you must learn to take dis- appointment in your stride.

**TAURUS**  
You will be feeling listless, lazy and out of sorts today, and will tend to ignore and neglect important tasks scheduled for the day. Ganesh urges you to guard against this tendency as you could miss out on opportunities that others could then benefit from. That way, you will surely lose out professionally, particularly if you are in business.

**GEMINI**  
A crucial social event at home is on the anvil, and it will demand most of your attention. Intense business negotia- tions, which were going on for a long time, will come to a logical conclusion. The results are likely to be stacked in your favour.

**CANCER**  
Today looks set to be a day full of extremes, especially when it comes to your shifty moods. However, you will need to keep reminding yourself of not getting overly emotional or impractical. Otherwise you may end up being in complicated situa- tions, warns Ganesh.

**LEO**  
Today there is a chance that you will meet that special someone that you have been waiting for all your life. You may possibly give your partner a beautiful gift. You will be more inclined towards the arts and will be able to exhibit this new-found appreciation to the max, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Expenses will mount uncontrollably today, and they will be mostly wasteful in nature. However, positive energies are gathering momentum, and Ganesh says you would do well in making full use of them, both in your personal and profes- sional spheres.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will be more conscious about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor or by purchasing expensive cosmetics. To enhance your appearance and personality you may also go on a shopping spree for clothes. Ganesh says you will gain benefits for your money today.

**SCORPIO**  
The day does not begin on a very good note as you seem to be in a belligerent mood. Be calm and patient as your hot temper may spoil a good deal. Limit your conver- sations and discussions with colleagues and friends, advises Ganesh. Practising meditation and yoga will bring you some respite towards the end of the day.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
No pains, no gains. So, when you go through a lot of turmoil and toil hard for your work, the rewards are definitely going to be fruitful, says Ganesh. Time for get together and soiree with family and friends! In a nutshell, a day with lot of fun activities.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your hands are full with plenty of projects and assignments. Finish them off as soon as you can and spend rest of the day refreshing your mind. Communicating with people of all walks of life will make you enhance your hori- zon of knowledge, feels Ganesh. Talking about personal life, you will feel free to conduct yourself as per your wish.

**AQUARIUS**  
Be sure of your strengths and decisions, and Ganesh guarantees you success. You don't care what others think about you, but don't be so indifferent that you ignore their choices, preferences and comforts completely. The smile of you sweetheart will work like a charm and you will forget all your worries, feels Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Ganesh warns that your expenses could be twice as much as your income or prof- it. You need to be more careful in money matters. It is not an auspicious day for any new work, new deal or any new begin- nings. Ganesh indicates that things will look up after two days or so.



## JIMMY KIMMEL TO HOST OSCARS AGAIN

Jimmy Kimmel is ready to host the Oscars again, completing a trilogy that started with him presiding over the chaotic "envelope- gate" ceremony. The late-night talk show host will preside over the ceremony in March, the show's producers said Monday.

## BRITNEY SPEARS SUFFERS NERVE DAMAGE

Pop icon Britney Spears seems to have suffered irreparable nerve damage on the right side of her body. Talking about how excruciating it is for her, she said, "Nerves are tiny and it feels like pins and needles from the right side of my body it shoots up to my neck".



# Priyanka's bid to end violence against women

**Mumbai:** After a short stay in Mumbai to launch her hair-care line, Priyanka Chopra headed off to Delhi and is currently on the road in Uttar Pradesh.

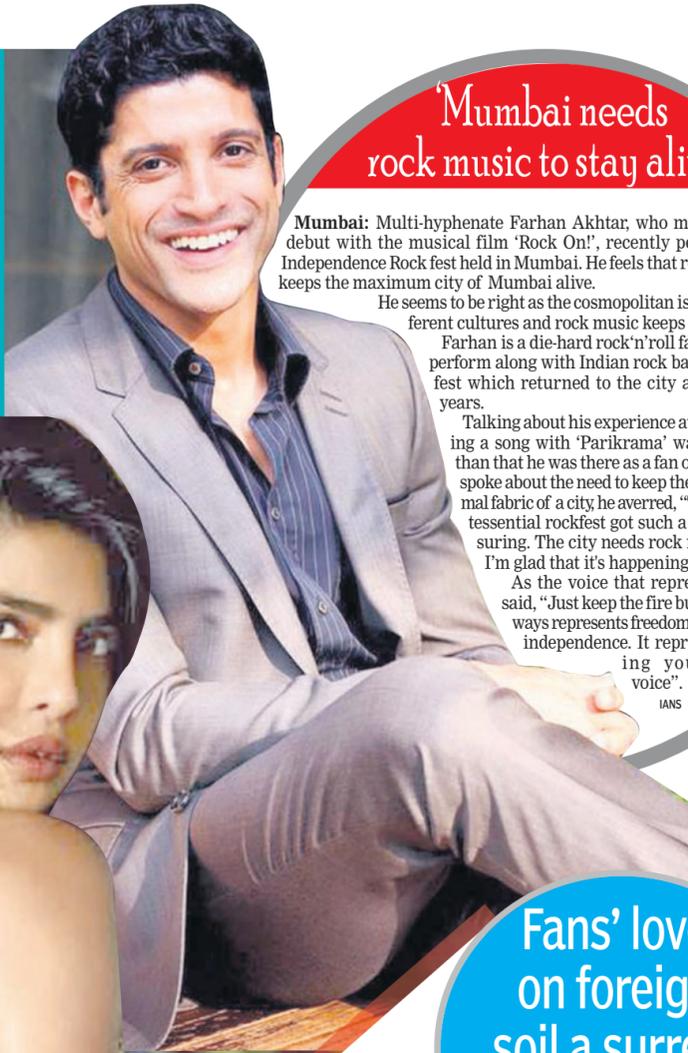
The actress and advocate got on the road and zoomed off to UP as part of a UNICEF initiative to uplift the women and children of the state.

"I am really looking forward to this field visit. I've spent a few of my childhood years in school in Lucknow. I have family and friends here, and I am keen to understand how the needle has shifted for the women and children in the state", she said in the video.

"I want to see first-hand, how technology and innova- tion is making that shift.

Across India, gen- der in- equality results in unequal opportunity and it is the girls who are most af- fected", she added.

IANS



## 'Mumbai needs rock music to stay alive'

**Mumbai:** Multi-hyphenate Farhan Akhtar, who made his acting debut with the musical film 'Rock On!', recently performed at the Independence Rock fest held in Mumbai. He feels that rock music is what keeps the maximum city of Mumbai alive.

He seems to be right as the cosmopolitan is a melting pot of dif- ferent cultures and rock music keeps it pulsating.

Farhan is a die-hard rock'n'roll fan and was thrilled to perform along with Indian rock band 'Parikrama' at the fest which returned to the city after a hiatus of nine years.

Talking about his experience at the fest, he said "play- ing a song with 'Parikrama' was exciting" but more than that he was there as a fan of rock'n'roll". He also spoke about the need to keep the fest like I-Rock a normal fabric of a city, he averred, "The fact that the quin- tessential rockfest got such a response is so reas- suring. The city needs rock music to stay alive. I'm glad that it's happening again".

As the voice that represents youth, he said, "Just keep the fire burning. Rock al- ways represents freedom. It represents independence. It represents hav- ing your own voice".

IANS



## Samantha to promote Yashoda despite poor health

**Chennai:** Actress Samantha, who is presently undergoing treatment for an auto-immune condition called Myositis, has chosen to take a day off from her treatment to promote her upcoming pan-Indian film, 'Yashoda'.

Taking to Instagram, Samantha wrote, "Like my good friend Raj Nidimoru says, no matter what the day is like and how shitty things are, his motto is to shower, shave, and show up! I borrowed it for a day for 'Yashoda' movie promotions". Samantha's effort is admirable considering the fact that Myositis is a condition that is caused by one's own immune system attacking one's muscles. The condition can cause inflammation of various muscles in the body. Interestingly, Samantha has done some demanding action sequences in the film, without disclosing that she was battling the condition. The film that has been made on a lavish scale, has acclaimed Hollywood action director Yannick Ben choreo- graphing its action sequences.

Samantha plays a sur- rogate mother, un- raveling the secrets of the medical world in the film.

IANS

## Fans' love on foreign soil a surreal experience: Mrunal

**Chennai:** Actress

Mrunal Thakur, whose portrayal of Sita in 'Sita Ramam' has only re- ceived accolades from all corners, says she was floored by the love show- ered by fans on both Dulquer Salman, the heartthrob of South and her in the US.

Recently, the duo, along with the makers of 'Sita Ramam', was in- vited to Washington DC in the US to be a part of the Telugu Cultural Sangam. Giving details of the trip and the experience, Mrunal says, "It was a surreal experience. Seeing the kind of love and affection every- one had to share with us was overwhelming. After almost three years, this was the first time I went internationally to be among audiences from another country. Dulquer and I felt gratitude and humbled seeing immense love from the fans that saw us to- gether on screen. Meeting them was very satisfying and being among thousands who were cheering for my character, 'Sita Mahalaxmi' felt so surreal.

I got emotional, seeing people remem- ber you with the characters you play on screen. This reminds you that you are on the right track".

IANS



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

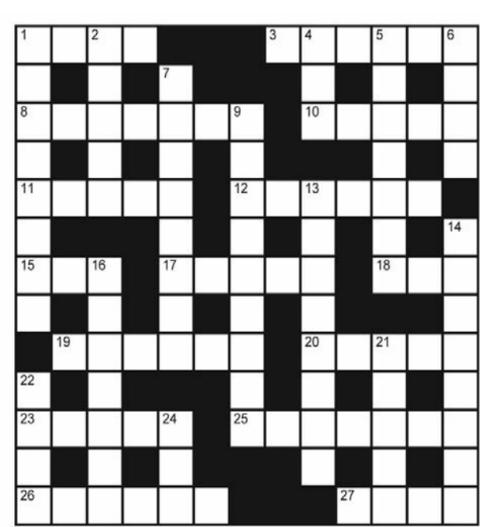


## BREVITY



## FUN post

## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Smooch
  - 3 Bordeaux wine
  - 8 Disease
  - 10 Apple drink
  - 11 Valuable violin
  - 12 Andean animals
  - 15 Egg cells
  - 17 Charges
  - 18 Clairvoyance, e.g.
  - 19 Roman statesman and orator
  - 20 Bucolic
  - 23 Factory
  - 25 Mexican peninsula
  - 26 Sacred beetle of ancient Egypt
  - 27 \_\_\_ of Wight
  - 6 Apprentice
  - 7 Middling
  - 9 Fanciful narrative (4,5)
  - 13 Type of painting
  - 14 Wealth
  - 16 "Arabian Nights" hero (3,4)
  - 21 Hotel posting
  - 22 Luxurious resorts
  - 24 Darjeeling or oolong
- Down**
- 1 Volcanic island in Indonesia
  - 2 Hot sauce
  - 4 Resinous deposit
  - 5 Bureaucratic annoyance (3,4)

## SUDOKU

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD

A	I	N	S	Q	R
G	U	N	H	O	T
T	A	R	O	A	I
R	N	M	O	A	I
T	A	R	O	A	I
P	H	O	E	N	I
A	C	M	V	O	U
S	M	A	S	H	S
M	P	I	G	P	
R	O	U	L	E	T
C	I	C	N	T	L
S	K	E	T	C	H
S	S	Y	A	N	N

### SUDOKU

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

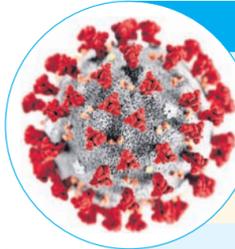
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## IN SYNC

Students perform during the foundation day celebration of Bharat Scouts and Guides at its office in Unit-III area of Bhubaneswar, Monday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,78,31,341	61,75,68,219	66,05,914
India	4,46,61,516	4,41,16,492	5,30,509
Odisha	13,36,267	13,26,862	9,204



DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy (BPSPA) Director Arun Sarangi and BPSPA Inspector General Shyni S pose for a photo with 13 Deputy Superintendents of Police probationers during their convocation ceremony at the academy in Bhubaneswar, Monday

# Parties roll up sleeves for Padampur bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** After completion of the Dhamnagar bypoll, the ruling BJD and opposition BJP as well as Congress have geared up for the byelection to Padampur Assembly constituency in Bargarh scheduled for December 5.

After facing a defeat in Dhamnagar, the BJD is planning to put a foolproof strategy to retain the Padampur seat. The ruling party is likely to utilise its full force to win the seat. As it has won Bijepur bypoll twice in the same district, the BJD is optimistic that it will win the Padampur seat as well.

“Our party President will select suitable candidate for the bypoll as per our process. Whoever will be the candidate, we will extend our full support,” said senior BJD leader Prasanna Acharya.

Demised tribal leader and sitting MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh



Bariha's widow Tilottama Singh Bariha is hoping for a party ticket to contest the byelection.

Speaking to reporters, Tilottama said, “I am hopeful of getting a ticket. I hope the CM will shower his blessings and give me a ticket for the bypoll and enable me to fulfill the dreams of my husband.”

On the other hand, after winning the Dhamnagar bypoll, opposition BJP is now eyeing to snap the Padampur MLA seat from BJD.

The saffron party, which had lost the Padampur seat with 5,734 votes to the BJD, has decided to follow the strategy of Dhamnagar

to defeat the BJD in the bypoll.

State BJP president Samir Mohanty said the BJP has emerged as a strong alternative to the ruling BJD. The party will adopt the same strategy in the byelection to Padampur Assembly constituency, Mohanty said. The BJP is likely to renominate senior party leader Pradeep Purohit for the seat. Purohit had won the seat in 2014 and lost to BJD's Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha with 5,734 votes in 2019.

Purohit said BJP's central leadership will decide who will contest from BJP in the bypoll. Whoever will be the candidate, BJP will certainly win the seat, he claimed.

Similarly, the Congress has also started the process for candidate selection. Local Congress leaders have selected a few candidates' names for the bypoll. They will submit it to the OPCC for its consideration, said Congress lawmaker Santosh Singh Saluja.

## NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY

# Naveen pledges for affordable cancer care



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** Odisha has taken robust measures for early detection and treatment of cancer in a bid to save precious lives from the disease, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the

occasion of National Cancer Awareness Day, Monday.

He pledged to further improve access to affordable cancer care through comprehensive Odisha Cancer Care Programme.

The state government had in October this year declared cancer as a 'reportable disease', making mandatory reporting of all cases by all hospitals, clinical and radiological labs and any other health-care institutions providing related diagnostic treatments.

“Estimation of cancer burden and its distribution with respect to time place person is important to mobilise resources for prevention and control and reducing mortalities attributed to it,” said an official notification put out by the Health and Family Welfare department.

# State inks pact for 3 driving training institutes

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Nov 7:** The State Transport Authority (STA) Monday inked a pact with Ashok Leyland for development, management and operation of three new Institutes of Driving Training and Research (IDTR).

The new institutes will be operated at Berhampur, Keonjhar and Bonai in Sundargarh district. A heavy motor vehicle (HMV) driving training institute has been functioning in Jajpur's Chhatia since 2013.

The Chhatia HMV institute was jointly established by the state government and Ashok Leyland to train high quality drivers to meet the demand of the transport industry and to make local youths employable by adopting skill development in HMV driving. The institute has trained 60,581 drivers so far, an official said.

Now, the state government has decided to set up another three such institutes at Berhampur,



Keonjhar and Bonai, particularly in the mining belt of the state where the requirement of skilled drivers are more, he said.

Transport Commissioner Arun Bothra said, “In our country, Odisha is providing excellent facilities to create skilled HMV drivers. No state has such numbers of IDTRs.”

The upcoming facility will help enhance the HMV driving skills of the drivers particularly in min-

ing areas of Odisha, he said.

These IDTRs will not only meet the requirement of drivers in different sectors, but also help in reducing the fatalities, injury and loss of property due to road accidents.

Besides, a trained and skilled driver will ensure timely and safe delivery of the goods, he added.

Through these institutes, which also house hostels, HMV drivers will get practical train-

# Tight security for Balyatra

AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Nov 7:** More than 50 platoons of police personnel will be deployed during the nine-day-long historic 'Balyatra' starting here Tuesday, Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra said Monday.

As the annual festival is being held after a two-year of Covid hiatus, thousands of people are expected to throng the Balyatra from November 8. “We have made elaborate arrangements. Initially, more than 50 platoons of policemen will be deployed,” said the DCP. Mishra added that in addition to the over 50 platoons of police force and officers of the district, more than 100 officers have been mobilised from outside.

“Police arrangements have been made taking into consideration different aspects, the first being crowd control, and security at the Balyatra ground. Second is incoming traffic,” Mishra said.

# Lunar eclipse: World to witness thrilling 'Blood Moon' spectacle

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 7:** On the evening of November 8, as the Earth's shadow envelopes its sole satellite for nearly one-and-a-half hours, the world will witness a thrilling and chilling spectacle of a 'Blood Moon' lunar eclipse, a prominent astronomer said here Monday.

Coming exactly 14 days (two Tuesdays) after the October 25 partial solar eclipse - the lunar eclipse will be seen in totality in the northeastern states, but shall be only partially visible in the rest of India in the evening as the sun sets, said Bharat Adur, Director, Akash Ganga Centre for Astronomy (AGCA) here.

“Tomorrow, the Earth's looming shadow will cover the Moon and during this period it will appear a dark reddish colour, almost like a large drop of blood balanced in the sky... This phenomenon is called a 'Blood Moon' and it's an exciting spectacle,” said Adur.

He urged the people to view it wherever possible, as this will be the last total lunar eclipse, and the next one (total lunar eclipse) due only after three years September 7, 2025.

The Earth will come between the Sun and Moon and the blue planet's monstrous shadow - from a staggering distance of 3.93 lakh kms - will shroud its small natural satellite, partially or fully, depending on the angle of alignment from where it is viewed, Adur explained.

The Sun is around 109 times bigger than Earth and over 148-million kms away, while the Earth is nearly four times larger than the Moon, with an average distance of 3.85 lakh kms separating them.

“In a total lunar eclipse, the Moon is entirely blanketed by the Earth's darkest shadow, called the 'umbra', and at this time, the Moon appears a dark-reddish colour, or what is called the 'Blood Moon' phenomenon,” Adur said.

In scientific terms, it's called the 'Rayleigh Scattering' as during a lunar eclipse the only sunlight that reaches



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Adur urged the people to view the eclipse wherever possible as it will be the last total lunar eclipse and the next one (total lunar eclipse) is due only after three years-- September 7, 2025

the Moon passes through the Earth's atmosphere, thus turning the Moon an apparent reddish colour.

This is the second celestial event since the last partial Solar Eclipse (October 25), and can be witnessed by people in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, parts of Asia, Russia, North and South America, Australia, North Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean regions.

Despite the scary myths or deep religious aspects associated with any eclipse (solar/lunar), Adur assured that there is absolutely no harm in viewing the unusual 'Blood Moon' Tuesday with naked eyes or with binoculars which will enhance the reddish colour.

The northeastern parts of India like Kohima, Agartala, Guwahati and other regions in the world will witness it in totality Tuesday, the

final eclipse of 2022.

As the Moon will be below the horizon during the eclipse hours, most other parts of India will miss the exciting starting phases of both the partial and total eclipse, he said.

Kolkata, New Delhi, Chennai along with Mumbai, can witness only the partial phase, and in the country's commercial capital barely 14 per cent of the Moon's obscuration can be viewed at 18.03 hours in the setting sun.

However, the Moon will be seen 60 per cent covered in Nagpur; 66 per cent in Srinagar and in varying degrees in other cities, said Adur.

In case people miss the 'Blood Moon' Tuesday, they can wait for October 28, 2023, when there will be another partial lunar eclipse that will be visible in some parts of the country, Adur smiled.

# City to witness total eclipse for 6 minutes

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** People in the City here can witness the total lunar eclipse for six minutes — 5:05 pm to 5:11 pm — and partial lunar eclipse from 5:11 pm to 6:19 pm Tuesday, said Pathani Samanta Planetarium deputy director Subhendu Pattnaik, Monday.

Pattnaik said that the planetarium has arrangements in place for the science lovers of City to view the total lunar eclipse from telescope.

Meanwhile, the eclipse will be visible all over India at the time of the moonrise. However, the beginning of the partial and total phases of the eclipse will not be visible from any places of India as the phenomena will be in progress before the moonrise in the subcontinent, the Meteorological Centre Bhubaneswar said.

But the ending of both the total and the partial phases will be visible to only the eastern parts of the country, while only the ending of the partial phase will be visible to the rest parts of the country.

The eclipse will begin at 14 hr 39 min IST. The total eclipse will start at 15 hr 46 min IST and end at 17hr 12min IST while the ending time of partial phase is at 18hr 19m IST.

The next lunar eclipse which will be visible from India is October 28, 2023 and the same day a partial eclipse will also be visible. Last lunar eclipse which was visible from India was November 19, 2021 and it was a partial eclipse.

Lunar Eclipse occurs on a full moon day when the earth comes in between the Sun and the Moon and when all the three objects are aligned. A total lunar eclipse will occur when the whole moon comes under the umbral shadow of the Earth and the partial lunar eclipse occurs when only when a part of the moon comes under shadow of the Earth.

## PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

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- COMPUTERISED SERVICES HAVING EDI AND PORT CONNECTIVITY SYSTEM.
- SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM.
- EQUIPPED WITH VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (VTMS).
- 116.13 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO HANDLED DURING THE YEAR 2021-22.
- PARADIP PORT RETAINS ITS 2<sup>ND</sup> POSITION IN CARGO THROUGHPUT AMONG ALL MAJOR PORTS.
- THE CARGO HANDLING CAPACITY OF THE PORT WILL SURPASS 300 MMT BY 2025.
- PRESENTLY PPA HANDLES CAPE SIZE VESSELS UPTO 16 MTR DRAFT INSIDE HARBOUR AND 3,50,000 DWT VESSEL AT SINGLE POINT MOORINGS (SPM).
- AVAILABILITY OF DRY DOCK FACILITIES.
- THE PORT IS HANDLING REGULAR EXIM CONTAINERISED CARGO MOVEMENT TO ITS CLEAN CARGO TERMINAL (PICT)

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# 3-day event to focus on maritime tradition

The objective of the conference is to create a vision document for maritime traditions 2047 and revive public memory about the state's glorious maritime glory



PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Nov 7: A three-day national event 'Samudra Manthan' will be held here with a focus on India's maritime traditions, its glorious past, present situation and future possibilities as well as challenges.

Coinciding with the historic Balyatra in the Millennium City beginning November 8, the national event will be organised to commemorate the great maritime culture of Kalinga.

The conference, organised by the Indian Knowledge Systems division of the ministry of Education in association with the ministry of Culture and SOA Deemed to be

University, Bhubaneswar, will create awareness about the sophisticated knowledge that existed in India in the area of maritime traditions, sources said.

It will also involve discussions about the present status of national maritime presence and its future possibilities.

The conference, which will be accompanied by cultural activities relating to the theme, is being held under the aegis of 'Dhara: An Ode to Indian Knowledge System' and as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' alongside the Balyatra festival organised by the Odisha government.

The objective of the conference, which will be attended by renowned experts in the field including academicians, scholars and researchers, is to create a vision document for maritime traditions 2047 and revive public memory about the state's glorious maritime glory.

History has recorded Odisha's maritime exploits of the past which made it a knowledge powerhouse because of its highly developed maritime traditions where seafarers traded extensively with the countries to the east, west and south of the Indian subcontinent.

The famous Balyatra, an annual event held on the edge of the Mahanadi river in Cuttack, is intended to celebrate the journey of ancient mariners from the Odisha coast to Bali island in distant Indonesia. It has immense cultural significance even today.

The conference will include round table and panel discussions on maritime history, locations, ship building, navigation, trade and cultural exchange, education and skill development in maritime studies, maritime security and international law and reconnecting with maritime traditions through museums.

The inauguration of the conference will be held at the auditorium of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan in Bhubaneswar November 8 which will feature launching of a Stitched Boat Project by the ministry of Culture along with the ministry of Defence, particularly the Indian Navy.



FOR JOB SECURITY: Sanitation workers of BMC staging a protest demanding regularisation of work at Sishu Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## Ragging victim writes to CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: A girl studying in plus-III second year at the Nimapara Autonomous College Monday wrote a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik seeking justice in the matter of ragging by senior students of the college.

At a press meet, organised at Utkal Students Association premises Monday, she said that she has also filed a complaint with the police but the college authorities asked her to withdraw her FIR, failing which she will not be allowed to sit in the exam. However, she demanded that she be allowed to give the exam November 12.

Earlier the girl had approached the School and Mass Education minister Samir Ranjan Dash after allegedly being subjected to ragging by her seniors for the last three months.

In the letter to CM, the victim identified as Rojalini Biswal, said she was meted out mental ha-



arrassment by her seniors at the girls' hostel. She accused her seniors of circulating her mobile number among their male friends who used to call her and use derogatory remarks.

The girl also claimed that when she wanted to leave the hostel, she was not allowed to take her books and other belongings. Though she brought the matter to the notice of hostel warden, her complaint was not received and acted upon. She reportedly even informed the college authorities about the ragging, but to no avail. She said that she had also filed a complaint with

the Nimapara police. However, her efforts did not yield any results as police kept mum on the issue.

Finding no alternatives, she approached minister Dash with the help of the Utkal Student Association seeking his intervention in the matter. While Das assured the victim of justice, he also reportedly asked the girl student to withdraw her complaint against the boys. President, Utkal Students Association, Soumya Ranjan Biswal said, "Ragging is still happening despite all the colleges saying that it is completely prohibited in higher education institutions."

## Soumya's poetry collection book 'Bioscope' launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: Young author Soumya Swarup Nayak's debut Hindi poetry collection titled 'Bioscope' was released Monday at Cuttack's Panthanivas. The book is a collection of 30 poems written by Nayak and published by Ace Book Publishing House of Odisha, Pakhighara Prakashanee.



Those who were present in the book launching ceremony included Kendriya Sahitya Academy Winner and Current member of General Council of Kendriya Sahitya Academy, Amaresh Pattnaik, vice president of Odisha Sahitya Academy, Sangram Jena and publisher of Pakhighara Prakashanee, Banoj Tripathy among others.

## Continued from P1

### SC clears ew...

CJI Lalit concurred with the view of Justice Bhat.

The apex court had September 27 reserved the verdict on the legal question of whether the EWS quota violated the basic structure of the Constitution after hearing a battery of senior lawyers, including the then Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, in a marathon hearing that had lasted for six-and-a-half days.

Academician Mohan Gopal had opened the arguments in the case before the bench, September 13 and opposed the EWS quota amendment by terming it as deceitful and a backdoor attempt to destroy the concept of reservation.

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, had also opposed the EWS quota, saying the economic criteria cannot be the basis for classification and the top court will have to revisit the Indra Sawhney (Mandal) judgement if it decides to uphold this reservation.

The then attorney general and the solicitor general had vehemently defended the amendment, saying the reservation provided under it was different and had been given without disturbing the 50 per cent quota meant for the socially and economically backward classes (SEBC).

Hence, the amended provision does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution, they had said.

The top court heard as many as 40 petitions and most of the pleas, including the lead one filed by 'Janhit Abhiyan' in 2019, challenged the validity of the Constitution Amendment (103rd) Act 2019.

The Centre had filed some petitions seeking the transfer of pending cases, challenging the EWS quota law, from various high courts to the apex court for an authoritative pronouncement.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Paramananda Panda, S/o- Late Madha Panda declare that my wife's correct name is Ranjulata Panda and correct DOB is 08.04.1970 vide affidavit No.524, Dt.20.10.2022 before the Executive Magistrate, Aul, Odisha may be used in all purpose henceforth.

## Sunkar new general manager of ECoR

Bhubaneswar: Roop Narayan Sunkar, an officer of Indian Railway Service of Engineering (IRSE) of 1985 batch joined East Coast Railway (ECoR) as General Manager, Monday. Prior to the new posting, Sunkar was working as chief administrative officer (construction) of South East Central Railway (SECR) at Bilaspur. He also worked as chief project director, bridge work in West Central Railway, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM)/Ratlam, chief bridge engineer in North Central Railway & West Central Railway, chief engineer (construction) at Bilaspur.



After completing his engineering graduation from Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Sunkar joined Indian Railways in 1985. He has vast experience in construction of projects and commissioning.



DISPLAY OF ART: Jhoti and Mehendi competition at Kamala Nehru Women's College by Nehru Institute of Youth Affairs as part of National Integration Festival in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## TPSODL partners with SBI for payment of electricity bills

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 7: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has partnered with India's largest bank, State Bank of India to facilitate Electricity bill payment for customers. All customers of TPSODL will now be able to conveniently pay their electricity bills at 1,652 existing collection points spread across 8 districts. Customers will get payment receipts for bills paid at these collection points.

TPSODL has already partnered with various payment gateways such as PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Google Pay, Bharat Money, Jio Money, Paytm, Freecharge, Airtel



Money, MobiKwik, PayU, Tata Neu and several other platforms like OCAC, EBIX Cash, Public Sector Banks, BHIM to ensure customers' convenience and digital adoption. The customers paying through digital modes will also receive 3 per cent digital rebate on their bill. They can also make direct payments through the company's website. "We have partnered with the

national's largest bank as another step towards customer convenience. We are expanding the payment network to ensure quick services. We will continue our efforts in providing multiple channels as well as ensuring reliable and customer-friendly service" said Arvind Singh, Chief Executive Officer, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited.

## DOES THE RIGHT FOOD HELP REDUCE STRESS?

Ancient science knew something that mainstream science is rediscovering, many illnesses can be treated by optimising our food habits. Diet is the most overlooked part of the stress-fighting regime but is equally equipped to manage stress as the other factors. Yes, even a chronic lifestyle condition can be prevented from soaring, provided you know what kinds of food to consume.

What is stress? Stress is our reaction to feeling threatened by any stimuli when we find ourselves in an unpleasant or dangerous situation. The effect of chronic stress on our bodies is harmful. In the long-term, over-exposure to stress can disrupt almost all body processes and put one at an increased risk of several health and lifestyle issues such as chronic headaches and migraine, anxiety and depression, digestive & sleep problems, heart diseases,

high blood pressure, weight gain, etc. Given that chronic stress is a part and parcel of our lives, we cannot stop it but we can manage it by eating healthily. Certain nutrients in food can keep stress at bay. Among the multiple ways of stress management, eating certain nutrients in food is the best. According to studies, just by being stressed, your bodily requirements for certain nutrients such as vitamins B & C, selenium, magnesium, etc. increase. Just by eating foods that are rich in these nutrients, you may be able to manage your stress levels. In fact, there are studies showing that quality nutrients taken long-term can have a positive impact on your body.

Research has also proved a relevant, decisive link between gut micro-organisms, which live in our intestine, what we eat and how



ultimately feel. No wonder gut health is integral to mood, emotions, and psychological health management. So, managing stress with food is a great tactic for overall health. A well-balanced, nutritious diet is the single most important element for good health

Diet is the most overlooked part of the stress-fighting regime but is equally equipped to manage stress

Given that chronic stress is a part and parcel of our lives, we cannot stop it but we can manage it by eating healthily

Managing stress with food is a great tactic for overall health. A well-balanced, nutritious diet is the single most important element for good health

nicious diet is the single most important element for good health. Next time you feel stressed, observe your palate and adjust it accordingly. Here are some great food

options that are known to reduce stress levels:

Dark chocolate: Is said to work in two ways - by having a chemical and emotional impact. Dark chocolate is rich in antioxidants and helps lower stress hormone levels in the body when enjoyed in moderation, as traditionally bereft of any unnecessary surplus sugar.

Warm milk: Known to induce a good sleep-in night and aids stress management when sipped right before retiring to bed. Warm milk has a relaxing effect. Rich in calcium and vitamin D, it helps to maintain the bone and is also known as a muscle relaxant and mood stabiliser.

Nuts & seeds: Teeming with magnesium, healthy fats, and nutrients; nuts and seeds act as a stress-busting snack when consumed in moderation. Almonds, flaxseed, pistachios, sunflower seeds, and walnuts are great options to choose from. Foods high in fibre: Fibre-rich

foods are hailed as gut-friendly and may lower stress, anxiety, and depression. To add more fibre to your diet, eat adequate amounts of fresh fruits, leafy vegetables, nuts & seeds, and many more. You may also opt for whole-grain-based foods such as whole-grain breakfast cereals.

Whole unprocessed grains: Known to provide a mood-stabilising effect by spiking serotonin (a boosting-mood hormone that decreases stress) levels. Thus, resulting in better concentration and focus. Choose healthy, unrefined carbohydrates such as unprocessed grains for better nutrition and adequate fibre intake that takes longer to digest and thus releases blood sugar gradually over a period.

Eating healthy is the best way to relieve stress and its negative impact on our bodies. Try eating healthy and watch your food palate as per your physical and emotional requirements.

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

# Two jumbo carcasses found in Keonjhar reserve forest

DOUBTS SURFACE OVER TRACKING OF ELEPHANTS BY FORESTERS



expressed doubts regarding the authenticity of reports over elephant movements.

Locals alleged that Forest officials file reports without properly tracking the movement of elephants. Such negligence on part of the officials has been observed earlier too, but no disciplinary action has been taken in this regard. The recovery of the carcasses of two more elephants is an example of such negligence, they alleged. They also alleged that tracking of elephants has taken a backseat as the persons designated for the job are being used for other chores including office work. Some of them are also used by their superiors as domestic help.

Reports said that the decomposed carcass of an elephant was recovered from the same Kalapata reserve jungle, June 26. Few months back, two elephants were electrocuted at a place under Sadar forest range. Six elephants died in the Keonjhar forest division in 2021-22 and so far in 2022-23 an identical number of deaths have been reported. Environmentalists have pointed out that elephants must be protected at any cost. Notably, there are around 125 elephants in seven forest ranges under Keonjhar division.

being informed, DFO HD Dhanraj, Telkoi Forest Ranger Shivaji Mohan Rao and other officials visited the spot and started an investigation. Notably, crores of rupees are being spent to track the movement of elephants through GPS for the protection of the animals. The government has also appointed hundreds of officials for proper discharge of work. Everyday, members of the elephant squad, foresters and forest guards report about the presence of elephants in their area through a mobile app. So it is a matter of concern that the carcasses went unnoticed for close to two weeks. Animal lovers have



**HOPING FOR THE BEST:** With Lunar eclipse playing spoilsport over celebration of Kartik Purnima scheduled for Tuesday, roadside vendors selling paper boats wait for customers in front of a temple in Bhadrak, Monday

# Police inaction irks Kendrapara residents

NO MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST COACHING CENTRE WHERE BOY WAS ELECTROCUTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Nov 7:** Six days have gone by since the death of a Plus-II science student who was electrocuted at a private residential coaching centre in this district. However, till now the authorities have not taken any action against the officials of the coaching centre leaving people shocked.

The deceased, identified as Debi Prasad Das, son of Kunja Bihari Das was electrocuted November 2 after accidentally coming in contact with an 11-KV transmission wire which was hanging precariously close to the balcony of the coaching centre at Luna under Marshaghai police limits in Kendrapara district. It has been alleged that the students studying in this coaching centre were living in cramped rooms while the 11-KV transmission wire was located just two feet away from the balcony.

Police registered a case and arrested the manager of the coach-



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

ing centre, Chittaranjan Rath over a complaint filed by the deceased's father. However, since then nothing has happened. The local intelligentsia has termed the arrest as eye-wash. They claimed that the police have applied lenient sections of the law against Rath so that it is easy for him to get bail.

Locals also claimed that private educational institutions are only fleeing students in the name of education. They alleged that the district administration is not taking action by conducting verification of the institutions. They warned that they will file a writ petition in the high court if no action is taken in this regard.

Local intelligentsia Ganesh

Chandra Samal, Chitta Ranjan Sahu, Prasant Kumar Nayak, social activists Amarbar Biswal and Goutam Kumar Behera said that earlier teaching was considered a noble profession. Currently, both the Centre and state government are laying stress on quality education. Taking advantage of this situation, the private institutions have commercialised education. These institutions pay scant respect for the safety of the students, they alleged.

Locals also said that the state government has ample provisions and power to conduct verifications of these institutions and take action against them. However, due to the apathetic attitude of the authorities, private coaching centres have mushroomed not only in this district but all over Odisha, they added. Many of these institutions are also operating without no-objection certificates and without observing the relevant guidelines, they further said.

When contacted, ADM Pitambar

Samal said the boy's death has also shocked the entire administration. He assured that corrective measures will be put in place very soon.

# MINING FIRM MANAGER MURDERED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Tensa/Lahunipada, Nov 7:** A railway siding manager of a private mining company was beaten to death in a guest house of the firm at Barsuan under Lahunipada police limits in Sundargarh district, late Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Motiram Pal, 59.

On being informed, Lahunipada and Tensa outpost police reached the spot and launched an investigation. A forensic team and sniffer dogs were also pressed into service. However, the actual reason behind the murder is still not clear. Sources said that Pal was working as the Barsuan railway siding manager of the mining firm and was staying alone at the company guest house. He returned to the guest house after finishing his work but some unknown miscreant beat him to death with an iron rod late Sunday night.

The matter came to the fore after the cook arrived Monday morning to serve tea and breakfast to Pal. He informed others in the guest house about Pal's death. When contacted, Lahunipada IIC Jyotiranjali Pati said that a probe is on and very soon the case will be cracked.

# MGNREGS funds bungled



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Nov 7:** Lakhs of rupees sanctioned for a number of projects under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Kilasama panchayat under Dhankauda block of Sambalpur have been misappropriated, sources pointed out Monday. They also informed that none of the projects have been implemented.

Members of Panchayat Suraksha Samiti, a local outfit, took up the issue with the executive officer of the zilla parishad (ZP). They alleged that a total of ₹ 99,779 sanctioned for restoration of a road connecting Pradhanpalli to an RD road was embezzled through a forged bill. This also included labourers' wages

to the tune of ₹30,000. The members alleged that in another case, ₹91,908 sanctioned for restoration of Talipada road in Pradhanpalli was misappropriated.

Similarly construction of a road from Jharghatipada to Nagaradipa was not carried out. However, it has been shown that ₹1.17 lakh has been spent for the project.

Funds were also misappropriated regarding the digging of a trench which had already been carried out by the Forest department. However, a contractor's bill of ₹2.07 lakh was passed without verifying whether the job had been carried out by the concerned person. In yet another case, ₹60,580 out of the sanctioned ₹1.06 lakh fund for Balbaspur-Bijalpada road has been swindled, it was alleged.

# Boy drowns in sea, 3 others rescued

**GANJAM:** A 15-year old boy drowned Monday while three others had a close shave with death while bathing in the sea near the Bateswar Shiva shrine under Rambha police limits in Ganjam district. The deceased was identified Jagannath Swain, 15, son of Rabintra Swain of Huma locality in the district. He was a Class-X student in Birabhadra High School. Tragedy struck when Jagannath and some of his friends went for a bath in the sea. While Jagannath drowned, locals managed to rescue three others who were about to be swept away. Jagannath was rushed to the Chhatrapur sub-divisional hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. In a magnanimous move, Jagannath's father informed the hospital authorities about his decision to donate the eyes of the deceased.

# PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Karunanidhi Giri Prop. M/s Karunanidhi Giri at Plot No. 182, Khata No. 148, P.O. Tarapur, Dihakakhara, Odisha-756036 Also at Dihakakhara, P.O. Tatapur, Dist. Balasore, Odisha. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the Complaint Case No. 24002/2016 U/s 138 N.I. Act, PS Patel Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Karunanidhi Giri can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Karunanidhi Giri has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Karunanidhi Giri of Complaint Case No. 24002/2016 U/s 138 N.I. Act, PS Patel Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 12.12.2022

By Order  
**Sh. Karanbir Singh**  
Metropolitan Magistrate (N.I. Act),  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2438/CD/2022 (Court Matter)

# EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF PARKING STANDS

Station & Locations: (1) Kendujhargarh-4 Wheeler (on PF-1 side), (2) Dulakhapatna PH-2 Wheeler (At PF-2 side), (3) Kapias Road-2 Wheeler (At station building side), (4) Tapang-2 Wheeler (Near Qtrs. at PF-1 side), (5) Birpurushottampur-2 Wheeler (Station building side), (6) Rahama-2 Wheeler (At PF No.1 side), (7) Baudpur-2 Wheeler (Near circulating area), (8) Suria Road-2 Wheeler (At station building side), (9) Jakhapura-2 Wheeler (Station building side), (10) New Garhmadhupur-2 Wheeler (Near station building), (11) Radha Kishorepur-2 Wheeler (Near circulating area), (12) Sakhigopal-2 Wheeler (At station building side), (13) Haripurgram PH-2 Wheeler (Station building side), (14) Gopinathjew Bankunda PH-2 Wheeler (Near PF-2), (15) Jenapur-2 Wheeler (At station building side-near pump house), (16) Argu PH-2 Wheeler (Near battery room at PF-1 side), (17) Kapali Road PH-2 Wheeler (DN line side), (18) Raghunathpur-2 Wheeler (At station building side), (19) Bagadia PH-2 Wheeler (At PF-1 side), (20) Nimkana PH-2 Wheeler (At PF-2 side), (21) Chika-2 Wheeler (Adjacent to circulating area), (22) Mancheswar-2 Wheeler (Near station building), (23) Nergundi-2 Wheeler (Station building side, near NH), (24) Dhankanal-2 Wheeler (Near RPF Office on PF-1 side), (25) Kalijai PH-2 Wheeler (On DN line side), (26) Khurda Town-2 Wheeler (At PF No. 1 side), (27) Rajahar-2 Wheeler (Near entrance gate), (28) Kanar Road-2 Wheeler (At station building side), (29) Narapur-2 Wheeler (Near station building), (30) Hindol Road-2 Wheeler (In circulating area), (31) Baghuapali-2 Wheeler (Near station building), (32) Korai-2 Wheeler (At PF-1 side), (33) Budhapank-2 Wheeler (Adjacent to circulating area), (34) Goadind-2 Wheeler (Near station building), (35) Mahadia PH-2 Wheeler (Near LC Gate Goomty, Booking Counter side), (36) Mukteswar PH-2 Wheeler (At PF-1 side), (37) Jagannathpur-2 Wheeler (Adjacent to circulating area), (38) Kathajori PH-2 Wheeler (At PF-1 side), (39) Rambha-2 Wheeler (In circulating area of PF-1 side), (40) Harichandanpur-2 Wheeler (At station building side)

Auction Start Date & Time: 16.11.2022 at 1000 hrs. (for sl. no. 1 to 40)

Auction End Date & Time: 16.11.2022 at 1030 hrs. (for sl. no. 1), at 1040 hrs. (for sl. no. 2), at 1050 hrs. (for sl. no. 3), at 1100 hrs. (for sl. no. 4), at 1110 hrs. (for sl. no. 5), at 1120 hrs. (for sl. no. 6), at 1130 hrs. (for sl. no. 7), at 1140 hrs. (for sl. no. 8), at 1150 hrs. (for sl. no. 9), at 1200 hrs. (for sl. no. 10), at 1210 hrs. (for sl. no. 11), at 1220 hrs. (for sl. no. 12), at 1230 hrs. (for sl. no. 13), at 1240 hrs. (for sl. no. 14), at 1250 hrs. (for sl. no. 15), at 1300 hrs. (for sl. no. 16), at 1310 hrs. (for sl. no. 17), at 1320 hrs. (for sl. no. 18), at 1330 hrs. (for sl. no. 19), at 1340 hrs. (for sl. no. 20), at 1350 hrs. (for sl. no. 21), at 1400 hrs. (for sl. no. 22), at 1410 hrs. (for sl. no. 23), at 1420 hrs. (for sl. no. 24), at 1430 hrs. (for sl. no. 25), at 1440 hrs. (for sl. no. 26), at 1450 hrs. (for sl. no. 27), at 1500 hrs. (for sl. no. 28), at 1510 hrs. (for sl. no. 29), at 1520 hrs. (for sl. no. 30), at 1530 hrs. (for sl. no. 31), at 1540 hrs. (for sl. no. 32), at 1550 hrs. (for sl. no. 33), at 1600 hrs. (for sl. no. 34), at 1610 hrs. (for sl. no. 35), at 1620 hrs. (for sl. no. 36), at 1630 hrs. (for sl. no. 37), at 1640 hrs. (for sl. no. 38), at 1650 hrs. (for sl. no. 39), at 1700 hrs. (for sl. no. 40)

Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the <https://www.irops.gov.in> and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PR-672N/22-23 Khurda Road

# Lack of proper facilities plague Rayagada custard apple farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Nov 7:** Custard apple, known for its sweet and pleasant flavour, is grown in plenty in remote regions of this district. However, the tribals growing the fruit are forced to resort to distress sale due to lack of cold storage facilities, price fixation and the absence of a proper market. Due to the apathetic attitude of the district administration, the tribals fail to reap any profit from by selling the fruit. In the absence of alternatives, they sell their produce to the traders of the neighbouring states at throwaway prices.

Custard apple grown in Rayagada district is in high demand both in Odisha and outside the state. The apple is grown mainly in Mirabali, Karubai, Dungalodi, Baisingh, Bairagihahua and Pitalguda areas of Sadar block and in Bhoimada, Mukundpur, Rupuni, Kalilashpur, Badakhilapadar localities of Kolanara block. Thousands of custard apple trees do not need any fertilizers to bloom. Trees start bearing fruits from the fourth year onwards and continue to do so for at least 15 years. Each plant bears 50 to 60 fruits annually. The reason why tribals are forced to sell the fruits at throwaway prices is because they perish quickly. A farmer said the situation will only improve if the administration fixes rates for the fruit and along with it provide proper cold storage facilities. He added that a fruit-specific market will also help



of livelihood for the tribal people living in the two blocks mentioned above. They sell the fruit at ₹3 to ₹5 per piece in the local market. Wholesalers also pay the same price to get the fruit from the tribals. However, they sell it at a much higher rate. In the markets of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, the fruit sells at ₹65 per kilogram.

Custard apple trees do not need any fertilizers to bloom. Trees start bearing fruits from the fourth year onwards and continue to do so for at least 15 years. Each plant bears 50 to 60 fruits annually. The reason why tribals are forced to sell the fruits at throwaway prices is because they perish quickly. A farmer said the situation will only improve if the administration fixes rates for the fruit and along with it provide proper cold storage facilities. He added that a fruit-specific market will also help

Currently the tribals sell custard apples in the markets of this town, Gunupur and JKPur. However, rarely do the farmers manage to reap proper rewards for their efforts.

The state-owned Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) is working so that tribal people get proper rates for their produce. However, there is no such facility for custard apples still.

When contacted senior ORMAS official Manoj Patra said that the agency stopped intervening in the sale of custard apple as it suffered heavy losses in the past two years. He also pointed out that this year not a single custard apple farmer had approached the agency for support. Locals however, demanded that the district administration should step in to prevent distress sale of the fruit so that farmers can benefit.

# NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Tel. No. 06752 222092, e-mail Id: eerwpuri@gmail.com  
TCN No. Tender Online - 09 of 2022-23

No. O-1211: The Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate tenders through e-Procurement for 24 Nos. of work for the year 2022-23 in the District of Puri.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
S.E., Rural Works Division, Puri	Online - 09	15.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	24.11.2022 upto 12.30 P.M.	22.11.2022 upto 1.00 P.M.	25.11.2022 at 11.30 A.M., Office of the S.E., R.W. Division, Puri

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".

OIPR-25065/11/0020/2223 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Puri

# Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE

[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Sahid Nagar Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Sahid Nagar Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

SAHID NAGAR BRANCH/ Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower : Mr. Girija Prasad Hota, Communication Address: Plot No.: 62, Patrapada, Udaygiri Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751019, Permanent Address: Punjijama Sasan, Khurda, Odisha - 752031 / Guarantor/ Mortgagor: Mr. Satyabadi Hota, At: Punjijama Sasan, Banpur, Khurda - 752031	₹ 17,48,428.03 + interest & expenses thereon	03.08.2022 / 02.11.2022	All that part and parcel of Land and Building consisting of Plot No.: 37/1246, Area: Ac.0.225 Dec under Khata No.: 400 of Mouza: Ranipada, Thana No.: 81, Tahasil/SRO: Banapur, Dist.: Khurda, standing in the name of Mr. Satyabadi Hota ( Guarantor in the account of Mr. Girija Prasad Hota), Bounded by North: Vendors (Balka Nahak & Others), South: Road, East: Property Mochia Nahak & Others, West: Property of Ladu Sahoo & Others

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 08.11.2022 Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS MANUFACTURING

# DON'T GO THE CHINA WAY



'Manufacturing' of the kind that China has gone for has not made that country a world class innovator but marked it out for its limited low-cost production

**H**orrific stories are emerging from the factories complex in Zhengzhou in central China owned and operated by Foxconn, which is the world's largest assembler of Apple iPhones and is now in the midst of a new COVID outbreak. Several news reports, including from leading global media houses and from papers in Taiwan, the headquarters of Foxconn, have given accounts of workers fleeing the assembly plants. Strict restrictions and quarantines have been set up, but workers have complained of limited food supplies for those kept in isolation and poor medical attention.

For the 200,000 workers who live in crowded rooms inside the complex of factories where they work, this has brought new hardships in a company that has already been called out for its harsh, even exploitative, work culture. Now, fleeing workers are being lured but have largely ignored new bonus offers for those who agree to continue to work and help meet the demand for the iPhone 14 as the holiday season nears.

One video said to be shot at the factory speaks of a "desperate cry" as all workers put in isolation in one specific room have reportedly died. Foxconn said there are no deaths at the facility. A Reuters report from Taipei last month-end said the Zhengzhou plant "has been rocked by discontent over stringent measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, with several workers fleeing the site over the weekend." One worker quoted by the Financial Times, UK, reported "total disaster in the dormitories."

The stories emerging from the Foxconn facilities are significant for India as it is here that Foxconn and some others are coming to build new facilities as part of an incentive-laden drive by the government to boost manufacturing

under "Atmanirbhar Bharat", with various production-linked schemes for domestic manufacturing.

It is true that India needs to act fast to invest and open up job opportunities for the youth, and the BJP is desperate to meet criticism that its policies have not helped generate employment. Big investments and hopes of a large number of jobs at one go may help deflect this criticism at a crucial time as elections near. But it also opens questions on whether the Chinese way of mega factories filled with low-end, low-paying jobs should be the chosen route for India at this time. A lot of the work at the factories is about assembly, sometimes as low-tech as fitting a screw on an iPhone speaker or trimming edges after the Apple logos are cut from aluminium covers.

Further, the Chinese system is noted for its poor record of protecting workers' rights, unions

are as good as non-existent and local authorities are known to stretch to accommodate business demands in a bid to attract more investments. This is what makes China a particularly attractive destination for low-end manufacturing jobs.

This is a model of employment generation that India must carefully study and debate before plunging headlong into incentives for large companies and business alliances. The models being encouraged and supported will likely bring in an entirely alien system and method of work in a nation that is noted for a huge contribution to the economy from small and medium enterprises. It is true that SMEs are not always the best of employers or quality producers but the distributed model of growth stands in contrast to growth driven by big industries, super-sized factories and a top-down approach that is tantalising in its promise of de-

livering quick jobs but has often delivered longer term misery.

In this context, criticism by former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on the incentives for big industry is very relevant. Rajan has correctly noted that there hasn't been a real analysis of the PLI (production-linked incentives) schemes that the government has been pushing on the understanding that this is a route to create jobs. Yet, "manufacturing" of the kind that China has gone for has not made that country a world class innovator but marked it out for its limited low-cost production. The bulk of the profits are taken away by the chip designers and the brands they create while the low-end part of the value chain is left with China. Manufacturing costs in China, too, are rising now and it would be an unfortunate turn for India to become that hub which is a lower-end version of China.

A study on the iPhone 7 (factory-cost estimate of \$237.45 in 2016) noted that "all that's earned in China is about \$8.46, or 3.6% of the total," including a battery supplied locally and labour. The study, by Prof. J Dedrick of Syracuse University and two others, noted: "The other \$228.99 goes elsewhere. The US and Japan each take a roughly \$68 cut, Taiwan gets about \$48, and a little under \$17 goes to South Korea. And we estimate that about \$283 of gross profit from the retail price - about \$649 for a 32GB model when the phone debuted - goes straight to Apple's coffers."

In short, said the study, "China gets a lot of (low-paid) jobs, while the profits flow to other countries." This may not be a place India might like to end up in manufacturing.

*The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.*

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## MANUFACTURING COSTS IN CHINA, TOO, ARE RISING NOW AND IT WOULD BE AN UNFORTUNATE TURN FOR INDIA TO BECOME THAT HUB



Jagdish Rattanani

What men call knowledge, is the reasoned acceptance of false appearances. Wisdom looks behind the veil and sees.

SRI AUROBINDO



## 6 Years Later

The experiment called Demonetisation took place six years ago this day, 8 November 2016. Cash was abruptly turned to trash. The trademark suddenness of the announcement at 8 pm by PM Narendra Modi definitely had the country in shock. Citizens were unable to comprehend the impact this decision will have on their lives in the years to come. Everyone was gung ho on a buoyant Indian economy that seemed to be healthy and surging ahead without too much governmental interference till then. Enterprises were looking up and professionalism in corporate life and style was slowly creeping into Indian businesses. People at that time vividly remembered and discussed with pride how the Asian Tigers meltdown as also the 2008 Subprime lending crash in the US went totally unnoticed in the Indian market. The economy of this country had inbuilt resilience strong enough to withhold major international economic failures by virtue of a system that had cash as its core strength. When that cash was abruptly turned into trash, the follies of that decision are being suffered by the people of this country even now. It is also impossible to predict how long the negative impact of Demonetisation will prevail in India.

A recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report published in October 2022 states that a new high of ₹30.88 lakh crore of paper currency is presently being held by Indians today. The report also states that this is the largest amount of cash ever to be with citizens. It is noteworthy that the same RBI, on 4 November 2016, four days prior to Demon, had reported that a total of ₹17.77 lakh crore paper currency was being held by citizens. The present cash holding is 72 percent higher than 2016. The RBI should know because, as the Central bank, it is the sole authority empowered to print cash. The same RBI had, after Demonetisation, stated that 100 percent cash of the Demonetised valuations had returned to its coffers.

The announcement of Demonetisation had spelt out a few anticipated results of the dramatic step. The first and most important being that the action will completely destroy black money being hoarded by the rich. The second was that counterfeit currency being printed in Pakistan and used for encouraging terror activities will be completely nullified. Many other brave claims followed suit. Then followed the dark days after 8 November 2016 when anyone who raised doubts on the decision was labelled either an anti-national or a hoarder of black money. The poor and the blue and white collared working class were pleased that the rich will suffer while others will get a better deal. Economy was used not only politically to gain an edge over rival parties in the early 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election but society too was sharply divided on immature presumptions on who could be in possession of cash and who did not have it. The initial and instant sufferings, obviously, took toll of the self employed and the micro, small and medium industries. In other words the entrepreneurial class was wiped out with one single decision.

It has taken time for the mammoth Indian economy to feel the blow of Demonetisation. While earlier international economic turmoil could not touch India, the decision of Demonetisation and the after effects that had been dealt with confusion and without proper policies are just starting to be felt now. Six years later. No one can predict for how long the ill effects of that announcement of 8th November of 2016 will continue to hamper the growth of India.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas. **MARIE CURIE**
- Without understanding yourself, what is the use of trying to understand the world? **RAMANA MAHARSHI**
- Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get. **DALE CARNEGIE**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Colophonian

Colophon, a weird-enough word in its own right, is the name for the inscription at the end of a book that gives facts about its publication or design — hence the old saying "from title page to colophon", from beginning to end. These days the data is more frequently on the title page and its reverse and the word is often used instead for a publisher's emblem or imprint on the spine or title page. The adjective colophonian, which might seem to be connected, has an entry in the Oxford English Dictionary, but only to say that its appearance in some dictionaries of the late nineteenth century to refer to a publisher's colophon was actually an error based on a misreading of a book of 1678. The word was actually Colophonian (with a capital C), which refers to an inhabitant of Colophon, a town in Lydia that is part of modern Turkey. However, colophonian might still come in useful — there isn't a word in the language that means "relating to a colophon" (even though there is, admittedly extremely rare, colophonize, to supply a book with a colophon), and colophonian is as good a candidate as any. Colophon and its relatives come ultimately from a Greek word meaning a finishing touch or summit. None is to be confused with colophony, a pine resin which is named after ancient Colophon.

#### Colporteur

This word has nothing to do with a famous American songwriter nor with a carrier of coals, though it was once an occupation of sorts. Jonathan McColl told me about it. He had come across it on a death certificate dated 1885 as the occupation of a man of Dingwall in Scotland. A colporteur was a pedlar who went from place to place selling printed materials such as books and newspapers. More specifically, he was employed by a religious society to distribute bibles and other religious tracts. Such men were the literal foot-soldiers of Christian missionary work. Even earlier were those encouraged by Martin Luther to distribute the religious writings of Protestant reformers. In origin the word is French, from the verb colporter and is still current in both languages. It used to be thought that it came from col, neck, plus porter, to carry, implying somebody who conveyed his texts in a satchel across his chest. It's now thought it's an alteration of comporter, from the Latin comportare, to carry something with one. It began to appear in English at the end of the eighteenth century and became widely used throughout the English-speaking world during the nineteenth, being taken by such organisations as the British and Foreign Bible Society wherever it operated. It fell out of favour at the end of the century and is now rather rare.

### LOL

#### Soldier's girlfriend

A soldier serving in Hong Kong was annoyed and upset when his girlfriend wrote breaking off their engagement and asking for her photograph back. He went out and collected from his friends all the unwanted photographs of women that he could find, bundled



them all together and sent them back with a note saying: "I regret to inform you that I cannot remember which one is you -- please keep your photo and return the others."

### SPECTRUM MEDIA

# Defending democracy's defenders



Alexander Schallenberg & Teresa Ribeiro

## WHEN JOURNALISTS ARE THREATENED, SO ARE OUR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETIES

When independent journalists report on the full-scale Russian military invasion of Ukraine, they show the reality of war. They show its barbarism, its cruelty, and the humanitarian tragedies that inevitably accompany it. They provide viewers with accurate reporting on the developments on the ground and contribute to the collection of war-crimes evidence for future accountability mechanisms.

For this, journalists and media workers often pay a heavy — or even the ultimate — price. September 19, 54-year-old Ukrainian journalist Zhanna Kyseliova was kidnapped from her home in the city of Kakhovka. May 30, 32-year-old French journalist Frédéric Leclerc-Imhoff was killed while riding with a humanitarian transport full of fleeing civilians. Two weeks earlier, Oleksii Vorontsov, an engineer of public broadcaster UA: Kherson was abducted. In mid-March, Fox News cameraman Pierre Zakrzewski and his Ukrainian colleague and journalist Oleksandra Kuvshynova were killed when their vehicle came under fire. Around the same time, Ukrainian photojournalist Maks Levin went missing and was later found killed near Kyiv.

At least eight journalists and other media workers have been

killed while carrying out their duties since Russia launched its war of aggression in Ukraine in February. Many more have been wounded, abducted, and mistreated.

War is an extreme situation. But journalism is not safe even in peaceful settings. Many journalists conduct their work in constant fear of threats and attacks. And make no mistake: the acute threat to media workers is not some faraway problem. Globally, including in the region of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the safety of media workers is under constant and growing pressure. Journalists face a barrage of online and offline threats, surveillance, intimidation, physical attacks, and imprisonment. Worryingly, female journalists are increasingly being targeted both as journalists and as victims of sexual and gender-based violence, especially online.

When journalists are threatened, so are our communities and societies. When those who deliver the facts to inform citizens come under attack, the foundation of society is at stake. Free, independent, and pluralistic media are as necessary to democracy as elections, parliaments, and independent judges.

The pandemic showed the need

for reliable information. Any major government policy needs at least a modicum of public support in a democracy. At the same time, the pandemic sparked deep mistrust of journalists, with demonstrators, online trolls, and opportunistic political actors stoking violence against the hated "mainstream media" or what they perceive as purveyors of "fake news."

We must reverse this trend. Our democracies' fate depends on journalists' ability to express themselves freely and work safely. Ensuring this is not an easy task, and governments and international organisations cannot do it alone. Large societal change requires a concerted effort at all levels of society. While this effort is no doubt hard to realise, we must start somewhere by bringing more attention to the issue and bolstering support for the initiatives that support this crucial work.

Ten years ago, the United Nations endorsed the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, the first concerted effort globally to create a free and safe environment for media workers. It is time to convene again to discuss new and emerging challenges and to provide new impetus for the plan's implementation.

Twenty-five years ago, the OSCE

established the Mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM). The OSCE's participating States saw the need for an independent watchdog to scrutinise and assist them in working toward the goal of true media freedom. Since then, the RFoM has resolutely defended the important contribution of media freedom to security. Countless interventions have been made where journalists were attacked for their work, media pluralism was restricted, investigative reporting was hindered, or free speech was criminalised. Many laws have been improved, and numerous safeguards have been erected.

Such efforts will be needed more than ever in the coming years. We will need to review our laws on the protection of journalists and bring attackers to justice. We also need more systematic reporting related to attacks against journalists in order to keep our media safe. Only by protecting journalists can we protect freedom of the press — and our democracies.

*Alexander Schallenberg is Austrian Foreign Minister. Teresa Ribeiro is Representative on Freedom of the Media at the OSCE.*

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#### Need of the hour

**Sir,** The current UN Climate Change Summit assumes great significance in the wake of recurring natural disasters like flooding, droughts and much more the world over. The East or the West, countries, world leaders and the media have been talking about climate change its ramifications. It is clearly evident from recent flooding in countries like Pakistan and the US (Florida) that climate change has been playing havoc with countries. Summits apart, how about action to be taken? Frankly speaking, the world needs strong action against climate change. Every single step in this direction matters. For instance, there should be a positive shift in human attitude to Mother Nature. After all, climate change is something created by human activities. Added to this, humans have been strongly reliant on natural resources and they have been eating food made from agricultural produce. Just imagine, what would happen to the world and humanity if farming activities were completely killed by climate change? The UN Climate Change Summit parleys should be more of strong action than anything else — through supporting farming in all forms and encouraging green activities like planting trees across every corner of the world so as to arrest the impacts of climate change in the best way possible.

P Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI

#### Brazil turns Left

**Sir,** Brazil has seen a transition in power: Former president, the popular Leftist Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva has won again, and will take office in January. The powerful incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, a self-proclaimed Rightist, has been humbled by Lula by nearly two per cent vote margin. Bolsonaro faced strong anti-incumbency that was his own making because there were high hopes when he took over in 2019 riding on a court ruling against Lula on corruption charges following which he had to withdraw from the presidential race. However, despite hiking the retirement age of workers, some peculiar policies of Bolsonaro let him down. Turning a blind eye to the destruction of the Amazon rainforests, and strange handling of the COVID pandemic ensured his ratings plummeted big time. Bolsonaro tried his best to undo the negative public perception during the latter half of his presidential innings, but the biggest blow to his ambition for a repeat term was the release of Lula from prison last September. Lula has the onerous task of upping the economic slowdown and reinforce the average Brazilian's faith in its health system.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

# national

## of the day quote

Empowering women is empowering the family. It has been our commitment to empower them. The BJP's manifesto has also focussed on segments like farmers and youths

The Maharashtra government will work on planning a film city between Mumbai and Thane cities to provide a wider platform to artists

Incidents of stubble burning have risen by 160 per cent in Rajasthan and 20 per cent in Punjab from October 2021 to October this year

## SHORT TAKES

### Al Qaeda operative arrested in J&K

Jammu: An operative of the Al Qaeda terror group was arrested from Ramban district of Jammu division, the J&K police said on Monday. A police spokesman said that the operative was identified as Amiruddin Khan, son of Mostafa Khan, a resident of West Bengal. Amiruddin Khan was arrested with a Chinese grenade in Ramban. "An FIR under relevant sections of law has been registered against him," the police said, adding that further investigation was going on.

### Man killed

Bhopal: In a case of honour killing, a 23-year-old man was murdered by the family members of his wife allegedly for marrying her without their consent in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district, police said. The incident took place on Sunday when the victim, who was living in Gujarat, had come to his village in Madhya Pradesh to celebrate Diwali. According to the Shivpuri district police, the victim, who has been identified as Dheeru Jathav was killed by the family members of his wife Chhaya Jatav, both of whom hail from the same village and community.

### Body found

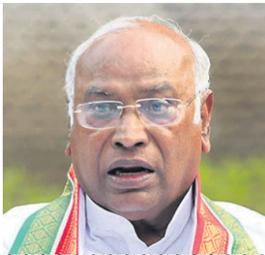
Muzaffarnagar: The body of a 14-year-old girl, who was allegedly strangled to death by her neighbour whose marriage proposal she had rejected, has been found in a sugar cane field in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar, police said. The accused was identified as Sonu Banjara. The victim had gone missing from her home on November 5 and her body was found in the field in Hajipur village the following day.

### 2 dead, 10 hurt

Agra: Two persons were killed and 10 injured when a double-decker bus collided with a trailer carrying iron rods at around 4 a.m. near Khandoli toll plaza of the Yamuna expressway, passing through Uttar Pradesh's Agra district. According to police, the bus driver missed seeing the trailer parked on the side of the expressway and rammed into it from the rear end, probably due to poor visibility.

### Seven held in UP

Meerut/Baghpat: The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) has arrested seven people, including five petrol pump owners, in Meerut and Baghpat for allegedly duping consumers by selling adulterated fuel at five filling stations. The arrests were made in a joint operation by officials of STF, district administration, measurement department and supply department.



**Demonetisation was promised to free the country of black money. But it destroyed businesses and ruined jobs. 6 years after the 'masterstroke' the cash available in public is 72% higher than that in 2016**

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST VIR DAS

The right-wing organisation -- Hindu Janjagruiti Samiti -- has filed a complaint with the Karnataka police against comedian Vir Das and demanded cancellation of his comedy show to be organised in Bangalore on November 10



# Upset Governor stops two channels



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 7: An agitated Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan Monday bluntly told journalists representing two Malayalam television channels to leave the venue of a press conference here and asserted that he would not talk to them.

While the ruling CPI(M) and the main opposition Congress termed his behaviour "fascist," the Kerala Union of Working Journalists demanded that he rectify his "mistake" and expressed regret for his "undemocratic" action.

Khan, who is at loggerheads with the Marxist party-led government over several issues told the journalists working for Kairali News and MediaOne to "get out." He blamed Kairali for its party affiliation and the other channel for campaigning against him. Kairali News is a CPI(M) managed channel and MediaOne is backed by a Muslim organisation.

The Governor persuasively said: "Please go away. If you want me to go away, I will go away. I don't want to argue and I am again requesting." Khan was here in connection with the Urban Mobility India conference and he met the press at a government guest house. Before addressing the media, he demanded to know if journalists who represent the two media groups were present

and when he got an affirmative answer, he became agitated.

"I am not able to persuade myself any longer to speak to people who masquerade as media but are actually members of the party cadre. I won't talk to anyone from Kairali. I will walk away if Kairali is here." A visibly irate Khan claimed that MediaOne was only settling scores with him over the decades old Shah Bano case. "You (MediaOne) are carrying out a campaign against me," he said.

When reporters pointed out that they were invited by the Raj Bhavan PRO, the Governor said, "there might have been a mistake". He said he has been repeatedly emphasising that he shall not speak to these two television channel representatives as they were carrying out "campaigns against him" based on "total falsehood."

Khan said he would see if there is any lapse by the Raj Bhavan staff in connection with allowing representatives of the two channels. "But I have categorically made it clear that I shall not talk to Kairali or MediaOne. Have made it clear again and again. They are basically political persons masquerading as media," Khan alleged.

Addressing the press conference, Khan claimed that a system of "oligarchy" prevailed in CPI(M)-ruled Kerala and it was evident from the appointment of party cadres to government posts.

The Governor persuasively said: "Please go away. If you want me to go away, I will go away. I don't want to argue and I am again requesting"

# Congress leader's remark triggers row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belagavi (Karnataka), Nov 7: Stirring up controversy, Karnataka Congress Working President Satish Jarkiholi has claimed that the word 'Hindu' is Persian and has a very dirty meaning.

He also said that "a word and a religion from elsewhere is being forcefully imposed on people here", and demanded that there should be a proper debate in this regard. Reacting to its own party leader's statements, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) has termed it as deeply unfortunate and rejected it "unequivocally".

Jarkiholi said, "They speak about Hindu Dharm...This that, where did the Hindu word come from? Is it ours? It is Persian. Persian is from Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan. What is Bharat's relationship with it? Then, how did Hindu become yours? There should be a debate on this." He said, "Look at 'Wikipedia', where this word (Hindu) comes



Karnataka Congress Working President Satish Jarkiholi

from? It is not yours. Then why are you placing it at such a high position? If you understand its meaning, you will be ashamed. The meaning of the word Hindu, is very dirty. I'm not saying this, Swamiji has said this, it's on websites." "A religion and a word

from somewhere else is being forcefully imposed on us, there should be a debate on this," he further added. The MLA from Yamakanmardi was speaking at Nippani in the district during an event organised by "Manav Bandhutva Vedike" on Sunday.

The statement attributed to Satish Jarkiholi is deeply unfortunate and deserves to be rejected. We condemn it unequivocally. Hinduism is a way of life and a civilisational reality. Congress built our nation to respect every religion, belief and faith. This is the essence of India

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | AICC GENERAL SECRETARY IN-CHARGE OF KARNATAKA

Responding to this, AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala said "the statement attributed to Satish Jarkiholi is deeply unfortunate and deserves to be rejected. We condemn it unequivocally." "Hinduism is a way of life and a civilisational reality. Congress built our nation to respect every religion, belief and faith. This is the essence of India," he said in a tweet.



Devotees cover Yamuna with sarees during Chunari Manorath on the occasion of Kartik Purnima in Mathura. PTI PHOTO

## Tribal man lynched over water in Raj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jodhpur, Nov 7: A 46-year-old tribal man was beaten to death over drawing of water from a tubewell in Rajasthan's Jodhpur, police said Monday.

The accused also hurled casteist slurs at Kishanlal Bheel (46), from Bhomiyaji ki Ghati in Soorsagar, and did not allow his family members to take him to a hospital, his brother Ashok alleged. It was only after police reached the spot that the seriously injured man was hospitalised where he succumbed to injuries, he added.

Police have so far arrested three people -- Shakeel, Nasir, and Bablu -- and booked them under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code, police said.

The search for others involved in the incident is on, SHO, Soorsagar Police Station, Gautam Dotasara said. Demanding immediate arrest of all accused as well as financial compensation and a government job for the next of kin, Bheel's family and community members staged a protest and refused perform his last rites.

# Block Congress Twitter account: Court 16 sailors detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 7: A dedicated commercial court for Bengaluru Urban District has directed micro-blogging site Twitter to block the handles of the Indian National Congress (INC) and its Bharat Jodo Yatra till the next date of hearing.

Also, the court ordered removing three tweets posted from the party. The twitter handles are @INCIndia and @BharatJodo.

The court order came after a suit filed by MRT Music which is the copyright holder of the sound tracks from the film KGF Chapter 2.

It is alleged that its copyright has been infringed upon and sought a permanent injunction against the INC and its leaders from using its copyrighted music.

"Plaintiff has specifically produced CD showing the side by side file i.e., original version of his copyrighted work with that of the illegally synchronised version. These prima facie materials available before this court at this stage establish that if same is encouraged, plaintiff who is in the business of acquiring cinematography films, songs, music albums... Will be put to irreparable injury and further same leads to encouraging the



piracy at large," the court said in its order. The court also appointed a commissioner to audit and preserve the evidence on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 7: Sixteen Indian sailors are reportedly in detention in Equatorial Guinea and the Indian mission in the central African country is working closely with the authorities concerned for their release.

In a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Rajya Sabha MP AA Rahim said the crew of ship 'MT Heroic Idun' included the Indians and they were in detention since mid-August.

On Twitter, the parliamentary requested Jaishankar to "ur-

gently intervene" in the matter of "illegal detention" of the 16 Indian crew members.

The Indian embassy in that country said on Monday that it has been in regular contact with the crew members over phone.

"This Embassy and our High Commission in Abuja are closely working with authorities of Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria for the early release of crew members of MV Heroic Idun. All crew members are safe and those in the Detention Centre have been shifted to the ship," the Indian embassy in Equatorial Guinea tweeted.

# STAGE SET FOR TOUGH CONTEST

The Gujarat Assembly elections hold strategic value for all three political entities in the fray as it will set the tone and tenor for the critically important general elections in 2024.

The BJP must retain the Prime Minister's home turf at all cost for a confident Narendra Modi to lead his party into the next parliamentary polls for a third term. The Congress needs to better its 2017 record here to helm the combined opposition challenge against its traditional opponent nationwide. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) force has to match its profiling pitch with on-ground performance in Gujarat for its leader Arvind Kejriwal to mark himself as a credible challenger to Modi in the political ring.

With the Prime Minister launching his party's poll campaign from Kaparda village in Valsad district of South Gujarat on Sunday with a slogan for the people "I have made this Gujarat", the stage is set for a tough contest between the ruling BJP, old

opponent Congress and a muscle-flexing AAP fresh out of the gym. Gujarat has largely been a straight fight between the two traditional ri-



vals, BJP and Congress to the detriment of even powerful state leaders who chose to launch their own regional outfits and came a cropper.

As always, Modi is the face of the BJP in Gujarat and the party is fighting the ensuing elections on his name, fame and son-of-the-soil appeal. Modi, on his part, has left nothing to chance with key international leaders like British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and UN

secretary general, Antonio Guterres being the latest of global figures visiting Gujarat. He has announced/inaugurated/laid the foundation stone of projects-schemes worth approximately 2 lakh crores within the year.

The Congress has planned better this election and it has adopted a changed strategy. The entire campaign of the party is being overseen by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and state-in-charge Raghu Sharma. Seven working presidents have been named, and in-charges from Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have been put in place to oversee each one of the 26 parliamentary constituencies. Gehlot was the Gujarat in-charge in the 2017 state Assembly elections as well. Sharma says the Congress is targeting 125 of the total 182 seats and does not propose to announce a chief ministerial candidate. Except for two visits by Rahul Gandhi, the first family of the Congress has so far kept away from Gujarat.

In contrast, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia have been visiting the state very frequently, locking horns with Modi on issues big and small while dishing out a long list of guarantees, if AAP comes to power. These include overhaul of government schools and free education, vastly improved and free treatment in government hospitals, free and uninterrupted power up to 300 units per household, government jobs, unemployment allowance for youth and the like.

In the final reckoning, there are two factors which remain a matter of concern for BJP's political opponents in every election. The first one pertains to polarizing acts like the state cabinet's decision just before elections to appoint a study panel on the Uniform Civil Code. The second one pertains to perception altering incidents that either concern the PM's security or trumped up instances aimed at heightening the communal divide.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**CHHELIGADA HEADWORKS DIVISION**  
 AT/PO: MAHENDRAGADA,  
 VIA: CHANDRAGIRI, DIST: GAJAPATI. PIN - 761017  
 e-mail: eechwd@gmail.com

**e-Procurement Notice No. SE-CHWD-04/2022-23**

No.A-694: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD., time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>

1	Type of the work	: Road, Building & Electrical Works
2	No. of works	: 04
3	Class of contractor	: 'B' to 'D' Class with H.T. Electrical Contractor
4	Bid Identification No.	: e-CHWD-20/2022-23 to e-CHWD-23/2022-23
5	Estimated cost	: Rs. 9.05 lakhs to Rs. 24.00 lakhs
6	Period of completion	: 3 (Three) to 6 (Six) Calendar Months
7	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: 09.11.2022 to 22.11.2022 upto 5.00 P.M.
8	Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal.	: 22.11.2022 upto 5.00 PM
9	Date of opening of bid	: 23.11.2022 at 11.30 AM in the e-procurement cell, Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, RBVN Basin, Berhampur, Dist: Ganjam
10	Name of the Office Inviting bid	: Superintending Engineer, Chheligada Head Works Division Mahendragada, Dist-Gajapati

N.B:- 1) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can be seen in the said website. 2) Further details can be seen from Government website: <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer,**  
**Chheligada Head Works Division**  
**Mahendragada (Gajapati)**

OIPR-32109/11/0007/2223



## HC notice to Guj on Morbi tragedy

Court directs chief secretary and home secretary to file a status report by November 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, Nov 7:** The Gujarat High Court Monday took suo motu cognisance of the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy and issued notices to the state government and local authorities and also sought a status report in the matter by November 14.



development authority, commissioner of municipalities. Also, we would like to have the State Human Rights Commission," the HC said.

"The State Human Rights Commission shall also file a report in this regard by the next date of hearing. The registry is directed to communicate this order through special messenger to respondent number 5- State Human Rights Commission. Relist the matter on November 14," it said.

Morbi-based clock and e-bike maker Oreva Group was given the contract by the city municipality to repair and operate the ill-fated bridge for 15 years and charge tickets in the range of Rs 10 to Rs 15 for its use, according to the municipality documents.

The Oreva Group October 26 claimed that it had roped-in experts for the repair work and the material used was built as per specifications by "specialised firms."

Police had arrested nine persons, including four from the Oreva group, and filed a case against firms tasked with the maintenance and operation of the century-old bridge.

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REAPING GOLD: Piles of groundnut harvest lie on a ground at an Agricultural Produce Market Committee yard in Rajkot, Monday.

PTI PHOTO

## Assam govt bars its secretariat staff from wearing jeans, leggings

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, Nov 7:** The Assam government has issued a dress code for all its employees working in the state Secretariat premises in Dispur, officials said Monday.

According to an office order, the new dress code has put a bar on wearing jeans, t-shirts and leggings by employees working in the Secretariat. From now on, they will have to mandatorily wear formal attire during office hours.

Men should wear formal shirts and trousers while the female staff can wear sarees, salwar-kameez and mekhela-chador.

Every Wednesday, the employees have been directed to wear traditional dresses.

During the Assembly sessions, a uniform will also be provided to the employees. Even mediapersons covering Assembly proceedings will have to wear dresses as per government guidelines.

The order was passed on the directives of Assembly Speaker Biswajit Daimari and will be applicable to the staff working on

**During the Assembly sessions, a uniform will also be provided to the employees. Even mediapersons covering Assembly proceedings will have to wear attire as per the government guidelines**

daily wage and fixed pay as well.

The order said, "All employees should attend office on all working days in formal attire only (salwar suit/saree/mekhela chador, formal shirt-pant and not casual attires such as T-shirts, jeans, leggings etc.) A traditional dress of any community of Assam should be worn every Wednesday as desired by the employee."

The order strictly mentions that action will be initiated against any state Assembly employee who fails to abide by the instructions.

## How police inaction spurs mob violence in northeast

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, Nov 7:** Due to the lack of a tough law against mob violence and lynching, the police's sluggish actions, and delayed trials, such crimes are being reported not infrequently in the northeastern states.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had suggested to the Centre and the states to enact separate special laws to deal with mob violence and lynching. Sources said that the Central government is still drafting the proposed act, while the states are also yet to comply.

Experts on societal issues, psychiatrists, police officials and law experts said that besides the special stringent laws, and the alertness and swift actions of law enforcing agencies against mob violence and lynching, a mass campaign among the people are also required. In recent years, many innocent people, including All Assam Students Union leader Animesh Bhuyan, several accused and suspected wrong doers were lynched in different parts of northeastern region. In a major case in Meghalaya, four of the five under-trials, who had escaped from jail along with a convict, were lynched by a mob at Shangpung in West Jaintia Hills district in September.

According to police, a mob of local people, mostly youths, armed with wooden sticks, badly thrashed the four, killing them on the spot after the fugitives came out from their jungle hideout and tried to procure food. Meanwhile, 13 people, including the key accused, have been arrested in connection with the lynching of AASU leader Animesh Bhuyan in Assam's Jorhat in November last year.

However, prime accused Neeraj Das, also a drug peddler, mysteriously died in a road accident while he was trying to flee from police.



Das was accused of instigating and leading a mob of over 50 people who lynched the AASU leader and injured his associate Pranay Datta, and journalist Mridusmanta Baruah when they tried to assist an elderly accident victim.

Many people stood and gazed on the scene when the violence was going on and others captured the incident on their mobile phones.

In Tripura, three youths, suspected of stealing cattle, were lynched in Khowai district in June last year. Two of the victims were tied with ropes and thrashed by the mob, leading to their deaths, while the third was caught after a chase and beaten to death.

In most lynching cases and mob violence, none of the accused were punished yet. Even in the 2018 horrific Karbi Anglong lynching case, Abhijeet Nath and Nilotpal Das were also beaten to death by a mob of villagers who suspect they were as 'child kidnappers', justice was yet to be served. Assam's Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Public Relations Minister Pijush Hazarika, who is also the state government spokesman, earlier informed that the state was planning to introduce a bill against mob lynching and violence in the Assembly.

Writer and social activist Nandita Datta, who has been doing studies

on many social issues for the past many years, said that in most cases, people who are involved in lynching cases see an outburst of anger accumulated due to various crises, including economic, domestic and personal. "Most people, especially those are earning meagre, are facing numerous problems. They then expressed their anger without a reason. They beat a person to death without knowing the actual matter," Datta, who received many awards, told IANS. She said that in some cases, people rushed to many kilometres away to beat suspects, and such mob lynching sometimes turned very brutal and sometimes, took communal twists. In many cases, if the police came to the place of occurrence in time, many lives could have been saved. Datta said, adding intolerance is also one of the causes of mob violence and lynching.

Retired senior Assam Police officer Samaresh Baruah said that besides enacting stringent laws, police must be given proper training against mob violence and lynching. "Trial against the people involved in mob violence must be done in a fast track special court. After every such incident the issue must be studied in-depth so that the authorities can prepare a proper planning to stop such incidents," Baruah told IANS.

## Poll equations may change in BJP stronghold of Morbi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Morbi, Nov 7:** Though the Patidar-dominated Morbi Assembly seat in Gujarat is considered a stronghold of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the poll equations this time may change due to many factors, including the recent bridge tragedy which claimed 135 lives, political observers say.

The entry of the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) into the poll fray and the long-pending urban infrastructure issues could also be among the decisive factors in Morbi where the winning margins have been thin in the last three elections, the political experts told PTI.

The erstwhile Morbi princely state was called as the 'Paris of Saurashtra region' before Independence, thanks to its vi-

by a thin margin of 3,419 votes, riding on the anti-BJP wave in Morbi, one of the key centres of the Patidar quota agitation.

In 2012, Amrutiya defeated Merja by 2,760 votes. Both of them are Patidars.

Merja, considered as a suave and learned leader, left the Congress in 2020 and joined the ruling BJP. In the subsequent byelection, he managed to defeat Congress's old-timer Jayantilal Patel by 4,649 votes.

In the new cabinet constituted last year under the chief ministership of Bhupendra Patel, Merja was appointed Minister of State with independent charge of panchayat as well as skill, labour and employment departments.

When a suspension bridge on the Machchhu river in Morbi collapsed October 30 evening claiming 135



sionary Jadeja rulers.

Today, it is famous for the ceramic and clock industries, providing employment to more than five lakh people who come here from across the country for jobs.

However, the economic development in Morbi has been marred by bad roads and traffic jams, locals claim. Currently, the BJP is ruling the Morbi Municipality, District Panchayat and Taluka Panchayat. The Morbi Assembly seat falls under the Kutch Lok Sabha constituency, represented by Dalit BJP MP Vinod Chavda.

Bad roads and traffic problems have been some of the main issues here for many years, according to Morbi Ceramic Manufacturers Association's floor tiles division president Vinod Bhadja.

"Morbi is a ceramic hub with a combined annual turnover of Rs 65,000 crore. Though the BJP has done a lot of work, we are still facing issues of traffic jams, water-logging and bad roads in and around the city," the industrialist told PTI. "The people of Morbi are somewhat unhappy because our main issues have remained unresolved for more than two decades now," he claimed.

Morbi witnessed some interesting political developments in the last decade, including the Patidar quota agitation spearheaded by Hardik Patel and the defeat of BJP's five-term MLA Kantilal Amrutiya.

Amrutiya, better known as Kanabhai, had won from the Morbi Assembly seat in 1995, 1998, 2002, 2007 and 2012.

In 2017, Congress candidate Brijesh Merja defeated Amrutiya

lives, Amrutiya hogged limelight as videos showing him jumping into the water to rescue the victims went viral on social media platforms.

Though the BJP has not declared its candidates yet, political experts believe it will once again field Merja and not Amrutiya, despite his brave act and popularity among the masses.

"Most of the people in Morbi want to see Amrutiya as the BJP's candidate. But even if Merja is selected, the BJP's core electorate will eventually vote for him, because for them what ultimately matters is the party symbol," local political analyst Ravindra Trivedi said. The candidate selection will be crucial this time because the winning margin in Morbi remains thin, he said.

According to Trivedi, the Congress' chances of winning may increase if the party chooses young Patidar face Manoj Panara (Patel) instead of Jayantilal Patel, who lost to BJP candidates five times since 1995. "Panara is a young Patidar face having considerable popularity. He was once with Hardik Patel during the quota agitation. He has a huge support base here," Trivedi said.

"The Congress' chances would go up if Panara is given a ticket instead of Jayantilal. The AAP candidate may not get more than 5,000 votes. It can change the final equation in view of the history of thin winning margins here," the political analyst said.

The AAP has already declared Pankaj Ransariya as its candidate, who is a known face in some Patidar pockets of Morbi, including Ravapar Road.



## Ajmal's 'animosity' towards Cong makes BJP's life easier

CONGRESS LEADERS SAY AJMAL HAS A SECRET 'ALLIANCE' WITH THE SAFFRON PARTY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, Nov 7:** At a time when the key players in national politics are talking about Opposition unity to combat the BJP, the scenario in Assam is the opposite with two main BJP rivals - the Congress and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) - attacking each other almost daily.

Barely a year and a half ago, Congress and AIUDF forged a grand alliance and fought the last year's assembly election together. But, after the loss in the election, Congress broke away with the AIUDF. Since then, the relationship between the two parties has become bitter which has reached its lowest point in the past week.

Congress leaders have been doing the 'Assam Jodo' since November

1 and AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal has heavily criticized the party's ambitious campaign.

Ajmal alleged that a section of Congress leaders in the state are playing in the hands of Himanta Biswa Sarma. He said: "I know a few leaders from Congress who are on the payroll of Sarma and even they have done a few foreign tours taking money from the Chief Minister."

He further attacked Assam Congress President Bhupen Borah terming him as an 'incapable' leader to lead the party in the state and said he has no importance before the Central leadership.

"This is evident from the ongoing 'Assam Jodo' where no prominent national leaders of the party were present though Borah earlier claimed that Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi will attend the yatra," Ajmal added.

Obviously, Ajmal's statements have not gone down well with the Congress leaders and they have launched a sharp attack on him. Bhupen Borah said that Ajmal has a secret 'alliance' with the BJP



and as a part of that he has been deliberately saying harsh things against the Congress leaders.

He moreover said that Congress will never forge an alliance with Ajmal's party in the future.

Meanwhile, Badruddin Ajmal has clearly warned that Congress cannot win a single seat in the next Lok Sabha election without the support of AIUDF. He believes that in last year's Assembly election, his party delivered a win for Congress

on at least a dozen of seats. Ajmal claimed, "We could win more seats but we chose to support them (Congress)."

There are 14 Lok Sabha seats in Assam and leaving a few in the upper Assam and Bodoland area, the Muslim vote is a key factor. Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi's son Gaurav Gogoi has won from Kaliabor and Pradyut Bordoloi - another Congress MP, could win Nagaon Lok Sabha seat

last time as there were no AIUDF candidates at these two places.

This time, the AIUDF is planning to field candidates there and if it happens so, Congress may end up losing both seats. Another Congress MP Abdul Khaleque, who won from Barpeta in the 2019 general election, may find it very difficult if Ajmal resorts to the same tactics there.

On the other hand, AIUDF is currently having only one MP in Lok Sabha - Badruddin Ajmal and he will anyway retain his Dhubri seat irrespective of whether Congress fields a candidate there or not.

So, it is the Congress party that is predicted to lose big in the fight of 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

BJP has been already on a mission to colour Assam with saffron in the next Lok Sabha election with an aim to win 12 out of 14 seats. Though BJP's ministers and MLAs have jumped into the criticism of Ajmal on his recent remarks, Congress has alleged that this is a part of the strategy of Chief Minister Sarma and AIUDF.

# national

## of the day quote

**Gola Gokarnath** assembly by-election is in a lot of discussions. It is more so because of the SP's defeat by 34,298 votes than the BJP's victory. When the BSP mostly does not contest by-elections and was not in the fray here too, what new excuse will SP make for its defeat?

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

The participation of NCP chief **Sharad Pawar** in the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Maharashtra will depend on his health condition

ASHOK CHAVAN | CONGRESS LEADER

The Supreme Court judgment upholding 10 per cent reservation to people belonging to economically weaker sections in upper caste in admissions and government jobs is a setback to the century-long social justice struggle

M K STALIN | TN CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Woman kills daughter, arrested

**Kota:** A 38-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly strangling her minor daughter with a towel in her house here, police said Monday. She killed her 13-year-old daughter on Saturday, they said. She was produced before a court on Sunday, and was ordered to be sent to judicial custody, they said. The woman, Rekha Kanwar Hada, is a resident of Shiv Colony in Anta town of Baran district and is married to an auto driver.

### BJP leader killed

**Katihar:** A local BJP leader was shot dead near his house in Bihar's Katihar district on Monday, police said. Sanjeev Mishra, a former Zilla Parishad member, was talking to some people near his house in Telta police station area when two men came on a motorcycle and fired at him, they said. "He was immediately taken to the nearest hospital, where he was declared brought dead. The accused managed to flee the spot," a police officer said.

### 3 held in Assam

**Silchar/ Dibrugarh:** Three persons with suspected Maoist links were apprehended from different parts of Assam, police said Monday. One of those arrested from the Cachar district allegedly had links with Maoist leader Arun Kumar Bhattacharjee, known by his nom de guerre 'Kanchan Da', they said. The other two persons were nabbed from Dibrugarh by the Army, they added. Cachar's Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said that one Dharitri Sharma was arrested Saturday night.

## Chhawla rape-murder case: SC acquits 3 men on death row



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** The Supreme Court Monday acquitted three men sentenced to death for the gangrape and murder of a 19-year-old woman in Delhi's Chhawla area in 2012.

The three men are accused of abducting, gangraping and brutally killing the woman in February 2012. Her mutilated body was found three days after she was abducted. In 2014, a trial court awarded death penalty to the three accused, terming the case "rarest-of-rare".

## KARNATAKA LINGAYAT MUTT SEX SCANDAL

### ACCUSED SEER DRUGGED, ABUSED GIRLS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chitradurga (Karnataka), Nov 7:** Rape-accused Lingayat seer Shivamurthy Murthy Murugha Sharanaru allegedly drugged minor girls residing in the Chitradurga Murugha Mutt before violating them, police investigation has revealed.

Currently in judicial custody, the accused seer used to direct other accused to send a minor girl of his choice every day to his private room in the garb of seeking his special blessings. The abuse was so rampant that the seer had allegedly fixed a routine as to which girl to be sent to him on a particular day. The children were sent to clean his private room where the accused would give them a chocolate or an apple laced with drugs.

After they lost consciousness, the seer would abuse them. The accused seer kept the victims at his private room throughout the night. Children who would wake up derobed and the seer beside them would get shocked, police sources said.

Then the accused seer would threaten them and instill fear. He also threatened to eliminate their families if the girls revealed about the incident. The victims, already in trauma, would remain tight-lipped, police said.

The seer would ask them to clean his back and lower back while taking a bath and abuse them. The second accused in the case, hostel warden, would monitor the situation and ensure that no one gets suspicious about what is happening around them.

Sharanaru would look for sexual assault victims and offer shelter at his mutt. He also extended financial help to their families. As a result, the families would praise the seer and call him "God". As the word of mouth spread, parents never thought twice about their children's safety. They would tell the children that they are taken care of by the "God" himself. This made the victims even more hesitant to open up, police said.

Police have got information about several elderly women also getting raped by the accused seer. One of the minor girl victims who was seen as a threat was allegedly killed and called an accident.



Chief Justice of India Justice Uday Umesh Lalit with CJ-designate Justice DY Chandrachud during a farewell ceremony organised for him at Supreme Court in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

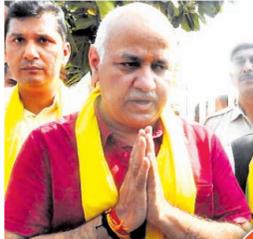
## Sisodia's aide Arora set to be approver

■ The CBI has sought permission from the court to make Dinesh Arora an approver in the case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** A close aide of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia will turn an approver in excise policy case, the CBI informed a special court Monday, a development which may be seen as a setback for the AAP leader ahead of Gujarat elections. Special Judge M K Nagpal posted the matter to November 14 for arguments on the petition moved by the CBI and Dinesh Arora, close aide of Sisodia, and decide whether to grant him pardon and allow him to turn an approver in the case.

While a statement of Arora has already been recorded under section 164 of Criminal Procedure Code (confessional statement before a magistrate), his disclosure statement is also likely to be recorded before the court on November 14.



During the hearing, Arora told the court that he was ready to make "true disclosure voluntarily" about the case. According to the CBI FIR, Arora has been accused by the CBI of receiving a bribe of ₹1 crore from a liquor manufacturer on behalf of Sisodia. On a query from the court, Arora made it that "there is no pressure or threats by the CBI or anyone else". His counsel also moved an application for in-camera proceedings, saying it is a sensitive matter and the media should be kept out at this early stage, a move which was also not opposed by the CBI.

The court had earlier granted anticipatory bail to Arora after the probe agency did not oppose the bail plea. The CBI, in its reply to the anticipatory bail plea, had stated that Arora joined the investigation and disclosed certain facts which were vital for the probe and hence, "the CBI has no objection if the anticipatory bail is granted to the applicant by this court".

The CBI, after registering a case in August this year against 15 people, had carried out searches at various places including that of Arora.

The accused was questioned eight times before he decided to turn an "approver" in the case.

Besides Sisodia, who holds excise portfolio, the CBI has named the then excise commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna, the then deputy excise commissioner Anand Kumar Tiwari, assistant excise commissioner Pankaj Bhatnagar, nine businessmen and two companies, as accused in the case.

**DELHI EXCISE POLICY SCAM**

## Delhi primary classes to reopen from Nov 9

However, plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi will remain banned under stage 3 of the Graded Response Action plan, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** The Delhi government Monday decided to reopen primary classes from November 9 and revoke the order asking 50 per cent of its staff to work from home in view of improvement in the city's air quality.

However, plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi will remain banned under stage 3 of the Graded Response Action plan, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai told a press conference. The minister said there has been a rapid improvement in the air pollution situation in Delhi and farm fires have also reduced.

"Therefore, it has been decided to lift the curbs imposed under stage four of the Graded Response Action Plan in compliance with the direction from the Commission for Air Quality Management," he said. "Primary schools will reopen from November 9 and the order asking 50 per cent of the government staff to work from home is being revoked," the minister said.

As the air pollution in Delhi-NCR ameliorated over the last two days, the Centre's air quality panel Sunday directed authorities to lift the ban on plying of non-BS VI

diesel light motor vehicles in the region and the entry of trucks into the capital imposed under the final stage of the Graded Response Action Plan.

It had also banned construction work in public projects such as highways, flyovers, power transmission, and pipelines in Delhi-NCR. The CAQM order recommending the restrictions was issued on Thursday.

High pollution levels had prompted the Delhi government to announce additional measures on Friday, including the closure of primary schools from Saturday and work from home for 50 per cent of its staff.

The 24-hour average air quality index of Delhi improved from 477 on Friday to 381 on Saturday and further to 339 on Sunday, primarily due to favourable wind speed and a drop in the contribution of stubble burning.

The commission had on Sunday said there is a likelihood of sustaining the improvement in air quality and that the forecast by the India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology also does not indicate any steep degradation further.

## Mining case: Relief for Soren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** The Supreme Court Monday allowed the appeals of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and the state government against a high court order accepting the maintainability of PILs for a probe in the mining lease issue. It also set aside the Jharkhand High Court's June 3 order.

"Satyamev Jayate," Soren, who has been accused of granting himself a mining lease as the state's mining minister, said on Twitter after the Supreme Court's ruling. "We have allowed these two appeals and have set aside the June 3, 2022 order passed by the Jharkhand High Court, holding that these



PILs were not maintainable," the bench said.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit, S R Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia had reserved its judgement on August 17 on separate pleas of the Jharkhand government and Soren against the high court's order that

'Satyamev Jayate,' Soren, who has been accused of granting himself a mining lease as the state's mining minister, said on Twitter after the SC's ruling

accepted the maintainability of the PILs.

The apex court had earlier restrained the high court from proceedings with the PILs seeking a probe against Soren in the mining lease issue. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the state government, had earlier submitted that the high court had decided on maintainability

even before all the documents were placed before it.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Soren, had questioned the credentials of the PIL petitioner. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, had said criminal petitions should not be thrown out on technical grounds.

BJP national vice president and former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das in February this year claimed Soren abused his position and granted himself the favour of a mining lease, an issue involving both the conflict of interest and corruption. He also alleged violations of provisions of the Representation of People Act.

## CHEETAHS FLOWN FROM NAMIBIA KILL FIRST PREY ON INDIAN SOIL



The cheetahs hunted down a cheetal (spotted deer) either on Sunday night or in the wee hours of Monday, Chief Conservator of Forest Uttam Kumar Sharma said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sheopur, Nov 7:** Two male cheetahs brought from Namibia to the Kuno National Park in Madhya

Pradesh have made their first kill within 24 hours of their release from a quarantine area to a larger acclimatisation enclosure, an official said Monday. The cheetahs hunted down a cheetal (spotted deer) either on Sunday night or in the wee hours of Monday, Chief Conservator of Forest Uttam Kumar Sharma said. The forest monitoring team got this information on Monday morning, he said.

This was the first prey of the felines after their translocation from Namibia to India in mid-September along with six other cheetahs, the official said. The cheetahs - Freddie and Alton - were the first pair to be released into the larger enclosure on Saturday after being quarantined since September 17. The successful first hunt by the

cheetahs within 24 hours of moving to the larger enclosure has also allayed the park management's concerns about their prey hunting ability. "The cheetahs eat their prey within two hours of hunting," Sharma said. He said the two cheetahs were released in the larger enclosure spread over 98 hectares from a quarantine zone on Saturday. The other six cheetahs will also be released (in the acclimatisation enclosure) in a phased manner, he said.

The eight cheetahs - five females and three males in the age group of 30-66 months - were released in the dedicated quarantine zones in the KNP on September 17 at a function by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, heralding the return of the big cats to India 70 years after they were declared extinct in the country.

As per initial plans, the cheetahs - named Freddy, Alton, Savannah, Sasha, Obaan, Asha, Cibili and Saisa - were to be kept in quarantine for a month. According to international norms, wild animals must be kept in quarantine for a month to check the spread of any infection before and after their translocation to another country, experts had said.

Since their release on September 17, the eight cheetahs were housed in six 'bomas' (enclosures), two of which are 50 metres x 30 metres while the rest four measured 25 square metres in area. They were provided buffalo meat, the officials had said. The last cheetah died in India in Koriya district in present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947 and the species was declared extinct in 1952.

# international



**Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing. Global temperatures keep rising. And our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible**  
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

**IPHONE SUPPLIES HURT**  
Apple Inc. is warning customers they'll have to wait longer to get its latest iPhone models after anti-virus restrictions were imposed on a contractor's factory in central China



## of the day quote

The migration system is in a state of disrepair. There are systemic problems. Criminals are coming into our country operating with impunity and no one's doing anything about it  
**CLARE O'NEIL** | AUSTRALIA'S HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER

The European Union has to take up a policy of collaboration and help. It can't leave Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain with the responsibility of all the migrants that arrive on their shores  
**POPE FRANCIS** | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In order to respond effectively to various dangers in our society, we must carry out a general institutional review of authority and responsibility in safety management, and of a rapid reporting system  
**YOON SUK-YEOL** | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Archbishop Chrysostomos dies

**Nicosia:** Archbishop Chrysostomos II, the outspoken leader of Cyprus' Greek Orthodox Christian Church whose forays into the country's complex politics and finances fired up supporters and detractors alike, has died. He was 81. The state-run Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation reported his death Monday. Chrysostomos had suffered from liver cancer for the last four years and had spent his final days at the church's headquarters in the capital.

### PTI to resume march tomorrow

**Lahore:** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's long march, which was suspended after the failed assassination attempt on party chief Imran Khan last week, will resume Wednesday instead of Tuesday, senior party leader Fawad Chaudhry said Monday. Chaudhry, former information minister and Senior Vice President of the party, made the announcement in a tweet in which he said the party's long march will resume Wednesday instead of Tuesday at 2pm local time.

### HK court upholds scribe's conviction

**Hong Kong:** An award-winning Hong Kong journalist lost her appeal Monday against her conviction over making false statements in obtaining information for her investigation of a violent attack during the widespread protests in 2019. Bao Choy was found guilty last year at a lower court of deceiving the government by getting vehicle ownership records for journalistic purposes, instead of for transport-related issues as she had declared.

### Lanka seizes 300kg heroin

**Colombo:** The Sri Lankan Navy Monday announced that it seized a boat carrying over 300 kg of heroin, with a street value of over 6 billion LKR (\$17 million), the navy announced Monday. The Navy intercepted the fishing trawler about 18.5 km off the Little Basses Reef Lighthouse in the Southern Province, reports said.

### Iraq: 20 hurt in fire, building collapse

**Baghdad:** More than two dozen people were injured, including the head of Iraq's civil defence directorate, when a commercial building in the capital caught fire and then collapsed Sunday, authorities and the state news agency reported.

# World leaders gather for climate talks

MORE THAN 100 WORLD LEADERS WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AT THE GATHERING IN EGYPT



ASSOCIATED PRESS

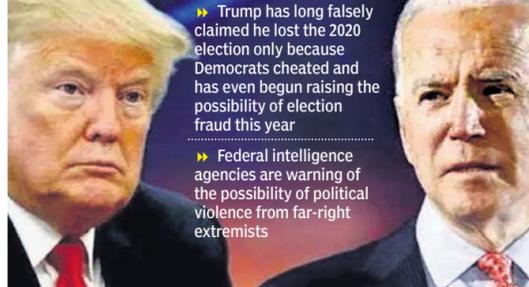
**Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt), Nov 7:** More than 100 world leaders are about to discuss a worsening problem that scientists call Earth's biggest challenge, yet observers say it will be hard to make progress given all that is happening in the world. Nearly 50 heads of states or governments on Monday will take the stage in the first day of "high-level" international climate talks in Egypt with more to come in the following days. Much of the focus will be on national leaders telling their stories of being devastated by climate disasters, culminating Tuesday with a speech by Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif, whose country's summer flood caused at least \$40 billion in damage and displaced millions of people. But it may not quite have the drama or headlines that past such meetings have had.

Why? Because of bad timing and who isn't showing up, is coming late or are dithering about it. Most of the leaders are meeting Monday and Tuesday, just as the United States has a potentially policy-shifting midterm election. Then the leaders of the world's 20 wealthiest nations will have their powerful-only club confab in Bali in Indonesia days later. Add to that, "there are big climate summits and little climate summits and this was never expected to be a big one," said Climate Advisers CEO Nigel Purvis, a former US negotiator. Leaders of two of the three biggest nations - China and India - appear to be skipping the climate talks, although underlings are here negotiating. The leader of one of the topmost polluting countries - US President Joe Biden - is coming

days later than most of the other presidents and prime ministers on his way to Bali. United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was initially going to avoid the negotiations, but public pressure and predecessor Boris Johnson's plans to come changed his mind. New King Charles III, a longtime environment advocate, won't attend because of his new role. And Russia's leader Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine created energy chaos that reverberates in the world of climate negotiations, won't be here. Monday will be heavily dominated by leaders of nations victimised by climate change - not those that have created the problem of heat-trapping gases warming up the atmosphere from the burn-



# Biden, Trump to make final appeals ahead of midterms



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, Nov 7:** An election year that unfolded against the backdrop of economic turmoil, the elimination of federal abortion rights and broad concerns about the future of democracy is concluding with a final full day of campaigning in which leaders of both parties will issue urgent appeals to their supporters. President Joe Biden is holding a Monday evening rally in Maryland, where Democrats have one of their best opportunities to reclaim a Republican-held governor's seat. The appearance is in line with Biden's late-campaign strategy of sticking largely to Democratic strongholds rather than stumping in more competitive territory, where control of Congress may ultimately be decided. His predecessor, former President Donald Trump, will hold his final rally of the campaign in Ohio. As he readies another run for the

White House, Ohio holds special meaning for the former president because it was one of the first places where he was able to prove his enduring power among Republican voters. His backing of JD Vance was crucial in helping the author and venture capitalist - and one-time Trump critic - secure the GOP's nomination for a Senate seat.

## Musk recommends voting for Republicans

**San Francisco:** Elon Musk Monday showed his true political colour despite vouching for Twitter to be "politically neutral", saying that Americans should vote for Republicans in the midterm elections November 8. Triggering a political debate, Musk told independent-minded voters that shared power curbs the worst excesses of both parties. "Therefore, I recommend voting for a Republican Congress, given that the Presidency is Democratic," the Twitter CEO posted to his nearly 115 million followers.

## 50,000 mobilised soldiers serving with combat units: Putin

REUTERS

**Moscow, Nov 7:** Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that 50,000 Russian soldiers called up as part of his mobilisation drive were now fighting with combat units in Ukraine, the Interfax news agency reported. Putin said 80,000 were "in the zone of the special military operation" - the term Russia uses for its war in Ukraine - and the rest were at training camps in Russia. "We now have 50,000 in their combat units. The rest are not taking part in the fighting yet," Interfax quoted Putin as saying during a visit

# Missile tests were practice to attack South, US: N Korea

*North Korea fired dozens of missiles and flew warplanes toward the sea last week - triggering evacuation alerts in some South Korean and Japanese areas - in protest of massive US-South Korean air force drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal*  
ASSOCIATED PRESS



their military exercises. But some experts say Kim also used their drills as an excuse to modernise his nuclear arsenal and increase his leverage in future dealings with Washington and Seoul. US and South Korean officials responded they would further enhance their joint training events and warned the North that the use of nuclear weapons would result in the end of Kim's regime. "The recent corresponding military operations by the Korean People's Army are a clear answer of (North Korea) that the more persistently the enemies' provocative military moves continue, the more thoroughly and mercilessly the KPA will counter them," the General Staff of North Korea's military said in a statement carried by state media. Later Monday, South Korea's military disputed some of the North's accounts of its missile tests. Spokesperson Kim Jun-rak said South Korea didn't detect the North's cruise missile launches and that it's also notable that North Korea didn't mention what Seoul assessed as an abnormal flight by an ICBM.

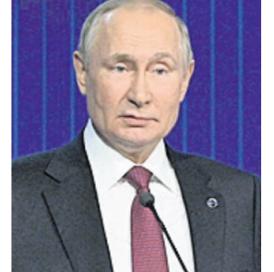
# Sanjay Bhandari to be extradited to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Nov 7:** A UK court Monday ruled that Sanjay Bhandari, an accused middleman and consultant in arms deals, can be extradited to India to face charges of tax evasion and money laundering and paved the way for the British government to order his extradition. District Judge Michael Snow, who heard the case at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London earlier this year, concluded that there are no bars to him being extradited and decided to send the case to UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman, who is authorised to order the extradition based on the court order. "As I am satisfied that extradition is compatible with the defendant's Convention rights, I must send this case to the Secretary of State [Braverman] for a decision as to whether the defendant is to be extradited," Judge Snow said in his judgment. "However, I only do so on the basis of the Assurances that have been provided by the Government," he said, with reference to Indian government assur-



ances that Bhandari will be held in a separate cell at Tihar Jail in New Delhi with relevant healthcare provisions while he faces trial in India. The judge also concluded a prima facie case had been established with respect to both extradition req The Indian government's extradition request for Bhandari had been certified by then UK Home Secretary Priti Patel in June 2020 and he was arrested on an extradition warrant the following month that year. The London-based businessman has been on bail on a security provided to the court as he fought extradition on the cases against him by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) and is expected to appeal against Monday's magistrates' court order.



**In September, Putin announced a "partial mobilisation" drive to call up hundreds of thousands of new fighters for the war after Ukraine recaptured large swathes of territory in a counter-offensive**

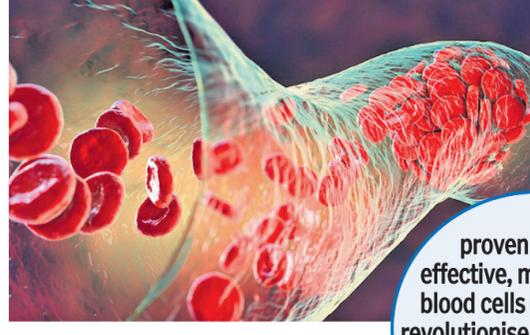
to the Tver region, outside Moscow. In September, Putin announced a "partial mobilisation" drive to call up hundreds of thousands of new fighters for the war after Ukraine recaptured large swathes of territory in a counter-offensive. The move triggered an exodus of hundreds of thousands of Russians and triggered anti-war protests across the country. Last week Putin said a total of 318,000 had been called-up in the draft. Russia ended the partial mobilisation drive at the end of October, with defence minister Sergei Shoigu saying on Oct. 28 that around 41,000 Russian fighters had already joined their combat units fighting in Ukraine.

## NEW HOPE FOR SICKLE CELL PATIENTS

# In a first trial, lab-grown blood given to humans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Nov 7:** Scientists in the UK have infused blood cells grown in a laboratory into people in the first such clinical trial in the world. It can be difficult to find enough well-matched donated blood for some people with these disorders, the researchers said. The team, including researchers from the University of Cambridge in the UK, said the blood cells were grown from stem cells from donors. The red cells were then transfused into healthy volunteers. This is the first time in the world that red blood cells that have been grown in a laboratory have been given to another person as part of a trial into blood transfusion, they said. "We hope our lab grown red blood cells will last longer than those that come from blood donors," said chief investigator Cedric Ghevaert, a professor at the



University of Cambridge and NHS Blood and Transplant. "If our trial, the first such in the world, is successful, it will mean that patients who currently require regular long-term blood transfusions will need fewer transfusions in future, helping transform their care," Ghevaert said in a statement. The trial is studying

ilar transfusion of standard donated red cells, which contains cells of varying ages, the researchers said. If manufactured cells last longer in the body, patients who regularly need blood may not need transfusions as often, reducing iron overload from frequent blood transfusions, which can lead to serious complications, they said. For the foreseeable future, manufactured cells could only be used for a very small number of patients with very complex transfusion needs, the researchers said. Two people have so far been transfused with the lab grown red cells. They were closely monitored and no untoward side effects were reported,

they said. The participants are well and healthy. The identities of infused volunteers so far are not currently being unveiled, to help keep the trial 'blinded'. The amount of lab grown cells being infused varies but is around 5-10 ml - about one to two teaspoons. Donors were recruited from a blood donor base. They donated blood to the trial and stem cells were separated out from their blood. These stem cells were then grown to produce red blood cells in a laboratory. The recipients of the blood were recruited from healthy people. A minimum of 10 participants will receive two mini transfusions at least four months apart, one of standard donated red cells and one of lab grown red cells, to find out if the young red blood cells made in the laboratory last longer than cells made in the body.

**If proven safe and effective, manufactured blood cells could in time revolutionise treatments for people with blood disorders such as sickle cell and rare blood types**

## of the day quote

The historic milestone of 2 Million Production roll out in India is a testimony to Honda's commitment to the Make in India initiative for the last 25 years



**TAKUYA TSUMURA** | PRESIDENT & CEO, HONDA CARS INDIA

India should have a single rate GST and taxation regime devoid of exemptions. I don't think we will ever get it



**BIBEK DEBROY** | CHAIRMAN, ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PM

If we come to the specific of the Indian market, it's clear that the Indian market has, like other high taxation markets, a limit in growth. This is something we have to understand, if we look at what is happening in India



**STEPHAN WINKELMANN** | CHAIRMAN & CEO, LAMBORGHINI

## SHORT TAKES

### Coal India profit more than doubles

**New Delhi:** State-owned CIL Monday reported a 106 per cent jump in its consolidated profit at ₹6,043.99 crore in the September quarter of FY23 on higher revenue from operations. The public sector enterprise had posted a consolidated profit of ₹2,932.73 crore in the year-ago period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE. The consolidated revenue from operations of the company during the July-September period of this year increased to ₹29,838.07 crore from ₹23,291.08 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said.

### Revenue deficit grant to 14 states

**New Delhi:** Government Monday released revenue deficit grant (RDG) of ₹7,183.42 crore to 14 states. With this, the total RDG released to states so far in the current financial year has gone up to ₹57,467.33 crore. This was the eighth installment of the grant for the current fiscal released to states. In 2022-23, the states will get a total RDG of ₹86,201 crore. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a total post devolution RDG of ₹86,201 crore to 14 states for the financial year 2022-23.

### India Cements Q2 drops; revenue up

**New Delhi:** India Cements Ltd Monday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹113.26 crore for the second quarter ended September 2022. The company had posted a net profit of ₹29.75 crore during the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal, India Cements said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was up 7.46 per cent to ₹1,327.06 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal. The same stood at ₹1,234.85 crore a year ago. The company's total expenses were at ₹1,528.01 crore, up 27.16 per cent in the September quarter of FY23, as against ₹1,201.61 crore a year ago.

### Around 30 IndiGo planes grounded

**Mumbai:** IndiGo Monday said that around 30 aircraft are grounded due to "supply chain disruptions" and the country's largest airline is evaluating wet leasing of planes and other options to boost operations. At the end of September, the carrier -- also the world's seventh largest in terms of daily departures -- had 279 aircraft in its fleet. It operates more than 1,600 daily flights and currently flies to 100 destinations, including 26 international ones.



**We condemn the way Twitter has sacked employees in India. The employees should have given the employees a fair time for transition**

**ASHWINI VAISHNAW** | UNION IT MINISTER

## SAMSUNG SETS NEW DOWNLOAD FEAT

Samsung Electronics Monday announced that it has hit a 5G milestone in a recent field trial conducted in Australia, achieving industry-leading speeds of 1.75 Gbps at a distance of 10 km. The average upload speed recorded during the trial was 61.5 Mbps, according to the company.



## LAYOFF SEASON

# After Twitter, Meta set to sack thousands

The planned layoffs would be the first broad head-count reductions to occur in the company's 18-year history, the report said



**META'S REVENUE DIPPED 4% YOY TO HIT \$27.7BN**  
**INVESTORS CALL TO REDUCE WORKFORCE BY AT LEAST 20%**

**San Francisco, Nov 7:** After mass layoffs at Twitter, it is another Big Tech company's turn as the Mark Zuckerberg-led Meta is reportedly set to lay off 'thousands' of employees this week.

The "large-scale" job cuts, to begin from Wednesday, could affect "thousands" of workers, according to a report from The Wall Street Journal.

"Social-media company's planned cuts expected to affect many thousands of its workforce. The planned layoffs would be the first broad head-count reductions to occur in the company's 18-year history," the report, citing sources, said late Sunday.

**In 2023, we're going to focus our investments on a small number of high priority growth areas. So that means some teams will grow meaningfully, but most other teams will stay flat or shrink over the next year**

**MARK ZUCKERBERG** | CHIEF, META

The Facebook and Instagram parent company reported over 87,000 employees (as of September).

The company declined to comment, referring to Zuckerberg's recent statement that the company would "focus our investments on a small number of high priority growth areas."

In June, Meta's chief product officer Chris Cox warned employees of "serious times", saying that the workers must "execute flawlessly in an environment of slower growth".

Meta posted another quarterly revenue decline in Q3 as investors began to lose faith in its loss-making, billion-dollar metaverse dream.

In the third quarter (Q3), Meta's revenue declined 4 per cent year over year to hit \$27.7 billion. This decline was owing to Meta's huge losses in Reality Labs, Meta's virtual reality division, which lost \$3.672 billion in Q3.

Meta investors have called on the company to reduce its workforce by at least 20 per cent and stop making investments in metaverse.

## Brainly fires nearly all from India team

**New Delhi:** Online community learning platform Brainly which has laid off several employees globally, including nearly all team members from its India team, said Sunday that the company was not "able to maintain some of the roles" focused on developing its paid plans and products. Impacted Brainly employees took to Twitter, sharing their examples. "Layoffs are sad, but what is worse is how they are handled. CEO comes on the call -- announces India shutdown and within 2 minutes slack and emails shut off, laptops disconnected. Everyone was shocked. And then no severance," said one affected employee.

## FESTIVE FERVOUR

# Auto retail sales in fast lane in October



**THE FESTIVE SEASON THIS YEAR TURNED OUT TO BE THE BEST FOR THE INDUSTRY IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

all categories of dealership. Even when compared to pre-covid month of 2019, overall retail sales for the first time closed in green," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement.

The extremely robust demand due to festivities last month brought cheer to the industry as customers in every segment came out in good numbers making it the best in the last four years, he added.

"As anticipated earlier, the PV segment saw the best year in a decade by outgrowing 2020 numbers by 2 per cent. When compared to pre-Covid festive season of 2019, overall retail sales were up by 6 per cent," Singhania said.

Commenting on the PV segment, he noted that sports utility vehicles continue to see extremely high demand. The two-wheeler segment witnessed a growth of 6 per cent in retail sales last month, as compared with October 2019, a pre-Covid year, Singhania said.

In the 42-day festive period this year, total retail sales stood at 28,88,131 units, up 29 per cent from 22,42,139 units.

Passenger vehicle retails rose 34 per cent to 4,56,413 units, as against 3,39,780 units in the festive period last year. Two-wheeler registrations rose to 21,55,311 units during the period under review, from 17,05,456 units last year, an increase of 26 per cent.

Similarly, three-wheeler, commercial vehicle and tractor sales increased by 68, 29 and 30 per cent respectively over the festive season last year, FADA said. The CV segment is anticipated to see continued demand due to rising infra projects and government spending, he added.

## BAD LOANS DECLINE

# PSBs Q2 net profits skyrocket 50% YoY

Ten lenders have recorded profit ranging from 13-145% during the second quarter of FY23. The highest percentage growth were recorded by UCO Bank and Bank of Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday said the government's efforts to reduce bad loans are yielding result with 12 public sector banks reporting a 50 per cent jump in combined net profit at ₹ 25,685 crore in the second quarter ended September.

In the first half of FY23, the cumulative net profit of all public sector banks (PSBs) increased by 32 per cent to ₹40,991 crore.

During the second quarter, the SBI reported the highest-ever profit of ₹13,265 crore. On year-on-year basis, this was 74 per cent higher than the same quarter a year ago.

"The continuous efforts of our govt for reducing the NPAs and further strengthening the health of PSBs are now showing tangible results. All 12 PSBs declared net profit of ₹25,685 cr in Q2FY23 & total ₹40,991 cr in H1FY23, up by 50% & 31.6%, respectively (y-o-y)," Sitharaman said in a tweet.



Out of 12 lenders only two public sector banks, PNB and BoI, reported profit declines ascribed to higher provisioning for bad loans

She further said Canara Bank reports an 89 per cent jump in profit to ₹2,525 crore as compared to second quarter of the previous fiscal.

Kolkata-based UCO Bank posted a 145 per cent surge in profit to ₹ 504 crore while Bank of Baroda's profit increased by 58.70 per cent to Rs 3,312.42 crore in the second quarter, she said in another tweet.

Two of the 12 lenders -- Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Bank of India -- reported profit declines ranging from 9-63 per cent. These lenders' declining profits have been ascribed to higher provisioning for bad loans.

PNB said the main reason behind the decline in the net profit was

## Healthy figures

- Combined net profit of 12 PSBs at Rs 25,685 crore
- Cumulative profit rose by 32% at Rs 40,991 cr in H1
- SBI reported the highest-ever profit of Rs 13,265 cr
- Canara Bank reports an 89% jump to Rs 2,525 crore
- UCO Bank posted a 145% surge in profit to Rs 504 cr
- BoB's net profit up by 58.70% to Rs 3,312.42 crore

higher provisioning towards bad loans. The bank's provisioning for Q2FY23 rose to ₹3,556 crore, as against ₹2,693 crore in the year-ago period.

Another state-owned lender Bank of India (BoI) said total provisions doubled to ₹1,912 crore in the quarter from ₹894 crore a year ago. A majority of the provisions came on standard accounts belonging to state governments in which payments were delayed and hence provisions had to be made after a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) inspection.

Ten lenders have recorded profit ranging from 13-145 per cent during the second quarter of FY23. The highest percentage growth were recorded by UCO Bank and Bank of Maharashtra at 145 per cent and 103 per cent over the same quarter of previous fiscal.

## BIZ BUZZ

# BoI observes Vigilance Awareness Week

**Bhubaneswar:** Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Zone observed the Vigilance Awareness Week, 2022 from October 31 to November 6. During the week, several activities were organised by the bank to create awareness among its staffs and customers. The week started with administering pledge, followed with formation of human chain, workshop for staffs and customers in presence of officers from CBI and police as guest speakers. Malaydas S, Zonal Manager, and Ashok Kumar Jena, Deputy Zonal Manager addressed the events. Other senior officers of the bank were also present during the events.



# Estimated 32L weddings till Dec 14 with a trade of ₹3.75L-cr

Traders are keeping all arrangements up to date to meet the possible rush of customers. They said that about 20% of the expenditure of each marriage goes to the broom-bride's side while 80% goes to other third agencies working in solemnising the marriage

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Encouraged by the vigorous business in the festive season of Diwali this year, traders across the country, including Delhi, are now preparing themselves for one another bonanza -- the wedding season which will begin November 14 through December 14.

During this period, around 32 lakh weddings will be solemnised across the country with a massive flow of about ₹3.75 lakh crore by way

of wedding purchasing and obtaining various services in the business being conducted by trading community, as per a survey conducted by the CAIT Research & Trade Development Society.

CAIT said during the season, about 5 lakh weddings will have an estimated expenditure of ₹3 lakh each, while in about 10 lakh weddings the cost will be around ₹5 lakh each. Ten lakh weddings will cost ₹10 lakh each, 5 lakh marriages will cost ₹25 lakh each,



50,000 marriages will have ₹50 lakh expenditure each and another 50 thousand marriages will be such in which ₹1 crore or more will be spent!

Overall in this one month, around ₹3.75 lakh crore will flow through the wedding purchases in the mar-

kets, the survey revealed.

The next phase of the wedding season will start from January 14, 2023 and will be continued till July.

CAIT said that in Delhi alone, more than 3.5 lakh weddings are expected to take place in this upcoming season, which is likely to

generate a business of about ₹75,000 crore. Last year, around 25 lakh weddings took place in the same period and expenses were estimated at ₹3 lakh crore.

CAIT said that in view of the good business prospects of the wedding season, traders across the country have made elaborate preparations as they want to continue the sentiments emanated from just concluded record business figures of Diwali this year.

CAIT informed that before the wedding season, a large amount of business has already occurred in the repair of houses. Apart from this, jewellery, sarees, lehengas, furniture, readymade garments, clothes, footwear, wedding and greeting cards, dry fruits, sweets, fruits, worship items, grocery, food grains, decoration items, home decoration items, electri-

# Rupee hits over one-month high

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Nov 7:** The Indian rupee hit a more-than-one-month high after a late-session rally Monday, as Asian stocks and currencies remained resilient despite negative news out of China, with improved risk sentiment weighing on the dollar.

The rupee jumped 0.63% to a session-high of 81.92 per dollar and also closed at that level, its highest since October 3. The currency has gained 1.2% over the past two sessions.

Barring the Chinese yuan, Asian shares and currencies extended their gains into a second day, with Indian stocks eventually moving higher after a choppy session.

The dollar index lost steam to trip 0.3% to 110.40, with the risk-sensitive sterling pound's 0.8% gain weighing the most.

On the market front, Sensex climbed over 230 points to reclaim the 61,000-mark Monday, propelled by robust buying in auto, energy and metal stocks amid a firm trend in global equities.

In a highly volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 234.79 points or 0.39 per cent higher at 61,185.15. The index witnessed a high of 61,401.54 and a low of 60,714.36 during the session. The broader NSE Nifty rose by 65.65 points or 0.47 per cent to end at 18,202.80 points.

State Bank of India topped the Sensex gainers' chart, jumping 3.44 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, M&M, Maruti and PowerGrid.

Oil prices were at \$98.33 per barrel, hovering dangerously close to the \$100-level. Rising oil prices could be detrimental to the rupee as India is a major oil importer with a ballooning trade deficit.

# Flipkart's losses widened in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** E-commerce major Flipkart's losses widened to over ₹7,800 crore in the financial year 2021-22 based on performance of its business-to-business unit Flipkart India and B2C e-commerce unit Flipkart Internet.

According to filings, the combined loss of both entities stood at ₹5,352 crore in the financial year 2020-21. Flipkart Internet, comprising online business-to-consumer platforms, has reported widening of loss to ₹4,399 crore in FY22 from ₹2,907 crore in FY21.

This includes the performance of Flipkart Group firms like Myntra, Instakart etc. The B2b unit, Flipkart India -- earlier called Walmart India -- saw widening of loss to ₹3,413 crore in FY22 from ₹2,445.6 crore in FY21.

The net income of Flipkart, however, increased by close to 20 per cent to about ₹61,836 crore in 2021-22 with Flipkart India contributing ₹51,176 crore and Flipkart Internet registering a revenue of ₹10,660 crore. Combined revenue of the e-commerce major in 2020-21 was ₹51,465 crore with Flipkart India and Flipkart Internet contributing ₹43,349 crore and ₹8,116 crore respectively.

According to market research firm Redseer, it has been leading total sales in India during festive season. It said Flipkart is estimated to have led the first week of festive season sale that was held in the last week of September with the firm cornering 62 per cent or Rs 24,800 crore worth of gross merchandise value from total sales of Rs 40,000 crore.



# SABALENKA STUNS SWIATEK

**ON CLOUD NINE:** Aryna Sabalenka is pumped up after her win over Iga Swiatek (not in pic) and she will face Caroline Garcia (inset) for the title



# Former No.1 Barty rules out comeback

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Melbourne, Nov 7:** Former World No.1 Ash Barty has emphatically ruled out ever making a comeback to tennis, or switching to another sport.

Launching her autobiography at Melbourne Park — scene of her Australian Open triumph in January just two months before her shock retirement announcement — the 26-year-old said she had no desire to return to high-level sport, and was sure she never would.

“Nope, I’m done,” Barty told Australian Associated Press Monday. “You can never say never but no, no, no, no, I’m done.”

The three-time Grand Slam singles winner, who spent 121 weeks with the top ranking, had played professional cricket with the Brisbane Heat during a hiatus from tennis.

She also plays golf off a handicap of four, prompting some observers to suggest she could pursue a future in that sport. But, launching her memoir “My Dream Time,” Barty insisted she was happy with her new, more settled life off the WTA Tour, and had no professional sports plan in

mind. “I miss competing and challenging myself against the best of the world but I don’t miss a lot that comes with it,” she said. “I’m still competitive with myself when I train at home. I still try and push myself but there’s no white-line fever any more.”

“And I never really felt like there was this void that needed to be filled in because there was a genuine sense of fulfillment at the end of my career.”

Barty, who married long-time partner Garry Kissick in July, said she was unsure what her future held, although she was already enjoying mentoring young players — something which could point to a future role as Australian Billie Jean King Cup (formerly Fed Cup) captain.

She said that when she walked away from tennis for the first time in 2014, she was “searching... searching for stimulation, I was searching for other things.”

“But now I don’t need that. Now I have probably understood and realized that I’ve had an extremely full, fulfilling, incredible journey in my athletic and professional career and now it’s time to close that chapter,” she said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Fort Worth (US), Nov 7:** Aryna Sabalenka ended top-ranked Iga Swiatek’s 15-match winning streak against top-10 opponents, winning 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 for a spot in the championship of the WTA Finals.

The stunner Sunday put Sabalenka in the final against Caroline Garcia, who beat Maria Sakkari 6-3, 6-2 and has a chance to be just the second Frenchwoman to win the title at the season-ending event.

Swiatek, the French Open and US Open champion and runaway leader with eight tour victories, cruised through three round-robin victories, losing just 13 games to give her the longest winning run against top-10 opponents since Steffi Graf won 17 straight in 1987.

Just like that, it was over when the 21-year-old from Poland lost the

last five games against a player she had beaten in all four meetings this season. Sabalenka didn’t make it to the semifinals with the No.1 ranking in the eight-player event last year. She was in as the seventh-ranked player, and showed how comfortable she was on the temporary indoor hard court at Dickies Arena. Nine of her 10 career victories have come on hard courts.

“I just want to make sure that every time she plays against me, she knows that she really has to work hard to get a win,” Sabalenka said. “Only because of this thinking, I was able to play at this amazing level tonight.”

Swiatek fell behind one break in the final set with two wide forehands before another one put her down two breaks.

Defending doubles champs Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova also advanced to the

title match with a 7-6(7-5), 6-2 semi-final victory over Lyudmyla Kichenok and Jelena Ostapenko.

Just 24 hours after beating Daria Kasatkina in a tense 80-minute third set to secure the last spot in the semifinals out of group play, Garcia needed just 74 minutes total for a career-best fourth victory over a top-five opponent this season.

Garcia never trailed, dominating the fifth-ranked Sakkari in winners (21-8) and aces (6-0). Amelie Mauresmo (2005) is the only woman from France to win the WTA Finals. “I don’t know,” Garcia said when asked where she found the energy to dominate after the quick turnaround. “Yesterday, I was a little bit tired, but it was nothing unusual after such a big match.”

Garcia has advanced out of group play in both WTA Finals appearances. The 29-year-old lost in the semifinals in the eight-player event

five years ago, which also was the most recent time a player older than Garcia reached the semis (Venus Williams). “I guess I’m five years older, maybe five years wiser,” said the sixth-ranked Garcia, who was No.74 about this time last year. “You try to learn from everything. I’ve got a good team behind me, supporting me when I was a little bit doubting myself.”

Sakkari also was among the five players who have reached the semis their first two times since the round-robin format was reintroduced in 2003. She lost in the semis last year.

Garcia used a 120 mph ace to help erase a break chance for Sakkari and extend her lead to 4-0 in the second set. Garcia’s sixth and final ace — and tournament-leading 14th — answered a double fault that gave Sakkari another break point. Garcia closed out that game for a 5-1 lead on the way to a

3-0 career record against Sakkari.

Sakkari had three straight-set victories in the tournament after coming in with just one win over a top-10 opponent this season. The 27-year-old from Greece never recovered after dropping her first set of the week, finishing with 11 more unforced errors (19) than winners.

“Not taking away anything from her, I played a very average match from my side,” said Sakkari, who didn’t qualify for the WTA Finals until the final event of the regular season. “I wasn’t sharp. I wasn’t energized.”

The event was moved to Texas from China over concerns about the safety of Peng Shuai, a Grand Slam doubles champion who accused a former government official there of sexual assault. Coronavirus restrictions also played a part in the decision. It’s the first WTA Finals in the US since 2005.

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUND OF 16 DRAW

# Real face Liverpool, PSG set Bayern date



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Nyon (Switzerland), Nov 7:** Real Madrid will play Liverpool in the round of 16 of the Champions League in a rematch of last year’s final. Madrid beat Liverpool in both the 2018 and 2022 finals and the two giants will meet again in February after being paired up in Monday’s draw, which also pitted Paris Saint-Germain against Bayern Munich. That’s a rematch of the 2020 final, which the Germans won.

PSG got a blockbuster draw at this stage for the second straight season. The French champion’s quest for a first European title was ended in March by Karim Benzema’s stunning late hat trick for eventual champion Madrid.

PSG was unseeded in this draw and left exposed to facing Bayern because a stoppage-time goal for Benfica in a 6-1 win last week at Maccabi Haifa meant the Portuguese club topped their group. Benfica was rewarded Monday with a pairing against Club Brugge, the 15th-ranked team in the draw.

The lowest-ranked team, AC Milan, will be at home against Tottenham in the first leg in its return to the Champions League knockout rounds after a nine-year gap.

Manchester City was paired with Leipzig, and Chelsea was drawn to face Borussia Dortmund in Premier League vs. Bundesliga clashes.

Napoli, the top scoring team in the group stage, will play Eintracht

Frankfurt, and Inter Milan is at home first against Porto. Teams from the same country or who played each other in the group stage could not be paired together in the round of 16.

First-leg games are played from February 14-22. Return games are from March 7-15. The unusually long wait of more than three months between the group and knockout stages was caused by the World Cup in Qatar being played in November and December.

The congested season meant the six-round group stage started earlier than usual in September and was completed in just nine weeks.

The Europa League format includes a knockout round in February for runners-up in the group stage to meet teams who finished third in the Champions League groups.

Among the former European champions in this draw, Barcelona were paired with Manchester United, Juventus will face Nantes and Ajax will play knockout-stage newcomer Union Berlin.

PSV Eindhoven, the 1988 European champion is away first against Sevilla, the record six-time winner of the Europa League or its predecessor the UEFA Cup.

First-leg games will be played February 16 and return games are played one week later. The eight playoff winners advance to the round of 16 to meet the eight Europa League group winners, which include Arsenal.

# Sen withdraws from Australian Open badminton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Suffering from a throat infection, star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen has withdrawn from the upcoming Australian Open Super 300 badminton tournament.

The 21-year-old from Almora picked up the infection just before the Hylo Open, where he lost in the opening round to Hong Kong’s Ng Ka Long Angus in Saarbrücken, Germany. The Australian Open is scheduled to be held from November 15 to 20 in Sydney.

“I had fever, throat pain and weakness after I reached Saarbrücken ahead of Hylo Open. I probably picked the infection while travelling from Paris,” Sen, who has returned to India, told PTI Sunday.

“I thought it is not that serious. I was training last Sunday and then Monday, I felt it had aggravated. I consulted doctor online and took medicine. It is under control now. But given the situation, I have decided to pull out of Australian Open.”

The Commonwealth Games champion said the fact that he has no chance of qualifying for the World Tour Final also played a role in his decision.

# Dravid opens up on Pant’s importance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Nov 7:** Rishabh Pant’s disappointing outing against Zimbabwe isn’t a cause of concern for head coach Rahul Dravid, who hinted that the flamboyant left-hander could start in the T20 World Cup semifinal against England at Adelaide Thursday.

Pant didn’t get a look in the first four games where veteran Dinesh Karthik, who in all likelihood is playing his last global meet, was assigned the role of a finisher. With Karthik not being able to deliver on bowler friendly Australian tracks, Pant is back in equation.

“I don’t think we judge people on one game, and sometimes whether we play them or not is not based on one game,” Dravid said after India’s 71 run victory in which Pant’s contribution was a mere three.

After that, Dravid gave good enough indication that decision to field Pant wasn’t taken in isolation as the coach was potentially looking at a match up with leg spinner Adil Rashid in the semifinals.

“Sometimes it’s just matchups. We need to look at what are the skills we might need against the kind of bowlers we might come up against. So a lot of things go into these kind of decisions,” said Dravid.

He also firmly reiterated that team management had never lost faith in Pant. “Yeah, in a sense it’s not that we ever lost confidence in Rishabh. We’ve got confidence in all of our 15 players who play here. It’s only 11 guys who can play, and it depends on the combinations that you have.”

“The very fact that they are here and they’re part of the World Cup means that we have a lot of confidence in them. It means that anytime they can be called on to play in the XI.”

“Yes, you can only play 11 at a time

and some people sometimes miss out and don’t have to play, but again, Rishabh is someone that as a lot of you would have been seeing, has been travelling with us.

“He’s been batting a lot in the nets, he’s been hitting a lot of balls, doing a lot of fielding practice and sort of keeping practice and keeping himself ready. The opportunity came for us today (Sunday) to give him an opportunity,” he reasoned.

In fact, Dravid was happy about Pant’s intent against left arm spinner Sean Williams but the execution

was wrong. “Obviously, it didn’t kind of work out today, but absolutely no — I’m not bothered about that at all because I think he took the right option. His role was to take on the left-arm spinner which was there, and sometimes it comes off and sometimes it doesn’t.”

Pant being a left hander also gives the team variations among specialist batters. Dravid also said that skipper Rohit Sharma intentionally took batting after winning toss as they wanted to defend looking at the semifinal in Adelaide. He also wanted his batters to get full 20 overs of batting.

Is there a place for Chahal against England after Axar’s poor show? Dravid is not the one to give away playing eleven but said he would go into the game with an open mind considering shorter dimensions of the Adelaide Oval.

Asked about trying out Yuzvendra Chahal, Dravid said: “Like I said earlier, I think we have a completely open mind about everyone in our 15. We believe anybody who comes into the 15 will not potentially make us weaker, the kind of squad we’ve picked.”

Dravid will take a call after seeing the Adelaide track as Bangladesh versus Pakistan saw spinners playing a major role.



# Salah brace props Liverpool



**ON A ROLL:** Mo Salah (in red) reacts after scoring against Spurs, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Nov 7:** Mohamed Salah struck twice to fire Liverpool to a 2-1 win at Tottenham in the Premier League. Jurgen Klopp’s team had

not won away from home in the league all season and had to hold on in the face of a second-half fight-back from Spurs with Harry Kane halving the deficit. The Liverpool manager could not hide his relief

at the final whistle, celebrating in front of the traveling fans.

Salah put Liverpool in front after 11 minutes when Darwin Nunez controlled Andy Robertson’s pass and teed up his strike partner. Salah swivelled and fired into the bottom corner to beat Hugo Lloris.

Salah doubled his tally in the 40th minute. Eric Dier mistimed his header from Alisson Becker’s clearance and Salah ran through on goal to lob Lloris.

Kane fired Spurs back into the game in the 70th finishing from a tight angle to set up a comeback.

But despite intense pressure in the final stages, Liverpool held on to take all three points and move up to eighth. Tottenham is fourth, seven points ahead of Liverpool.

# Sumit punches his way into Asian Boxing semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Indian boxer Sumit (75kg) eked out a 3-2 win over Thailand’s Borworn Kadamduan to advance to the semifinals and assure another medal for the country at the Asian Championships in Amman, Jordan Monday.

Sumit, the reigning Thailand Open champion, won by split decision against his Thai opponent in the last eight round. He will be up against defending champion Jafarov Saidjamshid of Uzbekistan. India’s guaranteed medal tally is now 11 at the ongoing prestigious championships

following Sumit’s triumph.

Meanwhile, the other two Indians in action -- Sachin (71kg) and Lakshya Chahar (80kg) -- exited after defeats in their respective quarterfinal bouts. Sachin could not sustain the momentum from his previous win as he suffered a 1-4 loss against the 2018 Asian Games silver medalist Aslanbek Shymbergenov of Kazakhstan.

Lakshya, on the other hand, lost to Uzbekistan’s Aslonov Odiljon by 0-5 margin. Late Sunday night, Amit Kumar (67kg), Monika (48kg) and Sumranjit Kaur (60kg) bowed out of the competition after suffering defeats in their respective bouts.