



## TEARS OF JOY

Actor Priyanka Chopra gets emotional after it was announced that Diwali will be a public holiday in New York City

LEISURE P2



## WORLD'S LARGEST DIYA

Over 10,000 citizens contribute 3,000 litres of oil for diya made with around 1,000 kg steel

TWO STATES P8



## SUNAK IN UK PM RACE

Rishi Sunak formally declares candidacy to contest the Conservative Party leadership election to replace Liz Truss

INTERNATIONAL P10

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Shopping on Diwali eve was a bad idea. Now we're gonna miss Diwali!

## DIWALI GREETINGS

to all our readers, advertisers and well-wishers

## HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices and press of Orissa POST will remain shut October 24 (Monday) on the occasion of Diwali. Hence, there will be no edition of the paper October 25 (Tuesday). However, web edition of the paper will be available to readers on that day.

-Editor



**MATCH-CHANGING KNOCK:** Virat Kohli plays his trademark flick through mid-wicket Sunday during his 'best T20 innings' in the T20 World Cup game against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. It was a knock that helped India win the game against their arch rivals and begin their campaign on a rousing note (Report on Page 12)

PHOTO BCCI TWITTER

## Sitrang likely to become severe cyclonic storm

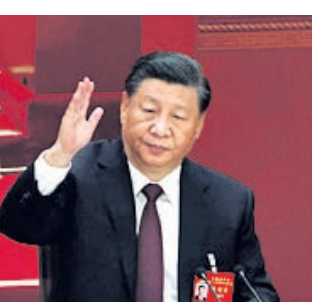
AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** The deep depression over Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclone Sunday evening and is very likely to gather further strength becoming a severe cyclonic storm before crossing the Bangladesh coast October 25 morning, the IMD said.

The cyclone, named Sitrang by Thailand, is very likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm Monday with wind speed reaching 90 to 100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. It is likely to cause heavy to very heavy rain in the coastal districts of West Bengal and isolated heavy rain in north coastal Odisha, it said. In Odisha, heavy rains are likely to lash certain places in the coastal districts of Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Puri till 8.30 am Monday.

A yellow warning of heavy rainfall was issued for Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Cuttack till Tuesday morning. The Ganjam district administration has restricted entry of tourists to the Gopalpur beach. "The restriction was imposed as people in large numbers thronged the beach Sunday evening despite a cyclone warning," said a senior official. The IMD also advised hoisting of Local Cautionary Signal Number Three (LC-III) at all ports of Odisha, denoting squally weather for ships.

## XI SECURES RECORD THIRD TERM IN POWER



AGENCIES

**Beijing, Oct 23:** Chinese President Xi Jinping Sunday created history, becoming the first leader of the ruling Communist Party after party founder Mao Zedong to get re-elected for an unprecedented third term in power with the prospect of ruling China for life.

Xi, 69, was elected Sunday morning as General Secretary of the Communist Party for 3rd five-year tenure by the Central Committee, which was constituted a day earlier by the once-in-a-five-year Congress.

The Central Committee session, presided over by Xi, was attended by 203 members of the 20th CPC Central Committee and 168 alternate members, an official communique here said. **MORE P10**

## Newborn girl's body dumped in hospital drain

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Oct 23:** In a shocking incident, the body of a newborn girl was found floating in a drain on the premises of the Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) here, Sunday.

Locals spotted the body and informed the hospital authorities and the police. The development has led to outrage among the people in the area. However, it is still not clear whether the baby was a stillborn or was thrown alive into the drain after delivery. Efforts were made to contact the hospital authorities for their comment on the issue, but to no avail.

Sources said that such incidents are being reported from the hospital on a frequent basis but the hospital authorities have failed to check them. Locals have demanded a probe into the matter.

## State sees worrying rise in air pollution

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, Rourkela, Kalinganagar and Talcher have been categorised as 'non-attainment cities' as air pollution level in these urban centres has been rising relentlessly

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Air pollutants have grasped seven cities and towns in Odisha at an alarming level owing to increased movement of vehicles, industrial activities and other sources of pollution.

The cities and towns include Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, Rourkela, Kalinganagar and Talcher. As air pollution level in these urban centres is rising relentlessly, these have been categorised as 'non-attainment cities'.

The presence of dangerous air pollutants like PM10 and PM2.5 is



at higher levels in these seven places in the state.

In 2020, the annual average air quality (PM10 component) was 86 in Rourkela, 108 in Kalinganagar, 92 in Talcher, 82 in Bhubaneswar, 86 in Angul, 101 in Cuttack and 78 in Balasore.

In 2021, the air pollution level increased in almost all these places. The PM10 was 116 in Kalinganagar, 117 in Rourkela, 105 in Talcher, 95 in Angul, 76 in Balasore, 103 in Bhubaneswar and 90 in Cuttack.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PM10 are inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometres

and smaller. Those particles are things like organic dust, airborne bacteria, construction dust, and coal particles from power plants.

However, the levels of SO2 (sulphur dioxide) and NOx in the air of these cities and towns are within prescribed limits.

Environmentalist Jayakrushna Panigrahi said, "Everyone talks about environment and pollution and its adverse impact on our society. But there are very few who are really concerned about it. First, we all have to change our mindset and reduce the use of all such products which are harmful to our environment." **Continued on P4**

## K'taka minister slaps woman at public event

AGENCIES

**Chamarajanagar, Oct 23:** Karnataka Housing Minister V Somanna was caught up in a controversy for allegedly slapping a woman at a public event in a village in Gundlupet when she went with a plea to resolve her grievance.

The minister later apologised after a video of the incident went viral on social media. Somanna, who is the district in-charge minister of Chamarajanagar, had gone to Hangla and was taking part in a property document distribution ceremony. Property ownership papers were handed over to landless people who were occupying government land for residential purposes. During the ceremony, the viral video purportedly showed a woman approaching the minister reportedly pleading him to allot a plot. The minister turned angry after he was shoved due to the unruly crowd and slapped the woman.

Former Chief Minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah came down heavily on Somanna saying that the incident "showed his culture".

"A woman was narrating her woes to the government but she was responded with harsh words. Those in power should have patience. Somanna is unfit to be a minister," Siddaramaiah said.

## FCRA licences of 2 NGOs helmed by Sonia cancelled

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licences of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT), two NGOs headed by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, for alleged violation of laws, officials said Sunday.

The action came following investigations carried out by an inter-ministerial committee formed by the MHA in 2020.

"The FCRA licences of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust have been cancelled after investigations against these NGOs," an official said.

The investigators covered alleged manipulation of documents while filing income-tax returns, misuse of funds and money laundering while receiving funds from foreign countries, including China.

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of the RGF as well as the RGCT.

The trustees of the RGF are former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Suman



Dubey and Ashok Ganguly. The trustees of the RGCT are Rahul Gandhi, Ashok Ganguly, Banshi Mehta and Deep Joshi.

Set up in 1991, the RGF worked on a number of critical issues, including health, science and technology, women and children and disability support, till 2009. It also worked in the education sector, according to its website. The RGCT was established in 2002 to address the development needs of the underprivileged people of the country, especially the rural poor.

It currently works in the poorest regions of Uttar Pradesh, one of the least developed states in the country, and Haryana through two development initiatives - the Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojana (RGMVP) and the Indira Gandhi Eye Hospital and Research Centre (IGEHR) - according to the RGCT website. **Continued on P4**

## Delhi street children's newspaper going digital

The young reporters of the newspaper, numbering 113, have been working to highlight the plight of slum-dwelling children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Balaknama, a newspaper being brought out by Delhi's street children for the last 18 years, is now planning to go digital by launching its YouTube channel early next year.

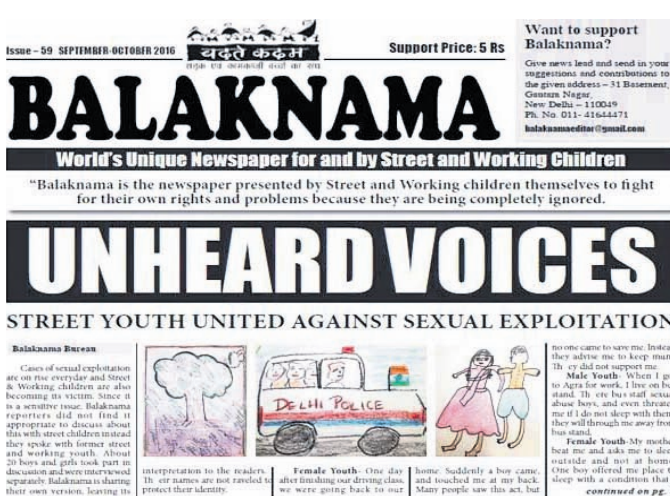
Like the newspaper, the YouTube channel will also be completely run by the street or slum-dwelling young reporters of Balaknama.

They would depict the struggles and achievements of their fellow street children through audio and videos on the new platform.

"The YouTube channel would be run by reporters of Balaknama. We are currently giving training to these young reporters on how to work on the visual medium. Besides, we are teaching digital policy to them, so the process will take some time. We will be able to launch the platform by the end of January," Sanjay Gupta, Director at NGO 'Chetna', told PTI.

Chetna (Childhood enhancement through training and action) funds the printing of the newspaper.

The YouTube channel would be editorially independent as the children would take a call on what goes in on the lines of the newspaper.



"Through this move, we want to take the struggles of street children to a large number of people," Gupta added.

Balaknama, a unique newspaper for and by street-connected children, came out with its first edition in 2003. At that time, it used to be published quarterly and after 2015 it started publishing it on a monthly basis. The newspaper team consists of young children who either lived or presently live in difficult circumstances.

Kishan, who is the 17-year old editor of Balaknama, himself comes from a humble background.

"I used to sell 'gutkha', tobacco and betel leaves at a kiosk after the death of my father. Four years ago, I got connected with Chetna NGO that encouraged me towards studies, and today I am the editor of Balaknama newspaper. The position has given me respect," Kishan said. The newspaper is an outcome

of neglect and injustice to street and working children across the world. When children did not find space among adults, they decided to pen down their issues and glories, an attempt to change people's perception and ensure identity, dignity, and participation of street children.

The young reporters of the newspaper have been working to highlight the plight of fellow slum-dwelling children. They write on some serious issues ranging from child trafficking to child labour to health and hygiene conditions of street kids.

The monthly paper is editorially independent as the children take a call on what goes in it and for this they take regular editorial meetings also, he added.



# leisure



## BILLIE'S BROTHER APPROVES OF HER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESSE

Singer-songwriter Billie Eilish's brother Finneas has approved of her relationship with Jesse Rutherford. The 20 years old pop star is thought to be dating *The neighbourhood* frontman Jesse, 31, after she was reportedly spotted kissing him. Her elder brother and co-writer Finneas, 25, is said to get along 'flawlessly' with him.

## ELBA WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE NO LONGER HAD TO AUDITION FOR MOVIES

English actor Idris Elba, who has worked in more than 50 blockbusters, felt 'mind-blown' when he no longer had to audition for movies. He said: "I remember I got to a stage where I didn't have to audition so much and that blew my mind."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

Some cheerful news could put you in really high spirits today. The news could either be of a personal or professional nature – perhaps about your career, or a social gathering, or some monetary profit. You always give your best, and Ganesh says today it will lead to rich dividends.

#### TAURUS

Feel your imagination run wild as you star-gaze throughout the day wondering about the existence of the extra terrestrial. You will paint the workplace in your flavour of innovation, combined with a drive to work equally hard.

#### GEMINI

Today will be a day of joy, happiness and festivities on the home-front. You will try and spend as much time as possible with the children and will enthusiastically participate in home improvement projects. You will be able to solve pending issues at home by taking an intelligent interest in them, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

Today, it will be all about finding your comfort zone, and spending the day there. You are likely to spend most of the day with your close friends. Your smooth demeanour will help you breeze through all business deals.

#### LEO

Don't expect you'll be handed everything on a silver platter. Especially today, you must put such expectations on the back burner, says Ganesh. Today, you would do better to dig deep into your resources of your own, as a somewhat less productive day awaits you.

#### VIRGO

You will charm people with your flexibility of thought and willingness to adjust today. Those under the spell of love will see an unexpected turn of events; but don't panic, as things will eventually work out in your favour. Some quality family time is also on the cards.

#### LIBRA

"Efforts made are never in vain, even when they may seem otherwise". Let this be your motto for the day. Today may not seem to be the most productive day, especially when it comes to interviews. You may feel like the rook in the chess set – sometimes coming back to square one despite making many moves forward to the ultimate checkmate! So remember, persistence is the key, says Ganesh. Keep trying and your efforts will bear fruit.

#### SCORPIO

You wish to make an image makeover in your office. You are tough and determined, and your work knows no limit when it comes to achieving your targets. You will love to brainstorm and give innovative ideas to colleagues and bosses. However, don't give away your best of ideas to anyone, advises Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

You will enjoy the magic of the Midas touch today, feels Ganesh. In business, sheer brilliance will help you derive the best possible results in productivity and clinching new contracts. Your approach, in general, will be methodical, disciplined and systematic for most part of the day.

#### CAPRICORN

Your power of reasoning will be strong today, says Ganesh. Those of you beginning your career will show a disposition to take up a job in television or print media. The spiritual side of you may also come to the fore and make you feel at peace, especially when visiting a holy place.

#### AQUARIUS

You zoom in on research and development today. Your fabulous work speaks volumes and your commitment pays off. You're keen to play Romeo today, and all your gimmicks and surprises will work wonders! Love on, says Ganesh.

#### PISCES

You set irreproachable standards for yourself, but what keeps your subordinates from grumbling about it is the efforts you make to help them achieve perfection in their endeavours, says Ganesh.

## DIWALI TO BE PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN NYC

# PC 'crying tears of joy'

Los Angeles: Actress Priyanka Chopra, who is quite active on social media, got emotional after it was announced that Diwali will be a public holiday in New York City from 2023. The *Aitraaz* actress, who is currently enjoying the best phase of her life with her daughter Malti Marie, expressed her emotions and said that she was 'crying tears of joy'.  
The actress took to her Instagram story and re-posted a video. In the video, Jennifer Rajkumar is heard saying, "Today I'm proud to say our time has come, The time has come to recognize over 200,000 New Yorkers of the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain faiths who celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights." Adams added, "We are going to encourage children to learn about what is Diwali. We're going to have them start talking about what it is to celebrate the Festival of Lights, and how do you turn a light on within yourself."  
Priyanka shared the video and wrote, "After

all these years! My teenage self living in Queens is crying tears of joy. #representationmatters."  
Meanwhile, she is often seen spending time with her daughter. Priyanka and Nick Jonas welcomed their baby girl via surrogacy this year. The duo keeps sharing adorable glimpses of Malti Marie. The couple is yet to reveal her face and introduce her to the world.

AGENCIES



## Dia Mirza urges to celebrate environment-friendly Diwali

Mumbai: Actress and producer Dia Mirza will be celebrating Diwali with her family and friends by spending some quality time at home.

The actress, an UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador and Secretary-General Advocate for Sustainable Development Goals, will celebrate an environment-friendly Diwali.

To celebrate Diwali in a mindful way, she recommends planting trees, giving sustainable gifts, using solar lights or earthen diyas at home, and

minimising waste. She shared that it is especially important to care for the planet as our consumption patterns are exerting enormous pressure on the earth.

The actress said in a statement: "The health of our children and their future depends on how we treat the environment today, what we invest in or take away from it."

"If we don't curb rising pollution levels and toxicity, we will have more extreme weather events, unbreathable air, and possibly more pandemics on our hands in the near future. I hope this Diwali, we choose differently and give back to the earth that showers us with so much abundance, every single day." IANS



## Ranveer's fanboy moment with Steven Seagal

Mumbai: Ranveer Singh recently attended one of the iconic UFC – the Ultimate Fighting Championship in Yas Island.

The actor has always confessed that he is an ardent fan of sports and is often seen attending several matches, from soccer to basketball. While the

Hindi film industry is busy attending Diwali bashes in the country, the actor has taken off to UAE to enjoy the fighting championship. In fact, he took to social media to share several glimpses of it including meeting American actor-martial artist Steven Seagal during the championship.



The *Gully Boy* actor took to his Instagram to share sneak peeks from the recent match he attended at the UFC. The actor had a proud fanboy moment when he met Seagal. He shared a selfie with him and posted it on his official media handle saying, "AIKIDO MASTER, ACTION HERO, LEG-END". The actor attended the championship along with celebrity photographer friend Rohan Shreshta and even shared some of the posts with the duo posing with swag on his Instagram story.

Ranveer also bumped into Liger actor Vijay Deverakonda who also seems to have taken an interest in UFC and was a part of the event.

AGENCIES



## Yohani shares her love for Hindi film songs

Mumbai: As Diwali celebrations are in full swing, *The Kapil Sharma Show* will have a melodious evening with some of the best-known music makers such as Sukhwinder Singh, Salim-Suleman, Akriti Kakar, Mame Khan, and Devi Sri Prasad, popular as DSP, along with the well-known singer from Sri Lanka, Yohani.

During a conversation with the host, Kapil Sharma, Yohani spoke about the popularity of her track *Manike Mage Hithe*, and also Kapil asks if reels became more popular after her song's release in Sri Lanka.

Yohani said: "In Sri Lanka, we didn't have reels at that time so we didn't know the song was going viral." She will further go on to share the meaning of *Manike Mage Hithe* and reveal the title of the song means "My precious in my mind you give me crazy feelings and thoughts about you."

Yohani further revealed about her interest in listening to Hindi songs and sings a few of them including *Kabira*, *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga*, and *O O Jaane Jaane*.

The Kapil Sharma Show airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

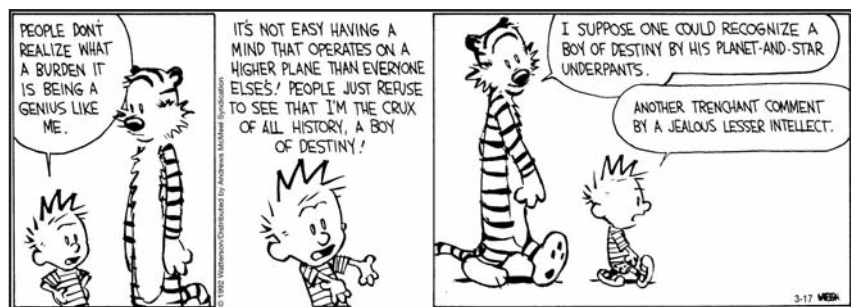
IANS

### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



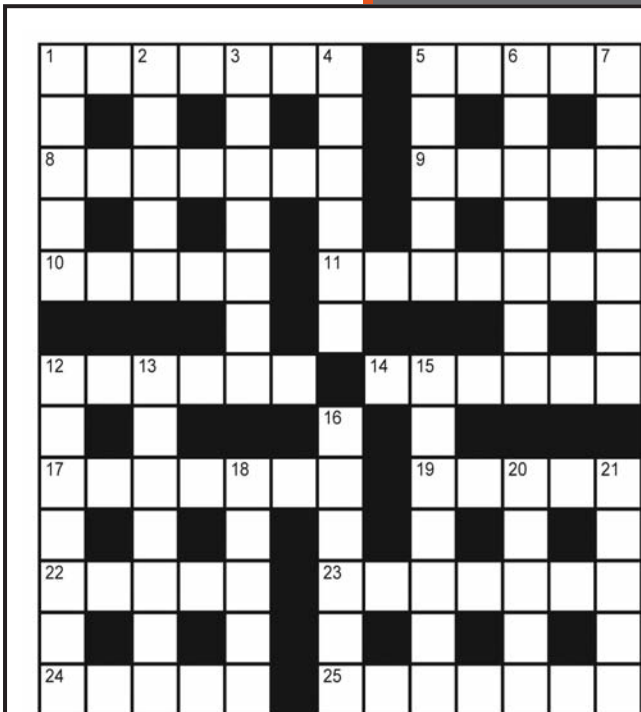
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



#### CROSSWORD



#### Across

- 1 Disallows
- 5 Tumbler
- 8 Decision maker
- 9 Come to terms
- 10 Letter before iota
- 11 Exiled one
- 12 Main course
- 14 Bailiwick
- 17 Shoreline
- 19 Schoolbag item

- 22 Part of a TV feed
- 23 Graduate
- 24 Sharp-tasting
- 25 Field of study

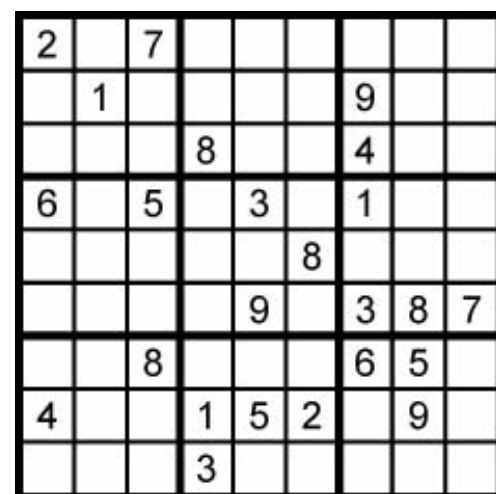
- 4 Preacher's lecture
- 5 Elephantine
- 6 Travel fee
- 7 Ghost
- 12 Deluxe
- 13 Trampled
- 15 Vex
- 16 Acquired kin (2-4)
- 18 Shade of white
- 20 Harpoon
- 21 Furnace button

#### Down

- 1 Stock for flavouring dishes
- 2 Wash cycle
- 3 Thankless wretch

#### 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.



#### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

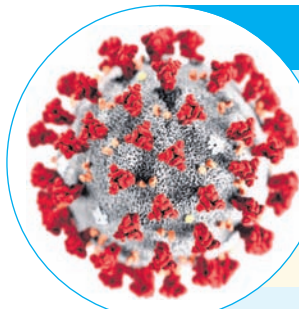


# downtown



## DRAMA SHOW

Artistes of Hari Bhai Comedy Club perform Odia play 'Sadhi Harana' at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,27,88,026	61,16,19,170	65,82,514
India	4,46,42,742	4,40,90,349	5,28,961
Odisha	13,35,861	13,26,170	9,203

# Cops roll up sleeves for hassle-free Diwali



People buy earthen lamps in Unit-I area of Bhubaneswar, Sunday OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, Oct 23:** The Commissionerate Police has put in place adequate arrangements to maintain law and order in the twin cities during Kali Puja and Diwali.

Addressing the media, Bhubaneswar deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Prateek Singh said that 17 platoons of police personnel, six additional DCPs, seven assistant commissioners of police (ACPs), 25 inspectors, 40 sub-inspectors (SI) and assistant SIs will be deployed for Kali Puja and Diwali in the Temple City of Bhubaneswar.

According to Deputy Fire Officer Abani Kumar Swain, 15 micro teams will be stationed at strategic locations like Kalpana, Chandrasekharpur, Jatni and Balipatna to avert any mishap. Besides, four quick response teams have also been formed for the Capital City, added Swain.

Meanwhile, Cuttack DCP Pinak

Mishra said around 50 platoons of police personnel, six additional DCPs and 300 police officers will be deployed at strategic locations of the Millennium City for smooth Kali Puja and Diwali.

Mishra said people have been asked to remain careful while bursting crackers.

"Bursting of crackers is allowed only between 8pm and 10pm. People can burst firecrackers having sound level below 125 decibels. Joint teams of police and Odisha State Pollution Control Board would go around the Silver City to ensure strict adherence of the directives," the Cuttack DCP said, adding that violators will face the music.

"Goddess Kali will be worshipped at 90 pandals across the Silver City. Adequate arrangements have been made at each of the pandals," added the DCP.

On immersion, Mishra said that the Commissionerate Police will come up with measures for smooth immersion ceremony.

## Eatery owner throws hot oil at customer

AGENCIES

**Cuttack/Jajpur, Oct 23:** A 48-year-old man suffered severe burn injuries after the owner of an eatery in Jajpur district allegedly threw hot oil at him following an argument over the taste and price of the food, police said Sunday.

Prasanjit Parida, a resident of Balichandrapur village, around 45 km northeast of Cuttack, had gone to the eatery at the local market for having food Saturday, a police officer said.

Parida complained to the owner, Pravakar Sahoo, about the taste of the food that was served to him. Later, there was a heated exchange of words between the customer and the owner over the price of the food.

Sahoo threw hot oil at Parida, who sustained severe burn injuries on his face, neck, chest, belly and hands.

Parida is undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Blackmailer couple meets in jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Lady blackmailer Archana Nag Sunday met her husband and co-accused in the honey-trap case Jagabandhu Chand inside the special jail at Jharpada here. The warden and other jail staff were reportedly present during the couple's meeting which lasted for around 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, members of opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sunday ended their sit-in protest before the office of twin city commissioner here over alleged attempt of the police to shield influential persons involved in honey-trap case and mysterious death of BJD Zilla Parishad member Dharmendra Sahoo.

The saffron party gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the Commissionerate Police to bring School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash under the purview of investigation for his alleged involvement in the suspicious death of Dharmendra.

# 170-yr-old wooden inscription discovered in Puri

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Archaeologists have come across a 170-year-old rare inscription carved on a block of wood at a temple in Puri district, sources said Sunday.

A three-member team of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) chanced upon the finding during a survey of archaeological remains at Delang in Daya-Ratnachira river valley.

An engraved wooden platform, around 170 years old, was found in Paschima Somanath temple in Harirajpur village located near Khurdagada Fort, which was the capital of the Bhoi dynasty.

The team includes Deepak Kumar Nayak. "The inscription reads 'Ramachandra debanka 44 ankare tolaa' or the temple was constructed in the 44th regnal year of King Ramachandra Deva III," Deepak said.

As per 'Khurda Itihasa', a book written by eminent historian Kedarnath Mohapatra, the Bhoi dynasty had four rulers, each named Ramachandra Deva.

Of them, only Ramachandra Deva III had ruled for above 44 regnal years (from 1817 CE to 1854 CE), while the others had shorter reigns. It is clear that the wooden platform was constructed during the reign of Gajapati Ramachandra



THE ENGRAVED WOODEN PLATFORM WAS FOUND IN PASCHIMA SOMANATH TEMPLE IN HARIRAJPUR VILLAGE LOCATED NEAR KHURDAGADA FORT, WHICH WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE BHOI DYNASTY

Deva III around 1852-53, he said.

The wooden block was originally installed in the 'Bhogamandapa' in front of the main shrine but later kept in a subsidiary temple, one of the members said. "Copper and rock-cut inscriptions last for a long time but wooden inscriptions wither

away Finding a wooden inscription in such a pristine condition is rare," he said.

The temple is located close to the site where an Utkal University team led by Kishore Basa had unearthed two skeletons and archaeological artefacts a few years ago. The findings suggest early set-

tlement of the area. He said many artefacts and archaeological remains of early period temples have been found in the area.

Unfortunately, most walls of the Khurdagarh Fort have crumbled and the stone blocks have been carted away. The natural moat, which existed on three sides of the fort, is now being filled up. The team has also discovered ancient step-wells in the vicinity.

The INTACH team suggested that a detailed survey of the area should be carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or the state Archaeological Department and the existing heritage should be protected.

# Happy Diwali

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# Chief Secy lays foundation stone for new NCCBM unit



POST NEWS NETWORK

**The research lab of NCCBM will use waste materials like slag, fly ash, and gypsum in cement and construction industries.**

SC MAHAPATRA | CHIEF SECRETARY

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, laid the foundation stone for construction of research and laboratory facilities of the Bhubaneswar unit of National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) at Mancheswar Industrial Estates here in the presence of Bibekananda Mahapatra, director general, NCCBM, SK Chaturvedi, secretary NCCBM, B Pandu Ranga Rao, unit-in-charge NCCBM Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar.

The Chief Secretary, after congratulating the director general and NCCBM for taking such an initiative, said that the construction of the upcoming research lab is going to be set up in one and half year. "This is going

for providing support for establishment of the NCCBM unit.

After the ceremony, the guests visited the cement and building material's mechanical testing, chemical analysis, concrete mix proportioning lab, concrete-non-destructive testing laboratory facilities at the NCCBM, followed by plantation of saplings in the premises.

NCCBM is an autonomous research and development institute under the department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry with its corporate office at Ballabgarh (Delhi, NCR) and units at Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar.

BN Mohapatra, director general, NCCBM, said that the Bhubaneswar unit can provide third party quality assurance services in construction sector for buildings, roads, bridges, tunnels and other utility projects to enhance quality, productivity and cost effectiveness. It can also provide the technical services needed for assessment of old structures, identifying the retrofitting measures, and concrete mix proportioning.

The physical and chemical laboratories of NCCBM Bhubaneswar unit will cater to the 14 cement plants and grinding units of the state for testing of raw materials, in-process materials, cement, fresh and hardened concrete sample testing.

be a game changer for Odisha as we have a large number of industries especially in steel, aluminum, and fertilizer which generate huge amount of waste materials like slag, fly ash, and gypsum. The research lab of NCCBM will use these materials in cement and construction industries," he added.

Anurag Jain, secretary to department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, government of India, thanked the Odisha government



**CHOCK A BLOCK:** Heavy rush of vehicles from Rajmahal Square to AG Chakk in Bhubaneswar on the eve of Diwali, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Loisingha, I, Geetanjali Mishra, W/o. Sampad Mishra declare that I want to change my daughter's name from Tanvi Mishra to Aarya Mishra. I also want to change her residential address from At- House No.29, Mahadev Vihar, P.O. - Aiginia, Dist.- Khordha to Gopalatirtha Lane, P.O.- Balisahi, Dist.- Puri.

Affidavit No.885 dtd.20.10.2022 before Executive Magistrate, Chhatrapur (GM), I, Sanjukta Rana & Sanjukta Devi, W/o Simanchala Rana, At/P.O.-H.Burudi, P.S.- Rambha, Dist.- Ganjam is one and same person. I pray to change my name as Sanjukta Rana in all concern Army document and all purposes.

### LOST

By an affidavit before the Notary Public, Sambalpur, dtd. 21.10.2022, I, Subrat Ranjan Meher, S/o Mahadev Meher, R/o Dhanupali, P.O./ P.S.- Dhanupali, District: Sambalpur declare that I have lost a Sale Deed bearing RSD No.1853/1996 on 20.07.2022. The aforesaid land has been recorded in the name of my late father Mahadev Meher since 09.09.1996. I declare that I have lost the RSD beyond recovery. I have also lodged an FIR in this regard before Dhanupali. Any complicacy or litigation arises in future regarding the same, I will solely be responsible. Contact - Aswini Debta, Advocate, Mob. 8328949077.

## Mruttika ends on positive note

**BHUBANESWAR:** Mruttika 2022 exhibition of popular Terracotta products of the state held at Ekama Haat, Bhubaneswar ended Sunday. Over 250 artisans from 26 districts of the state participated for display and sell of their prized creation. The event was organized by Directorate of Handicrafts, Odisha in association with Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department from October 15-23. Daily cultural programmes, food court and play zone added colour to the exhibition. The fair focused on handicrafts products ranging from decorative, furniture, home furnishings, house-ware, fashion jewellery & accessories, lamps and lightings, garden decorative, educational toys and games and eco-friendly products.

## Dhauli golden jubilee preparations reviewed

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Minister of Science and Technology, Public Enterprises Ashok Chandra Panda, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Additional Chief Secretary Odia Language, Literature and Culture Madhusudan Padhi visited the Peace Pagoda at Dhauli Sunday to take stock of the field level progress of the conservation and renovation works being undertaken by the state government.



The monks and disciples present on the spot informed that on the occasion of golden jubilee, there would be two-day celebrations.

October 27, there would be a Peace March from Circuit House and Govenor House square to Shanti Stupa. Monks and disciples from different countries will take part in this Peace March. October 28, the Puja at Dhauli will start from 9:45am. Along with the Puja, there would also be a mass peace prayer. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik would grace the Golden Jubilee Celebration as the chief guest.

The major renovation works that were discussed on the occasion included examination of the struc-

tural stability of the Stupa, marvel flooring, landscaping, beautification, anti-carbonation painting and water proofing of the Stupa, proper earthing system for saving the Stupa from lightning effect among others. Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation and engineers of works department are inspecting the progress being made at each phase.

The CS directed all the workers to complete scheduled works in all respects and make the place ready for the celebrations within two days.

Continued from P1

## State sees worrying...

The local administrations need to take steps for complete disposal of solid waste items like plastic while the government should strictly enforce the green norms laid down for industries, he said.

As the situation became alarming, the Odisha government, following an order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), has started taking steps to check air pollution. However, it seems that things are not going in the right direction.

For example, the Odisha government has banned production, sale and use of single-use plastic in the state. But rampant use of single-use plastic is going on across the state, including the capital city.

The state government has asked the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) to monitor the situation at a regular interval and take actions to check it before a Delhi-like situation arises.

A senior official of OSPCB said, "We are contentiously monitoring air pollution levels in the non-attainment cities. The major reasons for air pollution are different in different towns. In cities like

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Balasore, the increased movement of vehicles, construction activities and population rise are some of the major issues."

In other places, industries, including thermal power plants, stone crushers, bad road conditions, transportation of mines are responsible for air pollution, he said, requesting anonymity.

To check air pollution, a five-year action plan (2019-24) is being implemented in these places under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The Union government has provided around Rs 8 crore during the last financial year and another Rs 9.60 crore this year to implement the action plan, the official said.

The municipalities are implementing the action plan under the supervision of OSPCB. Steps are being taken to install continuous air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) in these seven places for real-time monitoring of pollution levels. While such stations have been set up in Rourkela and Talcher, other places will also get them soon, the official said.

## FCRA licences...

Both the RGF and the RGCT function from the same building - Jawahar Bhawan - located on Rajendra Prasad Road, near the Parliament complex, in New Delhi.

The NGOs came under the scanner in July 2020 after the MHA

set up an inter-ministerial committee headed by an Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer to probe possible violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Income Tax Act and the FCRA.

# Why is 13 considered unlucky? Explaining its dark attributes

Would you think it weird if I refused to travel on Sundays that fall on the 22nd day of the month?

How about if I lobbied the homeowner association in my high-rise condo to skip the 22nd floor, jumping from the 21st to 23rd?

It's highly unusual to fear 22 - so, yes, it would be appropriate to see me as a bit odd. But what if, in just my country alone, more than 40 million people shared the same baseless aversion?

That's how many Americans admit it would bother them to stay on one particular floor in high-rise hotels: the 13th.

According to the Otis Elevator Co, for every building with a floor numbered "13," six other buildings pretend to not have one, skipping right to 14.

Many Westerners alter their behaviours on Friday the 13th. Of course bad things do sometimes happen on that date, but there's no evidence they do so disproportionately.

As a sociologist specialising in social psychology and group processes, I'm not so interested in individual fears and obsessions.

What fascinates me is when millions of people share the same misconception to the extent that it affects behaviour on a broad scale. Such is the power of 13.

**Origins of the superstition**  
The source of 13's bad reputation - "triskaidekaphobia" - is murky and speculative. The historical explanation may be as simple as its chance juxtaposition with lucky 12.

The number 13 may be associated with some famous but undesirable dinner guests. In Norse mythology, the god Loki was 13th to arrive at a feast in Valhalla, where he tricked another attendee into killing the god Baldr.

In Christianity, Judas - the apostle who betrayed Jesus - was the 13th guest at the Last Supper.

In Japan, 9 is unlucky, probably because it sounds similar to the Japanese word for "suffering." In Italy, it's 17.

In China, 4 sounds like "death" and is more actively avoided in everyday life than 13 is in Western culture - including a willingness to pay higher fees to avoid it in cellphone numbers.

And though 666 is considered lucky in China, many Christians

## UNLUCKY 13

PART OF 13'S REPUTATION MAY BE CONNECTED TO A FEELING OF UNFAMILIARITY, OR "FELT SENSE OF ANOMALY," AS IT IS CALLED IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

IN EVERYDAY LIFE, 13 IS LESS COMMON THAN 12. THERE'S NO 13TH MONTH, 13-INCH RULER, OR 13 O'CLOCK

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WE FAVOUR WHAT IS FAMILIAR AND DISFAVOUR WHAT IS NOT. THIS MAKES IT EASIER TO ASSOCIATE 13 WITH NEGATIVE ATTRIBUTES

around the world associate it with an evil beast described in the biblical Book of Revelation.

There is even a word for an intense fear of 666: hexakosioihekonta-hexaphobia.

### Social and psychological explanations

There are many kinds of specific phobias, and people hold them for a variety of psychological reasons. They can arise from direct negative experiences - fearing bees after being stung by one, for example.

Part of 13's reputation may be connected to a feeling of unfamiliarity, or "felt sense of anomaly," as it is called in the psychological literature.

In everyday life, 13 is less common than 12. There's no 13th month, 13-inch ruler, or 13 o'clock.

By itself a sense of unfamiliarity won't cause a phobia, but psychological research shows that we favour what is familiar and disfavour what is not. This makes it easier to associate 13 with negative attributes.

People also may assign dark attributes to 13 for the same reason that many believe in "full moon

effects." Beliefs that the full moon influences mental health, crime rates, accidents and other human calamities have been thoroughly debunked.

For example, having a car accident during a full moon, or on a Friday the 13th, makes the event seem all the more memorable and significant. Once locked in, such beliefs are very hard to shake.

The emergence of any superstition in a social group - fear of 13, walking under ladders, not stepping on a crack, knocking on wood, etc. - is not unlike the rise of a "meme."

False beliefs, true consequences  
Groups concerned with public relations seem to feel the need to kowtow to popular superstitions. Perhaps owing to the near-tragic Apollo 13 mission, NASA stopped sequentially numbering space shuttle missions, dubbing the 13th shuttle flight STS-41-G.

In Belgium, complaints from superstitious passengers led Brussels Airlines to revamp its logo in 2006. It had been a "b"-like image made of 13 dots.

The airline added a 14th. Like many other airlines, its planes' row numbering skips 13.

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**EXPANSION OF JAKHAPURA-JAROLI RAILWAY LINE**

# 93% of project complete, 7% stuck in land hurdle



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Oct 23:** Though the expansion work of the 180-km long Jakhapura-Jaroli railway line here is nearing completion, the remaining work of the project has been fraught with issues related to land acquisition and conversion of forest land into non-forest land. Hence, it is not clear when this project will see the light of day.

Besides, several other railway projects in Odisha are getting delayed for a host of issues pertaining to conversion of forest land, survey of trees, compensation for tree felling, forest rights act certificate and stage-I forest clearance.

After completion of this project, iron ore transportation to Paradip port through goods trains will be quicker, according to sources in the Railways.

**Local administration and railways authorities have been struggling to sort out issues of land acquisition and conversion of forest land, leading to an impasse in project works**

In a recent tweet, the Ministry of Railway stated that about 93 percent of the ongoing expansion of the Jakhapura-Jaroli broad gauge line has been completed. Out of total 180-km stretch of the railway line, work of 139-km stretch has been over, it said.

According to the Ministry, with the commission of the project, mineral transportation to Paradip will

be easier and faster. "Particularly, transport of iron ore from the Joda mining area of Keonjhar district to the Paradip port will be faster than ever," it said. However, there was no information available from the Railway Ministry about when the project will be completed.

It was learnt that the work for the remaining stretch of the project is moving at snail's pace as the local administration and the railway authorities have been struggling to sort out issues of land acquisition and conversion of forest land.

Notably, 148.38 hectare of private, government and forest land was identified for the project passing through Jajpur district. The railway authorities had November 19, 2021, proposed conversion of some patches of forest land online, but the proposal was turned down due to some technical issues.

Again a revised proposal for the purpose was sent. The land acquisition process is failing to make headway, ultimately delaying the work of the remaining stretch. Various quarters have observed that all that the Railways is doing is publicity stunt on the project while seven percent of the project work is still stuck in land acquisition.



**CULTURAL AMALGAMATION:** Girls performed a traditional dance at a Nuakhai Bhetghat programme organised by Akhil Bharatiya Bhatra Vikash Parishad at Bhairav ground in Kotpad of Koraput district

## BID TO CHECK DEATHS ON ROAD

# All Ganjam towns to get traffic parks

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Oct 23:** Ganjam district has recorded the second highest number of road casualties in the state. This has become a cause of concern for people of the district as well as the Transport department.

Significantly, the Transport department has laid thrust on road safety awareness drive and has decided to create traffic park-cum-training centres in all the towns of the district.

The department has emphasised on hastening the road safety awareness campaign across the district so as to bring down the mishaps and related deaths on road.

For traffic parks, the department requires land in all the towns and has asked the Commissioner of the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC), the execu-

**520 volunteers have been imparted 'Rakshak' training and they will be deployed at accident-prone stretches and black spots**



tive officer of Hinjili Municipality and 16 notified area councils (NACs) to identify suitable patches of land.

It was also learnt that the department has initiated 'Rakshak' training programme for volunteers with an aim of bringing down the number of road casualties to 10 percent.

Besides, the places in the district where accidents are frequent were identified as black spots.

According to the Transport de-

partment, 520 volunteers have been imparted 'Rakshak' training and they will be deployed at accident-prone stretches and black spots such as Berhampur town, Lanjipalli, Haridakhandi, Chhatrapur, Kukudakhandi, Golanthara, Jagannathpur Chhak, Agastimaganon, Digapahandi and Keshpur.

Moreover, 80 constables and home guards of Berhampur and Ganjam police districts have also received 'Rakshak' training.

## 15-yr jail to youth for rape of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Oct 23:** A local court sentenced a youth to 15 years of imprisonment after convicting him of 2014-rape of a minor girl, Saturday.

The convicted person was identified as Arjun Hembram, 40, a native of Kendugutu village under Sarat police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

Additional district and sessions judge-cum POCSO court judge Durga Charan Mishra also slapped a penalty of Rs 15,000 on Hembram. He also directed the district legal services authority to provide Rs 7 lakh financial assistance to the survivor. The judge passed the order after examining the statements of eight witnesses, medical report and police charge sheet, government advocate Manoranjan Patnaik. The case diary stated, Arjun barged into the home of a minor girl and raped her when she was alone at home, October 2014.

## 13 injured in bee attack; 2 critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Deogarh, Oct 23:** As many as 13 people were hurt in an attack by a swarm of bees while condition of the two is stated to be critical at Patarapalisahi in Deogarh district.

As per sources, Jay Munda, a resident of Patarapalisahi died Thursday. His family members and relatives were preparing to perform his last rites on the village cremation ground.

All of a sudden a swarm of bees from a nearby Arjun tree attacked all those present there. Though the people tried to run away from the stinging insects, the latter did not spare them all.

Condition of Kunjan Munda (74) and Manohar Munda (54) was critical. All the 13 people injured in the bee attack were admitted to the district headquarters hospital. Hours later, the bees took rest on their nest. The body was consigned to flames with help of other villagers.

## 74 jumbos on rampage

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhanjanagar, Oct 23:** For last several days, a herd of 74 elephants holed up in North Ghumusar and South Ghumusar ranges of Ganjam district has been frequenting nearby villages, leaving people panicked.

Elephants coming out of forests and damaging crops after sunset has become a routine in some pockets, the villagers said. This has left farmers fuming. On the other hand, Forest officials are also worried about how to contain the elephant menace and ensure safety of the pachyderms. In some areas, both locals and Forest officials have to

### Woman trampled to death

**Bolangir:** An elderly woman was trampled to death by an elephant at Baghajharan village under Khaprakhol Block in Bolangir district, Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Basanti Angaria. At around 9.15pm when she was out of her home to attend nature's call, the animals killed her. Two giant tuskers from Komna area of Nuapada district were earlier spotted roaming in Lathor village under Khaprakhol block

keep a close watch on the animals forcing them to guard their crops throughout the night.

### Elephants trigger panic in Nuapada

**Nuapada:** Residents of Mahalingpada in Bisibahal village under Komna block of Nuapada district were panicked after a herd of wild elephants entered the area. Forest department officials reached the spot and warned the locals to not use any kind of firecrackers to drive the jumbos away. The herd seems to be moving from Komna forest range to Bolangir forest range. They usually take this route to reach their destination. After being alerted about the movement of the elephants, power supply has been cut off by the energy department.

## Man hacks wife to death over tiff

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, Oct 23:** In a shocking outcome of domestic dispute, a man hacked his wife to death at Kundida village under Serang police limits and Gumma block of Gajapati district, Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Guddi Dalabehera, wife of Ilan Dalabehera of the village. The accused fled the scene after committing the crime.

Police sent the body for post mortem and launched an investigation, Serang IIC Ashok Kumar Hansda said.

The incident occurred when the woman informed about their daughter's sickness to her husband and urged him to take her to the hospital. This led to a fight between the couple. Enraged, the accused started thrashing his wife following which she ran out of the house to save herself. However, Ilan chased his wife and hacked her with a billhook in front of his two children.

Profusely bleeding, the woman collapsed on the spot. Villagers rushed to the spot on being alerted by the children.

They rushed her to the district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced her dead. Police registered a case and started an investigation into the matter.

# People risk lives to cross river in Malkangiri village

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mathili, Oct 23:** Life seems to hold very little meaning for the people in Dhungiaputa panchayat under Mathili block in Malkangiri district when it comes to earning a livelihood for their family and attending to their works.

They do not mind risking their lives and cross an overflowing Atalguda river to reach their destinations on the other side of the river due to absence of a bridge on the waterbody. This has happened as a bridge under construction is only halfway through and yet to get completed despite passage of five years.

The matter has been reported from nine villages in Dhungiaputa panchayat where over 2,000 people daily wade through the river for their destinations.

Reports said that the Atalguda river flows through Dhungiaputa panchayat of the block. Over 2,000 people hailing from nine villages including Atalguda, Gojaguda, Churakan, Andharjaba, Kanhadi, Padeikandra, Maliguda and Mukudu daily step into the river and negotiate through it to reach the hospital, schools, market, tehsil, block and panchayat of-

## COMMUTING WOES



fices which are across the river. They have to risk their lives due to absence of any alternative route to the place.

Sources said the then MLA Dambaru Sisha laid the foundation of a bridge on the river in 2017. Funds worth Rs 81.54 lakh were sanctioned for the bridge. The construction work started in the same year and it was expected to get completed by 2018. However, since then five years have passed

but the bridge construction is yet to get completed.

The locals held the apathetic attitude of the contractor and the department officials responsible for the delay in bridge construction. They alleged that it is because of them that they are suffering. They warned that they will take to the streets if the block and district administrations do not take urgent steps for completion of the bridge works.

# Kuldiha sanctuary ready to host tourists Nov 1

**FOREST OFFICIALS HAVE SET UP NATURE CAMPS, TENTS WITH VARIOUS FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS IN THE SANCTUARY**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nilagiri, Oct 23:** Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary in Nilagiri area of Balasore will reopen for tourists from November 1. The sanctuary was closed from June 15 for monsoon.

The Forest officials have started preparations to welcome tourists at Baliapal gate in KCpur panchayat. The thickly wooded sanctuary spread across 272.75 square km is home to wild animals like sambars, bisons, gaurs and giant

squirrels besides leopards and elephants. Kuldiha sanctuary is linked with Similipal through Sukhupada hills and Nato hill ranges.

The forest also houses a variety of birds like hornbills, hill myna and peafowl. Over 250 species of birds are found at Sataghati, Risia, Purnapani, Jadachua, Mokhachaturi, and Kaimachaturi areas in the sanctuary.

The perennial streams in the forest are also home to a variety of reptiles. Two rest houses at Kuldiha and Jorachua and the perennial streams are treats for the visitors.

Kuldiha forest ranger Ananta Kumar Jena is busy making arrangements. Forest officials hope the flow of tourists will increase this year due to better arrangements than previous years.

While proper communication and accommodation facilities have been made available for the



tourists and security tightened, the ranger said, entry of plastic items, alcohol, weapons and other waste materials inside the forest has been restricted.

The department has set up Risia Prakuti Nivas at Gohirabhila for accommodation. Nine tents have been pitched in inside the sanctuary along with nature camps, facilities of drink-

ing water, food, lighting and toilets.

The entry time is from 9.30am, till 1pm while tourists can stay inside the sanctuary till 5pm. Online booking has been made mandatory for the nature camps.

Tourist guide Manoranjan Das exuded hope that a large number of tourists are expected to throng the sanctuary this year as there was reduced footfall of tourists to the sanctuary for two years due to Covid restrictions.



# 12 kids malnourished in Nilagiri; 2 recover

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nilagiri, Oct 23:** Crores of rupees are being spent by Integrated Child Development Agency (ICDS) to deal with issues of malnutrition, healthcare and pre-schooling of children, but the scheme seems to be ineffective in Nilagiri of Balasore. A dozen children in the area were found to be malnourished. They were admitted to the nutrition rehabilitation centre (NRC) on the premises of sub-divisional hospital. Two of them were sent back home after treatment Saturday.

These malnourished children belong to areas like Podahula, Dhobashila, Chatirkhunta, Mitrapur, Nilagiri NAC, Hatikhulia and Rairampur under Oupada block.



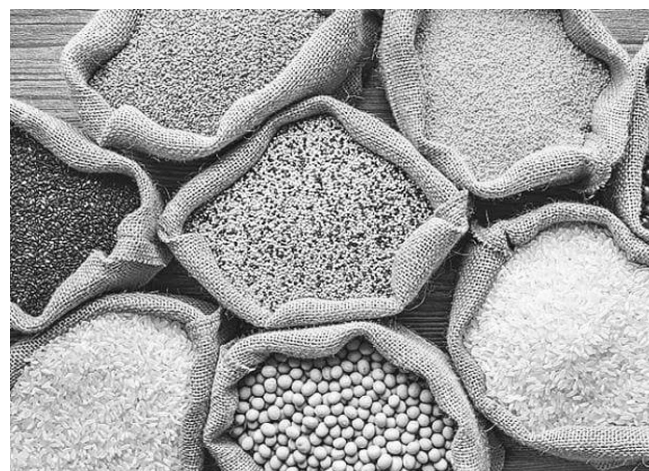
It was alleged that Anganwadi centres have been providing nutritious food to the children, but despite that, such cases of malnourishment have come to the fore.

As for the issue, pediatrician of the Nilagiri hospital Rajendra Kumar Singh said that children become malnourished due to want of food and chronic diseases. They become emaciated, weak underweight in complete mismatch with their age and height, he added.



**FOCUS FOOD SECURITY**

# FIXING THE FOOD TRADE



**In addition to getting food from where it is abundant to where it is needed, trade supports jobs, livelihoods, and incomes. But too often, international markets for food and agriculture function poorly, owing to trade-distorting subsidies and high levels of protection – two problems that have worsened in recent years**

providing relief to millions of vulnerable people. They pledged to keep agri-food trade open, and to minimise the trade distortions resulting from emergency measures. And they agreed on a binding accord to curtail \$22 billion in annual public spending on harmful fisheries subsidies, which will contribute to food security and livelihoods by improving the health of marine habitats.

But over the past month, export restrictions on food, feed, and fertilizers have ticked back up, reversing the earlier downward trend. The total number of such measures introduced since February – and still in force – is now up to 52. The WTO is working hard through monitoring, transparency, and jawboning to bring this number down, but it remains a cause of global concern.

Ensuring that trade contributes to a more sustainable and equitable global food system will require greater efforts to align trade, environmental, and food policies. A holistic approach to managing how food is produced, distributed, and consumed is necessary to maintain sufficient supply, address climate and other environmental risks, ensure sustainable land use, and manage scarce water resources. A long-overdue update of the WTO rulebook for agricultural trade is needed more urgently than ever, because we need to create a better incentive framework for investment in the sector.

To find solutions to growing food insecurity, we must expand the dialogue and explore the systemic drivers of the problem. With a stronger evidence base, WTO members will have a better understanding of how trade can be used to the fullest possible extent to enhance access to food for everyone.

*The writer, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, is a former Managing Director of the World Bank.*

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Between rising hunger and the prospect of still more supply shortages, dark clouds are hovering over the global food system. Not only has the war in Ukraine limited access to, and raised prices for, food and fertilizer, but extreme weather events are disrupting production, and economic downturns have diminished people's ability to afford adequate and nutritious diets. Climate change is fueling droughts and exacerbating water scarcity, adding to the list of threats facing agricultural production.

Progress in tackling hunger and malnutrition was already stalling before the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the World Food Program estimates that the number of people facing, or at risk of, acute food insecurity (defined as those who "lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life") has increased by more than 200 million since 2019. Key global objectives like the second United Nations Sustainable Development Goal – which commits countries to end hunger by 2030, and to improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture – are significantly off track.

Trade is vital for achieving food security, as the World Trade Organization's 164 members emphasised at our 12th ministerial conference (MC12) this past June. Apart from its basic role as a conveyor belt for getting food from where it is abundant to where it is needed, trade supports jobs, livelihoods, and incomes. It is a key factor in the sustainable and efficient use of scarce global resources.

But all too often, international markets for food and agriculture function poorly, owing to problems like trade-distorting subsidies and high levels of protection. In many regions, persistent underinvestment in research, extension services, and market-linking infrastructure has led to low and stagnating agricultural productivity. Crop yields across much of Africa are particularly small,

and have not matched the increases achieved in other developed regions.

WTO members have taken some important steps to address these problems. In 2015, they agreed to eliminate agricultural export subsidies – payments that cover the difference between domestic costs and international market prices – which are widely seen to distort production and harm farmers in other countries. The use of such subsidies has fallen dramatically, from almost \$7 billion in 1999 to under \$12 million in 2020. But OECD data show that total public support to the farm sector in 54 advanced economies and 11 major emerging markets reached \$817 billion in 2019-21. And only \$207 billion of that was for general services such as research, training, or payments to consumers.

Other support programmes frequently incentivise unsustainable production and consumption patterns and undermine fair com-

petition in global markets. While average tariffs on agricultural products were around 6 per cent in 2020, many countries maintained prohibitively high tariffs on certain products, with peaks reaching 1,000 per cent.

At the beginning of this year, food prices had already reached high levels compared to recent years, and international agencies had begun to warn of growing hunger. Then the war in Ukraine made the situation much worse. Prices spiked to record highs, and WTO monitoring found that many governments responded by restricting food exports, potentially easing strains at home but exacerbating shortages elsewhere in the world.

Against this backdrop, the multilateral cooperation that we saw at MC12 in June was most welcome. WTO members collectively committed to exempt World Food Program humanitarian purchases from export restrictions – saving the agency time and money in



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

**AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, FOOD PRICES HAD ALREADY REACHED HIGH LEVELS COMPARED TO RECENT YEARS, AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HAD BEGUN TO WARN OF GROWING HUNGER**

## Xi's Grip

A rare drama was enacted October 22 just before the final votes of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) 20th Party Congress which has left the world baffled. It has led to wide speculation on the seeming power struggle within the CCP. The motive of China's most powerful man and President Xi Jinping in allowing the public display of what was supposed to be a closed door, secretive event is not yet clear. For, it was indeed a rare and stunning piece of live drama as former President Hu Jintao, who had ruled the country for two terms from 2002 to 2012, was publicly led away from the Party Congress by staff. Hu's immediate reactions indicated he was himself confused and upset. He was seated in a prominent position next to Xi and the incident was caught on camera. He appeared to ask Xi and Premier Li Keqiang a question, to which they both nodded, while Xi prevented him from taking some papers by placing his hand on them. Such an action on the part of Xi itself is not only unusual, but it gives rise to suspicion about what had preceded the development. What strengthens the suspicion is that Li Zhanshu, another prominent party leader, got up to help Hu as he left, but he was tugged back down with a pull on his jacket by political theorist Wang Huning, seated next to him.

During his tenure as the party chief and President, Hu was never as powerful as Xi is now. In fact, he followed the pattern of collective leadership established in China since the end of the Mao Zedong era. But, corruption rose under his leadership. Party members under his rule were found to be making money through devious means.

After he took over from Hu, Xi started tackling corruption with an iron hand and that has distinguished his tenure. He showed so much zeal in rooting out corruption that Hu virtually disappeared from the political arena and many of his former allies were arrested in the purges. The most notable of them was Hu's chief aide Ling Jihua in 2015. Hu was associated with a power network of former leaders, like himself, of the Communist Youth League. Under Xi that faction appears to have been effectively neutralised.

The question is why the rather shabby treatment of Hu was sought to be shown to the world. China's state news agency Xinhua carried the list of general assembly members in which Hu's name appears, but no explanation has been given for the incident. No wonder any attempt to discuss it online is being heavily censored.

A possible explanation of the incident could be that Xi suddenly got information that Hu might abstain or worse still vote against him in the rounds of otherwise unanimous voting during the Party Congress. Hu's remarks, while he was being moved out, to his former colleagues backstage suggested such a possibility. It may be noted that Hu has been opposing Xi's policies for quite some time. This whole drama might have been orchestrated to show the world where stand the dissenters of Xi.

Xi might have deliberately sought to publicly humiliate his predecessor to send out a message across the old guard that any resistance to his leadership in any form would be summarily dealt with like the unceremonious removal of Hu at the most important event of the party.

Analysts wonder whether there was any need for such a show since Xi's authority is unquestionable. It was a foregone conclusion that he would create history October 23 by becoming the first leader of the Chinese Communist Party after party founder Mao Zedong to get re-elected for an unprecedented third term in power. Perhaps, Xi wanted to tell his people and the world how tough and ruthless he can be in dealing with his adversaries.

**WISDOM CORNER**

- When the flower blooms, the bees come uninvited. **RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA**
- The world is the great gymnasium where we come to make ourselves strong. **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**
- Let come what comes, let go what goes. See what remains. **RAMANA MAHARSHI**

**WORDSWORTH**

**Cataract**

What is weird about this word is not its two senses – a large waterfall and a medical condition of the eye – as they're both well known, but why one word should have ended up with two such dissimilar meanings. The origin in both cases is the Greek kataraktes, meaning something that is rushing or swooping down. It's a derivative of katarassein, from kata- "down" plus arassein "strike, smash". We have several words in English whose first element comes from kata-, including cataclysm, catapult, catalepsy, catalogue and catastrophe. The Greek word became applied to a number of things that rush down, including a swooping bird and a waterfall. It was transferred into Latin in the form cataracta and in that language could refer to a waterfall, a flood-gate or a portcullis (the vertical grated gate to a castle that ran in grooves in the wall and which could be dropped very rapidly to bar entrance). The earliest use in English was to "the cataracts of heaven", a now obsolete reference to the flood-gates that were supposed to keep back the rain. It was soon after applied to a large waterfall, strictly one in which the water plummets over a precipice; this came from a Latin use of the word to describe the Cataracts of the Nile. English also used it, but rarely, to refer to a portcullis, and sometimes to a window grating. From about the middle of the sixteenth century, cataract also began to be applied to the medical condition in which the lens of the eye goes progressively opaque. It seems that doctors were using the word as a simile for something that stopped light entering the eye. An older expression for the same condition was web in the eye, so the name was most likely derived from the barred structure of the portcullis or window grating, rather than as a physical barrier. It sounds improbable, but nobody seems to have come up with a better explanation.

**Catchpole**

We are most likely nowadays to encounter this as a family name. Like Baker, Glover, Carter, Miller, Potter, Smith and many others, it was originally taken from an occupation. A thousand years ago, a catchpole was a tax gatherer. Unlike modern tax collectors, a medieval tax gatherer worked on a contract system called tax farming. He paid a lump sum to be authorised to collect taxes from a given area or group of people; anything he collected beyond this was profit. There were few constraints on how much he actually collected or the methods he employed. Later, the catchpole became an officer of the court, a subordinate of the bailiff. He was mainly responsible for collecting debts and his methods were scarcely an improvement on those of the tax gatherer. A person he arrested for debt was commonly stripped of everything that might be of value and imprisoned until he could pay the debt.

**LOL**

**Calming your son**

In the supermarket was a man pushing a cart which contained a screaming, bellowing baby. The gentleman kept repeating softly, "Don't get excited, Albert; don't scream, Albert; don't yell, Albert;



keep calm, Albert." A woman standing next to him said, "You certainly are to be commended for trying to soothe your son, Albert." The man looked at her and said, "Lady, I'm Albert."

**SPECTRUM SCIENCE**

# The euphoria around eclipses



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

**THE BEST WAY TO VIEW THE SUN SAFELY IS TO PROJECT ITS IMAGE ON A SCREEN WITH THE HELP OF A TELESCOPE OR BINOCULAR AND OBSERVE THE ECLIPSE**

The upcoming partial solar eclipse on 25 October, 2022 following Diwali has aroused much curiosity in the minds of the people worldwide considering the fact that eclipses are generally the rarest spectacles of nature and the next solar eclipse that would be visible to India is on 2 August, 2027, almost five years later. The solar eclipses, in particular, are rarest occasions because they occur over a very narrow belt over the Earth which sometimes are visible in the inaccessible places like the seas or mountains making their visibility in a populated region of the world highly remote.

This is the second partial solar eclipse of the year after the eclipse of 30 June and should be visible from Europe, western Asia and northeast Africa and from near sunrise time in Iceland to near sunset time in western India. The eclipse was important because of its visibility to India over a limited belt although for a brief period mostly seen during the sunset. The eclipse should also be visible to Odisha for a very brief period mostly during the sunset. Among the spectacular solar

eclipses seen in Odisha in near past was a total eclipse on 16 February, 1980 and a partial eclipse of 24 October, 1995. No annular eclipse has been seen so far in Odisha in the near past. However, the last two partial eclipses on 26 December, 2019 and 21 June, 2020 were not visible in Odisha owing to poor visibility conditions of the sky.

A solar eclipse usually occurs on a New Moon day when the Moon lies between the Sun and the Earth in a straight line blocking the Sun's rays to cast a shadow on the Earth. While during a total solar eclipse, the Sun completely vanishes from the sky causing a temporary nightfall, a partial eclipse is marked by an incomplete obstruction of the solar disc by the Moon resulting in the diminishing daylight and fall of ambient temperature. However, in an annular solar eclipse, the Moon only obstructs the central part of the Sun leaving its fiery outer edge exposed resembling a ring of fire hanging in the sky.

Safe observation is necessary to view the eclipse. Looking directly at the Sun with naked eyes or through unprotected binoculars

can cause eye damage and even can cause permanent blindness. Traditional method of viewing the Sun in haldi (turmeric) water, welder's glass or with photographic films during the eclipse is highly unsafe and unscientific as it does not cut off all the harmful ultraviolet and infrared radiations from the Sun and, hence, should be avoided. Special filter glasses that cut off 99 per cent of the Sun's visible rays and block all the harmful infra-red and ultraviolet radiations can allow us to view the celestial event safely. However, the best way to view the Sun safely is to project its image on a screen with the help of a telescope or binocular and observe the progressive stages of the eclipse there itself.

Through the ages, the sudden darkening or disappearance of the Sun from the sky has been seen as a sign of displeasure of the Gods or an omen of turbulent activities. In our Indian mythology, two hungry demons named Rahu and Ketu are believed to be swallowing the Sun during the eclipse. People observe penance and fasting during eclipse as it is believed that food cooked

during the eclipse turns toxic. Pregnant women are advised to stay indoors due to the belief that the eclipsed rays may have harmful impacts on the unborn baby. People are also advised not to embark on distant journeys during the eclipse. Rituals of deities are generally altered in the temples due to the eclipse. People take bath and offer puja in temples after the eclipse.

Grand celestial spectacles are not generally welcomed in our dogma-dominated society. What really is disturbing is the unchanging mindset of the people even in the light of the convincing scientific evidences put forward to explain these celestial phenomena. It is quite ridiculous to shut oneself indoors when a spectacular and a rare natural event is unfolding. We should not only free ourselves from these bizarre beliefs, but also develop a sense of curiosity and scientific mindset to unravel the mystery of nature.

*The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal. Views are personal.*

**Unending controversy**

Sir, The controversy surrounding the passing away of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa after a prolonged battle with diseases in a private hospital in 2016 refuses to die down. Some of her ardent supporters had alleged foul play. Little time was wasted in ordering a judicial commission of inquiry headed by a former high court judge. The commission has, after five long year, handed a voluminous report indicting Sasikala, a few doctors and top officials in the former CM's death. It based its final findings on three broad parameters – discrepancy in the actual time of death, manipulation of records and not conducting certain procedures that were necessary. It has, literally, overruled an expert AIMS, Delhi committee report that had given a clean chit to the hospital. Experts have gone on record indicating the commission had exceeded its brief. Also, the commission's findings have no locus standi in a court of law. What the commission report will do is to keep the political pot boiling. Some politicians will take advantage of the findings at the expense of some others. At the same time, common man will be left wondering as to what really happened to their beloved "puratchi thalaivi", did she pass away peacefully or otherwise will remain a question uppermost on their minds.

**Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

**Heed advisory**

Sir, Indian citizens living in Ukraine would do well to heed the advisory issued by the Indian Embassy in Kyiv and leave the war-torn country. This is the second advisory in the past nine days. The Ukrainian government has also stressed the importance of following safety and security guidelines and avoiding all non-essential travel. Russia has stepped up its offensive following a string of battlefield defeats, and Russian President Vladimir Putin declared martial law in four regions of Ukraine. The sudden escalation in war and deteriorating security across Ukraine is a matter of concern.

**NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE**

**'Martyr' Sisodia**

Sir, The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) compares Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia with freedom fighter Bhagat Singh as he was summoned for interrogation by the CBI in the alleged liquor scam. However, AAP's rivals BJP and Congress condemned the comparison and demanded an apology from its leaders. Before leaving for the CBI headquarters, Sisodia sought blessings of his mother and went to Rajghat.

**Akshita Dhurve, UJJAIN**

# 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**

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## of the day quote

The youth should work with honesty and dedication for the growth of the country

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

Some people may criticize Kumar for his frequent turnarounds. But I would like to remind them of late Mahamaya Prasad Sinha (former Bihar CM) who had proudly said that he could switch sides a hundred times in public interest. If Kumar, too, did so in the interests of Bihar, there will be nothing wrong in it

A G20 summit meeting scheduled to be held here in March next year will help promote the state as a preferred destination for business

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 dead, 6 missing

**Patna:** Five persons, including four minor girls, were drowned and six others went missing in separate accidents in rivers in Bihar's Aurangabad and Patna districts Sunday, police said. In Aurangabad, four minor girls went for a bath at Kushmura Ghat in Hamid Nagar village under Uphara police station. However, they did not realise the depth of the river and started drowning. Shankar Thakur of the same village jumped into the river to rescue them but also disappeared. In another incident, a motor boat carrying 21 persons capsized in the Ganga river in Patna's Digha area on Sunday morning, after colliding with a pillar of the JP Setu. The SDRF team, present at Digha Ghat, immediately launched the rescue operation with the help of local divers and managed to save 15 persons after throwing life jackets and tubes. However, six persons are still missing.

### Man killed

**Bangalore:** In a disturbing development, a man was hacked to death after his wife thrashed a group of men, who used to harass her, with her sandals in front of police here. The deceased has been identified as 33-year-old Chandrashekar, a resident of Kondappa Layout near Yelahanka. According to police, Chandrashekar was hacked to death by miscreants when he was standing at the terrace of his house. The incident happened late on Friday night. The preliminary investigations by the police have revealed that the murder was committed to take revenge.

### 4 killed, 42 injured

**Etawah (Uttar Pradesh):** Four persons were killed and 42 injured in a collision between a container and a double-decker bus on the Lucknow-Agra expressway near Etawah in the early hours of Sunday. All the injured have been admitted to the Saifai Medical College. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the district officials to ensure proper assistance and treatment to all injured persons.

### Goods train derails

**Fatehpur (Uttar Pradesh):** A goods train carrying an empty wagon from Kanpur station got derailed at Ramwan station near here on Sunday morning. Eight wagons of the train ran over each other and damaged the tracks, due to which train traffic on Delhi-Howrah route has been affected. The route of 12 trains including Vande Bharat has been diverted.



**Jumla Raja Prime Minister Modi had promised 16 crore jobs to the youth and failed to deliver. Data given by the Modi government inside Parliament shows that 22 crore people applied for government jobs since 2014, and only seven lakh got jobs**

DEREK O'BRIEN | TMC LEADER

## BUSY YEAR AHEAD

The Indian space agency is having a busy launch schedule next year that includes commercial, navigation, sun and moon missions, said a top official



# Congress slams govt over RGF's FCRA cancellation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** The Congress Sunday hit back at the Centre for action against the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT), saying the move is aimed at defaming the party and diverting public attention from the main issues being faced by the country. The Congress' remarks come after the Central government cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licences of the RGF and the RGCT - two NGOs headed by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi - for alleged violation of laws.

Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the country's economy is in deep crisis caused by spiralling prices, rising unemployment and a falling rupee, and the people are clearly "fed up with the politics of hate and divisiveness".

"Over the Deepavali weekend, the Ministry of Home Affairs cancelled the FCRA registrations of both the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust. They recycle old charges against the RGF and RGCT. This is to defame the party and divert public attention from issues of day-to-day concern to them," he said.

Congress leader and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also slammed the NDA government's move and said the cancellation of FCRA licences of the RGF and RGCT is a "symbol of political malice" of the Modi government.

The action against the RGF came following investigations carried out by an inter-ministerial com-



**Over the Deepavali weekend, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India, cancelled the FCRA registrations of both the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT). They recycle old charges against the RGF and RGCT. This is to defame and divert public attention from issues of day-to-day concern to them**

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

mittee formed by the Union Home Ministry in 2020. "The FCRA licences of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust have been cancelled after investigations against these NGOs," an official of the home ministry said.

The investigators covered alleged manipulation of documents while filing income-tax returns, misuse of funds and money laundering while receiving funds from foreign countries, including China, officials said. The probe team comprised officers from the ministries of home and finance, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), besides the ED, and was mandated to investigate if these trusts run by the Gandhi family and other

Congress leaders allegedly manipulated any documents while filing tax returns or misused and laundered money received from foreign countries, they said.

The BJP welcomed the government's action and said the Gandhi family and organisations linked to them can't be above law. Ramesh said the people of India are aware that the RGF was established in 1991 after the tragic assassination of Rajiv Gandhi who stood for the ideas of Sadbhavana, both among all Indians and with other nations, inclusive and sustainable development of India using science and technology and empowerment of women, the youth and local self-government at the panchayat, district and municipal levels.

## WORKERS LOCK UP JEWELLERY OWNER, ROB ORNAMENTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ahmedabad, Oct 23:** A jewellery showroom owner in Gujarat's Ahmedabad was locked up in the strongroom of his shop after two of his workers robbed three kg of gold ornaments.

The city police have formed teams and are tracking the two workers with help of technical surveillance.

According to the Anjali Jewellers showroom owner Mahesh Shah, due to Dhanteras there was a huge gathering on Saturday evening so along with him, two workers Surendrasinh Zala and Chirag Barot worked till early Sunday morning.

When Shah along with two of his workers were closing the jewellery shop, the former opened the strongroom in the backside of the showroom and was keeping ornaments in it one at a time.

Shah added that when both workers Zala and Barot locked him up in the strongroom, he called the police but before they reached the showroom, both workers had fled away with three kg gold ornaments.

Chandkheda police has registered Shah's complaint.

While this report was filed, Police Inspector V.S. Vanzara told the local media that along with the Chandkheda police, Ahmedabad Crime Branch and neighbouring police station officers are jointly investigating the matter.

Shah's brother Aakash told the media that both the workers have been working with them for the last five years.

Earlier they worked at Shah's old showroom, after the present showroom was opened recently on New C.G. Road they had shifted here.

# PM Modi offers prayers in Ayodhya



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Deepotsav celebrations, on the eve of Diwali in Ayodhya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ayodhya (UP), Oct 23:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi here Sunday said the values inculcated by Lord Ram through his words, thoughts and rule are the inspiration for "sabka saath, sabka vikas". These are also a basis for "sabka vishwas, sabka prayas", said the prime minister who arrived here to attend the Deepotsav celebrations.

Addressing a gathering at the Ram Katha park where a symbolic coronation of Lord Ram and Sita was performed, Modi said he got the opportunity of having the deity's "darshan" due to his blessings.

"I am happy that people of Ayodhya, entire UP and world are witnessing this event. As we are celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava', the determination like Lord Ram will take the country to new heights

new heights," he said. The PM said Lord Ram's ideals are a beacon of light for people aspiring for a developed India in next 25 years and give the "courage to achieve the most difficult goals".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday offered prayers to Ram Lalla at Janmabhoomi here.

This is his first visit to Ayodhya after a "bhoomi puja" for the construction of a Ram temple on August 5, 2020.

Immediately after reaching Ayodhya for the Deepotsav celebrations, the PM went to the makeshift Ram temple and offered prayers to Ram Lalla. He lit an earthen lamp there and performed an "aarti".

Modi was also briefed by officials on the construction going on for a grand Ram temple at the site. Earlier, the PM was welcomed by Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

# Gujarat ESIC in Rozgar Mela

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Rozgar Mela, a recruitment drive for providing employment to 10 lakh people, an official said Sunday.

During the ceremony, the PM addressed the country via video-conferencing and appointment letters were handed over to 75,000 newly-inducted appointees.

Gujarat Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was among those who participated in the event, which the PM called an 'important milestone' for India. In Gujarat, the functions were held at Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Vadodara. Minister of State for Railways Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Ahmedabad Member of Parliament Kirit Solanki, Ahmedabad City Mayor Kirit Bhai Parmar, Ahmedabad DRM Tarun Jain, ESIC Gujarat Additional Commissioner Ratnesh Kumar Gautam were among those present during the event at Ahmedabad.

ESIC Gujarat Additional Commissioner Ratnesh Kumar Gautam, who represented the Union Labour and Employment Ministry, was present with deputy director (Legal) Pankaj Parmar



and 25 new appointees in Group C category who were inducted to the ESIC at Ahmedabad, sources said. On the occasion, the dignitaries distributed appointment letters to the new appointees from Railway, ESIC, Income Tax, PSU Banks and BSF, it was learnt.

At Gandhinagar, the function was organised by the department of Post where another 25 new appointees in Group C category were

inducted to the ESIC. Assistant director (Admn) Shyam Sunder and Assistant director (Ins) Jitendra Senegal were present.

At Vadodara, the event was organised at the National Academy of Indian Railways where another eight appointees in Group C category were inducted to the ESIC. Deputy director (In-charge) of Vadodara Sub Regional Office Sahil Aggarwal was present.



People buy flowers at a wholesale market on the eve of Diwali in Bangalore

PTI PHOTO

# KERALA GOVERNOR CRACKS WHIP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 23:** In an unprecedented move, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has asked all nine Vice Chancellors of state varsities to resign from their respective posts.

Noting the action was following

the Supreme Court ordering the resignation of the Kerala Technical University's Vice Chancellor, he directed the Vice Chancellors of the Calicut, Sanskrit, KTU, CUSAT, Fisheries, Malayalam, MG, Kannur, and Medical University to put in their papers before 11.30 am on Monday. The Governor's office said

that five of the Vice Chancellors were asked to go as they were selected without panel names during the selection of Vice Chancellor and thus "selected politically". The remaining four was selected through a process wherein eminent subject experts were not present in the selection committee, it added.

# This Kerala village on way to 100% literacy in Hindi

**THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE SIZEABLE MIGRANT WORKER POPULATION IN THE VILLAGE SEEMS TO BE THE SPARK FOR SUCH AN INITIATIVE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kozhikode (Kerala), Oct 23:** Septuagenarian Janaki Amma relishes her newfound love for Hindi in a small Kerala village, and repeats the brief sentence taught to her as part of an effort by a panchayat to achieve 100 per cent Hindi literacy.

At a time when Kerala, along with Tamil Nadu, is opposing any attempts of 'Hindi imposition', and netizens engaging in heated debates over the issue, Janaki Amma is bowled over by the articulation of the sentence "Ek tandhi andheri raat sadak pe ja raha hai" (going down the road on a cold dark night) and the excited granny repeats several times what the

instructor taught her.

The need to communicate with the sizeable migrant worker population in the village seems to be the spark for such an initiative. The objective is to declare Chelannur a complete Hindi literate panchayat, the first such civic body in Kerala and probably the first in south India, by Republic Day next year, authorities in the Congress-ruled Chellanur village panchayat here said.

The priority of the authorities was to implement a unique project with its limited funds utilising the human resource in the village panchayat. But, the practical reason that persuaded them to finalise the Hindi literacy programme was the



People attend a class to learn Hindi as part of an initiative by a panchayat to achieve 100 per cent Hindi literacy, at Chelannur in Kozhikode district, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

huge presence of migrant workers in the panchayat.

Of course, long before a Parliamentary panel's recom-

mendations to make Hindi the medium of instructions in higher education institutions triggered a political controversy in the coun-

try and states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu strongly opposing the proposal, the Chelannur village panchayat launched its efforts to turn itself completely Hindi literate.

The 72-year-old Janaki Amma used to repeat the sentence every now and then, maybe out of excitement to learn something new at the dusk of life, her daughter Athmini, a neighbourhood volunteer, said.

Like Janaki Amma, hundreds of villagers, cutting across age, gender and educational barriers are learning Hindi in the village panchayat, where there is a huge presence of migrant workers from northern states, for some time as part of the civic body's ambitious mission to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the language.

The immense participation of people in the programme was surely due to the fact that the project would help them equip with basic Hindi skills to communicate and

deal with the guest workers, who are now an integral part of their social life, authorities said.

Panchayat president Nousheer P P said the project targeted to make every villager aged between 20-70 years as Hindi literate. "There is no connection between our project and the recent controversy regarding Hindi. The conceptualisation and other basic works of the project began last year. Ahead of the launch, a survey was conducted to identify those who are not well-versed in Hindi and those who are interested to learn the language," he said.

A series of workshops were conducted and an expert panel of instructors was formed from the village panchayat itself to train the aspiring learners. Besides Hindi teachers, ex-military personnel, Gulf returnees and homemakers who are fluent in the language were also identified and included in the panel, he said.





## Delhi air day before Diwali least polluted in 7 yrs

**THE AIR QUALITY IN THE CAPITAL IS PREDICTED TO TURN VERY POOR MONDAY MORNING WHILE IT COULD WORSEN TO THE SEVERE CATEGORY TUESDAY**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Delhi recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 259 Sunday, which was lowest for the day before Diwali in seven years, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed. Diwali will be celebrated across the country Monday. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 and 500 severe. Last year, the AQI November 3 (a day before Diwali) was 314. It



had shot up to 382 on the Diwali day and 462 the next day. In 2020, Delhi recorded an AQI of 296 a day before Diwali (November 13), while it worsened to 414 on Diwali and 435 the day after. The capital logged an AQI of 287 on the day before the festival in 2019. It worsened to 337 on Diwali (October 27) and further to 368 the

next day. The AQI was 338 on the day before Diwali in 2018. Interestingly, it improved to 281 on the Diwali day before aggravating to 390 the next day. The AQI was 302 and 404 on the day before Diwali in 2017 and 2016, the CPCB data showed. The air quality in the capital

is predicted to turn very poor Monday morning while it could worsen to the severe category Tuesday due to emissions from firecrackers and an increase in the share of smoke from stubble burning because of a favourable wind speed and direction. SAFAR, a forecasting agency under the Union Ministry of Earth

Sciences, said the air quality may deteriorate to very poor levels even if no firecrackers are burst. In case firecrackers are burst like last year, the air quality may plunge to severe levels on the night of Diwali itself and continue to remain in the red zone for another day. The contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's PM2.5 pollution has so far remained low (up to 5 per cent) due to a slow transport-level wind speed. However, the transport-level wind direction and speed is likely to become very favourable from Monday afternoon. It will increase the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution to 15-18 per cent October 25 and push the air quality into the 'severe' category, said Gufran Beig, founder project director, SAFAR. Paddy straw burning accounted for 25 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Diwali last year. The share of smoke from farm fires in Delhi's pollution stood at 32 per cent in 2020 and 19 per cent in 2019.

## '2 out of 5 families in Delhi-NCR likely to burst crackers'



Bursting firecrackers in the city on Diwali could attract a jail term of up to six months and a fine of ₹200

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** The percentage of households bursting firecrackers in Delhi-NCR on Diwali could be the highest in five years as two out of every five families are likely to indulge in the activity, according to a survey.

risen this year and there is no ban on crackers in the NCR cities of Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Noida, 39 per cent Delhi-NCR families are planning to burn crackers, the survey report added. The Delhi government recently announced that manufacturing, storing or selling firecrackers in the city will be punishable with a three-year jail term and a fine of up to Rs 5,000 under Section 9B of the Explosives Act.

Ten per cent of the respondents said they have already bought firecrackers from shops in Delhi, while 20 per cent said they have purchased firecrackers from other cities in the National Capital Region (NCR), indicating that the ban on the sale of such items is not as effective as it needs to be, according to the survey conducted by LocalCircles. The survey received more than 10,000 responses from the residents of all the districts in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad. 69 per cent of the respondents were men, while 31 per cent were women.

Bursting firecrackers in the city on Diwali could attract a jail term of up to six months and a fine of Rs 200, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Wednesday. In September, the city government re-imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years.

61 per cent respondents said they will not be burning any crackers either because they are convinced that they cause pollution or because they are abiding by the ban. The survey results, when compared over time, indicate that the percentage of families burning crackers this year is likely to be the highest in the five-year period since 2018, it said.

From October to December, the national capital chokes under a thick blanket of smog. The festive season, including Dussehra and Diwali, contributes to an uptick in pollution levels due to the burning of effigies and firecrackers. The season also coincides with the time of stubble burning in the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana, which further exacerbates the problem. The landlocked geography of Delhi and stable weather conditions with anti-cyclonic wind circulation keep the polluted air trapped in the city, shooting the Air Quality Index (AQI) upwards.

As against 32 per cent such families in 2018, the percentage grew in 2019 to 35, but fell post the second wave of Covid in 2021 to 32 but again, as the festive spirit has

## Drone activity along border big challenge for security agencies

*More than 150 drones have been spotted so far this year along the India-Pak border in Punjab*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Oct 23:** Movement of drones for airdropping drugs, arms and ammunition continues to pose a challenge for security agencies with over 150 such activities noticed this year so far at several points along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, said officials.

at higher level. A drone which was shot down October 14 was a quadcopter (DJI Matrice) and a holding and releasing mechanism also found with this drone. Most drone activities have been concentrated in areas along the international border in Amritsar and Tarn Taran districts, said the officials.

However, drone movements have also been spotted in Ferozepur and Gurdaspur areas, they added. The BSF had coordinated with the Punjab Police in busting a gang involved in smuggling of narcotics and weapons from across the border in Tarn Taran area this year, said the senior BSF official.

Last month, the BSF had decided to shoot Indian smugglers who come to collect narcotics and weapons, smuggled from Pakistan, near the international border. If a smuggler comes to receive the consignment or attacks, the law permits us to fire at the smuggler, said the BSF official.

The BSF has also decided to reward its personnel who gun down a drone sneaking into Indian territory. In April this year, the BSF had announced to give Rs 1 lakh reward to a person who provides information leading to the arrest of persons using drones for smuggling of narcotics, arms and ammunition from Pakistan.



**BLOOM BIZ:** Vendors attempt to sell garlands to passers-by outside the Ghazipur wholesale flower market on the eve of Diwali festival, in New Delhi, Sunday

## WOMEN COPS IN PLAIN CLOTHES TO CHECK RAGGING, INDISCIPLINE IN DU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Women police officers in plain clothes outside colleges, anti-ragging posters across campus, vigilance squad in every college and police pickets are among the measures to be implemented in the Delhi University for maintaining discipline from the new academic session. A meeting of the proctorial board of the University of Delhi was held Friday to deliberate upon

measures for facilitating the smooth induction of students during the opening of the new session. Officials from the Delhi Police and senior varsity officials were present during the meeting. Several important decisions were taken in the meeting to ensure the maintenance of discipline and prevention of ragging in the varsity and college campuses, a senior university official said. Gupta said that all students and hostel residents as well as their

parents have been asked to give an undertaking regarding anti-ragging at the time of admission. The anti-ragging posters in English and Hindi have been installed at the strategic locations in North and South Campuses, University of Delhi, he added. Gupta said that the colleges, centres and hostels have been requested to restrict the entry of outsiders and to prominently display rules regarding the prohibition of ragging in their respective

institutions. All colleges, faculties, departments and hostels have been requested to form an anti-ragging, disciplinary committee and vigilance squad taking the help of NCCNSS students volunteers wherever possible to monitor ragging, said Gupta. There would be police pickets outside every college with special assistance being provided to women colleges, he noted, adding that any acts of indiscipline, ragging will

be dealt with strictly under the university's statutes. During the meeting, the police officials were requested to highlight steps for receiving ragging complaints. Authorities were apprised of online ragging. They were suggested to report the complaint to the cyber crime wing, Gupta said. The Delhi Police has assured that women police in plain clothes will be deployed in the university as well as outside the premises of each college.

## World's largest diya kindles hope of global peace, unity

*Over 10,000 citizens contributed 3,000 litres of oil for the event that concluded with a world record*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mohali (Punjab), Oct 23:** To send out a message of global peace, world's largest oil lamp was lit in Punjab's Mohali, the organisers of the event claimed. Manufactured with around 1,000 kilogram steel, the world's largest diya measuring 3.37 metres in diameter was lit here Saturday evening by chief guest of the event Lt Gen KJ Singh (retd), former general officer commanding-in-chief of Army's Western Command, to spread the message of world peace, unity, secularism, and humanism. Over 10,000 citizens including

4,000 residents of 'Hero Homes', representing the diverse fabric and diversity of Indian society, pooled in 3,129 litres of organic and diya-appropriate oils to create this unique symbol of peace.

Hero Homes, which had organised the event at its premises, is a residential unit of Hero Realty Private Limited, the real estate arm of Hero Enterprise.

Themed around the festival of peace, the huge diya was lit in the presence of official adjudicators of the Guinness Book of World Record, who were present at the society of Hero Homes at Mohali to record this feat, said Ashish Kaul, CMO, Hero Realty.

He said that as per the Guinness Book of Records, this diya has been lit with 3,000 litres of cooking oil and qualifies as the world's largest oil lamp ever lit. Lt Gen Singh said, this is an unconventional event combining the dual intent of celebrating Diwali as per tradition and one that



also manages to spread an important social message. He said it is befitting that Punjab which has in the past seen strife is now the location of the biggest icon of peace. Lt Gen Singh further said, if you look at diya, it is a medium to spread light, awareness, knowledge and knowledge related to

peace. Ashish Kaul, CMO, Hero Realty, the person behind the idea of world's largest oil lamp, said, "I have my roots in Kashmir. For last 32-33 years, I have been looking for peaceful way to return home. That is my journey, that is a journey of every individual who wants dignity and dignity cannot

be restored unless you have peace." "So, for me as a person, it has always been a quest for peace and when I thought Diwali was around the corner, what better occasion to send out a message of peace than this. We have seen so much bloodshed in Kashmir, we see war in Ukraine, so I thought that true message of Diwali was celebration of peace and it is the biggest festival of peace. So, this humble diya is biggest source of inspiration for global peace." "I thought I must have biggest symbol of peace in the world from the land of Punjab, from this country for the whole world to know that if at all there is something which we need first and foremost, it is peace, which makes everything else meaningful," said Kaul. He said, "The oil in the diya, collected from various individuals irrespective of regions, languages, religions and other cultural creeds, represents the united resolve for peace and spirit of Indians."

## ₹1 lakh to panchayats for not burning stubble: Pb Speaker

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, Oct 23:** Punjab Assembly Speaker Kulraj Singh Sandhwan Sunday announced to give Rs one lakh each to the village panchayats of his constituency, who do not burn paddy stubble. This amount will be given from his discretionary quota. Sandhwan said the burning of stubble has a harmful impact on the environment along with the loss of fertility of the land.



According to principles of Gurbani, the people love nature the most. As the people become aware about the harmful effects of stubble burning, they are abandoning this trend. He added that the day is not far when the people of the state will completely abandon the trend of burning the stubble. The Speaker has not only continuously made people aware about

the harmful impact of stubble burning, but has also felicitated people who did not burn the stubble. Last week, he felicitated farmers of different districts during a ceremony at the state Assembly. In the ceremony, 18 farmers from Faridkot district, 13 from Moga, 10 from Sangrur, 1 from Ropar, 10 from Gurdaspur and seven from Ludhiana and Barnala each were felicitated.



of the day quote

The media is wasting time in discussing non-issues like Mehbooba Mufti vacating the house. Ideally, they should focus on real issues and problems faced by people (of Jammu and Kashmir) but they are not doing that

The only thing I have said to the doctor is that please make a promise to me that you will not go on strike. If you have displeasure, have demands from the government, then tie a black ribbon

Here, we have decided that lottery and alcohol is enough for our development. What a shameful situation for a state which has 100 per cent literacy, I, as the head of the state, feel ashamed that the two main sources of revenue of my state are lottery and alcohol. What is a lottery? Has any one of you sitting here ever bought a lottery ticket. Only very poor people buy lottery tickets. You are robbing them. You are making your people addicted to alcohol

SHORT TAKES

Two charred

Vijayawada: Two persons were burnt to death in a fire that broke out in a firecracker shop in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh Sunday. The incident occurred around 7 a.m. when traders were setting up firecracker shops at Gymkhana Grounds in Gandhi Nagar area in the city. Three out of 19 shops were completely gutted in the fire, which set off huge explosions sending panic among people in the area. Another shop was partially burnt. According to police, four fire engines immediately rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

Man killed in blast

Chennai: A man was killed when the car he was driving exploded near Eswaran temple in Coimbatore's Ukkadam on Sunday morning. Ukkadam is a communally sensitive area of Coimbatore and police have commenced investigation into finding the identity of the deceased person. Police said that on preliminary investigation it was found that a gas cylinder in the car had exploded leading to the vehicle breaking into two. The car had two gas cylinders, and one of them exploded.

Constable ends life

Botad (Saurashtra): A woman constable serving at the police headquarters in Botad district of Gujarat, committed suicide by hanging herself on Saturday evening. Botad town police have registered a case of accidental death and initiated investigation. Botad town police station officer said that Saturday evening, Constable Alkaben Jidiya had hanged herself at her residence in Hanuman Puri area. After carrying out police procedure, her body was sent for postmortem. She is a native of Bodi Pipardi village of the Botad district.

Girl kills self

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh): A 16-year-old girl ended her life by hanging after her mother scolded her for constantly chatting on her mobile phone. The girl, identified as Deeksha, was found hanging in a room at her residence in the Gangapur colony area. Station House Officer (SHO) Yogesh Kumar Singh said the body has been sent for post-mortem and further action would be taken based on the post-mortem report.

Rape victim seeks Prez nod for euthanasia

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 23: A woman, who was allegedly raped by her own step son for months and also her husband's friends, has written a letter to President Droupadi Murmu seeking permission for 'death by euthanasia.'

The 30-year-old woman has written that she has lost all hope for justice. She said in her letter that the police deliberately did not arrest any of the accused despite an FIR on October 9 at Puranpur Kotwali police station even after court orders. She added that she has been getting frequent death threats from them, asking her to stay quiet about her abuse.

"I have struggled enough and don't think I will get any justice. So, I want to end my life with your (President's) permission," she wrote in the letter. According to the woman, she had married a 55-year-old farmer from Chandigarh, also



a divorcee, the second time after her divorce three years ago.

She alleged that her step son approached her in April for an illicit relationship and she has been sexually assaulted, repeatedly, ever since. The step son threatened her with 'consequences' which initially forced her to remain quiet.

She further claimed that when she became pregnant and was mercilessly hit in her stomach when she wanted to go for a DNA test. Later, she was forced for an abortion at a private hospital in Puranpur. The victim further stated that on July 18, she was taken to a farmhouse of her husband's friend where

The RSS is raising issues related to religious conversion and the population policy to divert people's attention from the failures of the BJP government at the Centre



SAUDI CROWN PRINCE TO VISIT INDIA

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, is expected to visit India next month, according to reports. The Saudi Crown Prince is likely to visit the country on November 14 while on his way to the G20 summit in Bali (Indonesia)



AAP seeks action against Sambit



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Aam Aadmi Party Sunday demanded the removal of BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra as ITDC chairman for allegedly violating Central Civil Services (Conduct) rules and misusing the post for party work.

In a letter to Union Tourism minister G Kishan Reddy, senior AAP leader Atishi alleged that despite being the chairman of the India Tourism Development Corporation, Patra continued to campaign for the BJP which is a "blatant violation of CCS (Conduct) Rules"

Atishi's letter comes days after the Delhi government's planning department issued a showcause notice to Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi Vice-Chairperson Jasmine Shah over charges of "misusing public office" by acting as the "official spokesperson" of the AAP.

The action came following a complaint by BJP leader and West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma. The AAP had termed the notice "yet another attack on the Delhi government due to its rising graph in Gujarat".

"I have written a letter to the Union Tourism minister and the Central Vigilance Commission, demanding the removal of Sambit Patra from the ITDC's chairman's post. Despite remaining ITDC chairman and holding public office, Patra did not demit the post of BJP National Spokesperson," the AAP MLA said during a media briefing. "He uploaded several

In a letter to Union Tourism minister G Kishan Reddy, senior AAP leader Atishi alleged that despite being the chairman of the India Tourism Development Corporation, Patra continued to campaign for the BJP which is a "blatant violation of CCS (Conduct) Rules"

political videos on social media which were shot in his office which is a textbook example of misuse of public office," she claimed.

On November 30 last year, Patra was appointed as the ITDC chairman, which comes under the Tourism ministry. "The moment he gets appointed as ITDC chairman, he fulfills the legal conditions of being a 'public servant'. A 'public servant' is clearly defined in the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Corruption Act, Central Civil Services Conduct Rules," she said. She cited Section 1 of Rule 5 that says that "no government servant shall be a member of, or be otherwise associated with, any political party or any organisation which takes part in politics nor shall he take part in, subscribe in aid of, or assist in any other manner, any political movement or activity"

Pawar to participate in Bharat Jodo Yatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baramati, Oct 23: NCP president Sharad Pawar Sunday said he will participate in the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra when it enters Maharashtra as an attempt is being made through it to bring harmony in society.

Pawar said state Congress leaders Ashok Chavan and Balasaheb Thorat had met him and extended an invitation to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, a mass outreach programme, when it enters the state on November 7.

The Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to cover a distance of 3,570 km in 150 days. It started on September 7 from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and will conclude in Jammu and Kashmir. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the yatra, has so far covered four states - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Pawar said, "The yatra is a Congress party programme. But through this initiative, an attempt is being made to bring harmony in the society. So some of us from different parties will join the yatra wherever possible when it is in the state."

To another question, Pawar scoffed at politics being done over the elections of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "One should not bring politics into some fields. Those who do it are ignorant. When I was the BCCI president, Gujarat's representative was (present prime minister) Narendra Modi, Arun Jaitley represented Delhi while Anurag Thakur represented Himachal Pradesh. Our job is to provide facilities to players. We don't bother about other issues," the NCP chief said.

On former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's tour of Aurangabad district on Sunday, Pawar said, "It is good he is travelling to meet farmers. His health has improved... Why have doubts? He should put the demands of farmers before the state and central governments. If the farmers benefit, it is good."



Athletes participate in an open-air wrestling competition in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

Congress banks on Virbhadr's legacy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: Riding on the anti-incumbency factor and raising issues like price rise and unemployment, the Congress in Himachal Pradesh is banking on the legacy of Virbhadr Singh to stage a comeback in the hill state.

The grand old party is, however, faced with internal rumbblings and defections of some of its old timers in the recent past that may affect its performance at the hustings. Though the party has fielded some young leaders, including former chief minister Virbhadr Singh's son Vikramaditya and ex-minister B D Bali's son Raghubir Bali, it failed to field some of its Youth Congress leaders in the November 12 assembly polls.

Besides, the presence of a tall leader like Virbhadr Singh, who has steered the party to many a victory, is missing this time, even though the party is banking on his legacy as his wife Pratibha Singh



is leading the charge currently.

The party has also made a host of promises to woo the voters in the state. These include restoration of old pension scheme, 300 units of free power, payment of Rs 1,500 to women and government jobs to all those working on outsourced employment, which are catching the attention of voters so far. Himachal has seen alternate governments of the BJP and the Congress for many decades now and that is what the Congress has pinned its hopes on.

Cong MP in soup over remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 23: The Congress Sunday issued show cause notice to its Telangana MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for his recent utterances.

Congress General Secretary Tariq Anwar issued the notice to the MP from Bhongir a day after video clip went viral in which he is heard predicting that the Congress will lose the by-election to the Munugode Assembly seat.

Venkat Reddy, who is the star campaigner of the Congress, went on to predict that his brother and BJP candidate Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy will win the November 3 bypoll.

The party leadership has asked the MP why no action should be taken against him under the party constitution for indiscipline. He has been asked to submit a reply within 10 days.

His statements caused huge embarrassment to the Congress a day before the entry of party leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in the state. Hours after the Yatra entered Telangana and Rahul Gandhi left for New



Venkat Reddy, who is the star campaigner of the Congress, went on to predict that his brother and BJP candidate Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy will win the November 3 bypoll

The party leadership has asked the MP why no action should be taken against him under the party constitution for indiscipline

Delhi for three-day break, the central leadership issued the notice.

A video of Venkat Reddy's interaction with some people went viral on social media on Saturday even as the party leaders were engaged in hectic campaigning in Munugode. Earlier, an audio clip of Venkat Reddy went viral in which he is heard urging local Congress

leaders to support his brother.

Venkat Reddy's brother Rajagopal Reddy had resigned as MLA and also quit the Congress to join the BJP, which fielded him as its candidate in the by-election. There have been speculations in recent weeks that Venkat Reddy will also follow his brother and switch loyalties to the BJP.



RSS dousing fire

Days after RSS's number two Dattatreya Hosabale caused a flutter by painting a grim picture of the Indian economy, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat heaped praises on

the Modi government. If Hosabale said that poverty stands like a demon before us and 20 crore people in India are below poverty line, Mohan Bhagwat doused the fire claiming that the economy was returning to pre-Covid levels. Those tracking the RSS-BJP relationship were shocked as Hosabale is considered close to the Prime Minister. Hosabale's comments caused ripples in the Parivar. However, four days later, Bhagwat sought to give a clean chit to the government on the job crisis at a Dussehra rally in Nagpur. He said the Centre alone can't solve the problem and the society must come forward to create opportunities and become self-reliant.

BJP gunning for Kejri not Congress!

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently dined with an autodriver at the latter's home in Ahmedabad after receiving an invitation during an election rally. Kejriwal had done the same in Ludhiana while campaigning for the Punjab assembly elections and successfully sold the Delhi Model. Kejriwal is doing the same in Gujarat where Assembly polls are due later this year. The Congress has reasons to be worried as Kejriwal walked away with its vote bank in Delhi and Punjab and dealt a body blow to the BJP too. The Congress continues to be dormant in Gujarat as the party's entire

machinery is busy either with Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra or organizational elections. But the BJP is not taking any chances neither in Gujarat nor in Himachal Pradesh. It has realized that AAP is a greater danger compared to the Congress. The BJP is wooing AAP workers and leaders in every district and town to dump Kejriwal and has an open door policy.

CCI, Prasar Bharti to get new chiefs

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Prasar Bharti may get new chiefs soon as the government has fast-tracked the procedures. If reports emanating from North Block are any

indication, both will get new heads this month end. It is learnt that nearly five dozen candidates were short-listed for interviews for CCI chairman's post. The process will be completed within the next ten days. The term of the incumbent Chairperson Ashok Kumar Gupta, a retired IAS officer of the 1981 batch, is ending October 25, 2022. Prasar Bharti may also get a regular CEO as Shashi Shekhar Vempati retired in June. The selection committee meeting was held this week and an IAS officer may be inducted soon as CEO.

All eyes on ED

All eyes are set on the Enforcement Directorate whether

its director Sanjay Mishra gets further extension. He is due to retire in November this year and has served four years. The government's decision was challenged in the Supreme Court which is pending. In the meanwhile, the government amended the law enabling it to extend the tenure of Directors of ED and CBI chiefs up to five years. There are reports that Mishra's tenure may be extended for another year under the amended law. The government had amended the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act and Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act to empower itself to extend the tenure of Directors of the CBI and ED for five years.



# international



Let's not bother with those who shoot at Hungary from the shadows or from the heights of Brussels. They will end up where their predecessors did  
VIKTOR ORBAN | HUNGARIAN PM

## RUSHDIE LOST SIGHT IN AN EYE

Salman Rushdie has lost his sight in one eye and the use of one hand after the attack he suffered while preparing to deliver a lecture in the US' New York state two months ago, his agent has confirmed, the media reported



### of the day quote

Three days ago, we received a message from the US, and told them that the (International Atomic Energy) Agency (IAEA)'s accusations against Iran's nuclear programme should be resolved before any agreement  
HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The 20th Congress of the CPC offered a significant landmark for the Chinese party and people in propelling the historic process of the Chinese nation's great prosperity under the banner of the socialist idea with the Chinese characteristics in the new era  
KIM JONG UN | NORTH KOREA'S LEADER

I'm very confident about the progress we are making. I say to you that I'm in this to win it (UK PM post)  
PENNY MORDAUNT | UK PM CANDIDATE

# Xi - A princeling turned China's Mao 2.0

AGENCIES

Beijing, Oct 23: A decade ago when the powerful covert factions of China's ruling Communist Party chose Xi Jinping as a compromise candidate to lead the party in ending a bitter power struggle, few had an inkling that the suave and sedate "princeling" will cast himself on the mould of party founder Mao Zedong and bulldoze his way to become the leader for life.

his predecessors handing over the reins to Xi, known as the "princeling" for being the son of the former influential Vice Premier of Mao era Xi Zhongxun.

Li, once Xi's rival, who became the number two ranked leader with the post of Premier in the ensuing months fell in line and endorsed Xi as the core leader, which made him the sole leader in terms of governing the party and the country.

Jinping secured a precedent-breaking third leadership term Sunday and introduced a top governing body stacked with loyalists, cementing his place as the country's most powerful ruler since Mao Zedong

At the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in November 2012 to choose a successor to then-President Hu Jintao, it was a toss between Xi, the then Vice President, and urbane and intellectual Vice Premier Li Keqiang.

Xi won the race following which Hu, who pitched for Li, made a quiet exit complying with the steadfastly adhered rule followed by all

Ten years on the old norm but the CPC which concluded Saturday, it was 69-year-old Xi's turn to hand over the reins to a successor as per the old norm but the CPC

turned the page on its leadership transition to permit his continuation for a record third term and thereafter.

Xi's ascent to power and the quick consolidation of his leadership of the party with a shock anti-graft campaign securing the title



A combination picture shows Chinese leaders Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, and Li Xi attending the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. China's ruling Communist Party unveiled its new seven-member Politburo Standing Committee October 23, 2022

of the "core leader" of the party bequeathed only to Mao has indeed forced his rivals in the party to submission and caught the attention of the world.

From day one after assuming power, Xi had launched a ruthless campaign against corruption, which besides striking a chord with people helped him systematically weed

out political opponents, especially top Generals who posed a challenge to him. "If there were only one lens through which to interpret Xi Jinping's remarkable rise over the past decade, then it would have to be his signature anti-corruption drive," said Wang Xiangwei, former editor-in-chief of the Hong Kong-based South China Morning

■ XI LAID THE GROUNDWORK TO RULE BEYOND A DECADE WHEN HE ELIMINATED THE TWO-TERM LIMIT ON THE PRESIDENCY IN 2018

■ SHANGHAI PARTY BOSS LI QIANG SEEN AS LIKELY NEXT PREMIER

■ LOYALISTS TAKE KEY POSITIONS, NO CLEAR SUCCESSOR TO XI

Post. Since he came to power in late 2012, Xi and his supporters have deftly combined this ruthless effort with a relentless ideological campaign aimed at consolidating power by crushing political rivals and strengthening control over all levels of society, Wang wrote in his recent column in the Post.

"Xi has over the past decade investigated and disciplined nearly five million high-ranking and grassroots officials, or tigers and flies," Wang said.

According to Xinhua, more than 400 officials at the ministerial level or above have been punished or investigated over the past nine years, including a former member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and two former vice chairmen of the Central Military Commission.

## Pak seeks \$6.3bn China debt rollover

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Oct 23: Pakistan has requested China to rollover its \$6.3 billion debt that is maturing in next eight months as part of its overall plan to arrange \$34 billion in the current fiscal year to meet its debt and external trade-related obligations, local media reported.

Another proposal was also under consideration to seek a fresh Chinese loan to repay the maturing bilateral debt during the fiscal year 2022-23, ending on June 30, *The Express Tribune* reported.

The issue of rollover and refinancing of nearly \$6.3 billion commercial loans and the central bank debt was discussed in a meeting between Chinese Ambassador to



## Pakistan has already obtained \$2.2 billion loans during July-September quarter while Saudi Arabia has also announced to rollover \$3 billion debt maturing in December this year

Pakistan Nong Rong and Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The \$3.3 billion Chinese commercial loans and three \$3 billion worth SAFE deposits loans were maturing from now till June next year, according to the Ministry of Finance officials, *The Express Tribune* reported.

For the current fiscal year, the International Monetary Fund and the Ministry of Finance have estimated Pakistan's gross external financing requirements in the range of \$32 billion to \$34 billion, excluding the impact of the recent devastating floods.

Pakistan has already obtained \$2.2 billion loans during July-September quarter while Saudi Arabia has also announced to rollover \$3 billion debt maturing in December this year. The country still needs to arrange \$29 billion and it is looking for minimum \$6.3 billion to \$7.2 billion rollovers from China in addition to any fresh lending.

## Hackers breach Iran's atomic energy agency

REUTERS

Dubai, Oct 23: Iran's atomic energy organization said that an e-mail server belonging to one of its subsidiaries had been hacked from a foreign country and information published online, state media reported Sunday.

An Iranian hacking group, Black Reward, said in a statement published on Twitter that it had released hacked information relating to Iranian nuclear activities, declaring the action an act of support for protesters in Iran.

Their statement, published on Saturday, ended with the words "In the name of Mahsa Amini and for women, life, freedom" - a show of support for protests ignited by her death in the custody of morality police last month.

Black Reward said the information released included "management and operational schedules of different parts of Bushehr power plant", passports and visas of Iranian and Russian specialists working there, and "atomic development contracts and agreements with domestic and foreign partners".



The atomic energy organisation's general department of public diplomacy and information played down the significance of the released information, saying "this move was made with the aim of attracting public attention".

Black Reward, in a statement published October 21, had threatened to release hacked information in 24 hours unless the authorities released political prisoners and people arrested during the unrest.



Demonstrators rally at the National Mall to protest against the Iranian regime in Washington following the death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of the Islamic republic's notorious "morality police"

## Russia hits Ukrainian homes

AGENCIES

Mykolaiv, Ukraine, Oct 23: Under pressure in the south of Ukraine, Russia fired missiles and drones into Ukrainian-held Mykolaiv Sunday, destroying an apartment block in the ship-building city near the front and warning the war was trending toward "uncontrolled escalation".

Mykolaiv lies roughly 35 km (22 miles) northwest of the front line to occupied Kherson, the southern region that is the target of a major offensive by Ukrainian forces to retake territory Russia captured soon after the February 24 invasion.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who Russian nationalists



have blamed for Moscow's setbacks in the war, discussed the "rapidly deteriorating situation" in calls with his French and Turkish counterparts, the ministry said.

In one conventional Russian attack Sunday, a missile strike wiped out the top floor of an apartment block in Mykolaiv, propelling shrapnel and debris across a plaza and into neighbouring buildings where windows buckled and walls cracked.

■ Russian minister says Ukraine may use 'dirty bomb'

■ Missile smashes into Mykolaiv apartment block

■ Ukrainian forces on offensive in Kherson region

■ Kherson is gateway to Russian-annexed Crimea

■ Russia's military leadership has withdrawn its officers in the city of Kherson

Cars were crushed under the rubble, Reuters witnessed. No fatalities were reported. Ukraine shot down 14 Russian "kamikaze" drones over Mykolaiv overnight, regional governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram.

## I am standing to be UK PM: Sunak

AGENCIES

London, Oct 23: Even before declaring Sunday, Sunak had received more support from Conservative lawmakers than his rivals - former defence minister Penny Mordaunt and Johnson, who is attempting a comeback.

Sunak quit Johnson's government in July, helping trigger a rebellion that bought him down.

"There will be integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level of the government I lead and I will work day in and day out to get the job done," he said in a statement.

Indian-origin former chancellor Rishi Sunak Sunday formally declared his candidacy to contest the Conservative Party leadership election to replace Liz Truss as British Prime Minister and fix the economy

The much-anticipated declaration came following reports of so-called power-sharing talks between Sunak and Johnson, which supporters say sought to find common ground within a deeply divided Tory party. Candidates have until 2pm local time Monday to be included on the ballot paper, with successful candidates requiring the support of at least 100 Conservative MPs.

If any one candidate crosses the 156-MPs mark before then, the short-list would automatically shorten to two candidates given the Tory House of Commons tally of 357 MPs. If there is a three-way clash, MPs will hold an indicative ballot



■ FIRST BALLOT TO BE HELD MONDAY

■ JOHNSON'S BACKERS SAY HE CAN GET ON THE BALLOT

■ SUNAK CLEARLY LEADING AMONG LAWMAKERS

Monday to put forward the final two shortlisted candidates for an expedited online vote by around 170,000 Tory members, with the new leader elected by next Friday.

In case the party can internally unite behind one candidate, then the new leader and Prime Minister could be in place by Monday evening.

A number of Tory ministers, including former leadership contenders Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch and Security Minister Tom Tugendhat - who had backed Truss in the last race, have come out in support of Sunak.

It is reflective of the overwhelming support he received from his colleagues back in July, soon after Boris Johnson resigned in the wake of the Covid-19 lockdown law-breaking partygate scandal.

# TB passes Covid as biggest killer: Expert

Following gargantuan global efforts against Covid-19, tuberculosis is once again the world's biggest infectious killer, a top expert has told AFP, lamenting the lack of focus on rooting out TB. Mel Spiegelman, president of the non-profit TB Alliance, hailed the swift and dramatic progress to rein in the Covid pandemic, with a vast array of safe and effective vaccines, tests and treatments developed in the space of two years.

In fact, the pandemic had a devastating impact on efforts to battle tuberculosis, with TB hospitals taken over for Covid care, and lockdowns preventing patients from coming in for diagnosis and care. As a result, the number of annual TB deaths swelled for the first time

Tuberculosis, once called consumption, was the world's biggest infectious killer before the arrival of Covid-19, with 1.5 million people dying from the disease each year

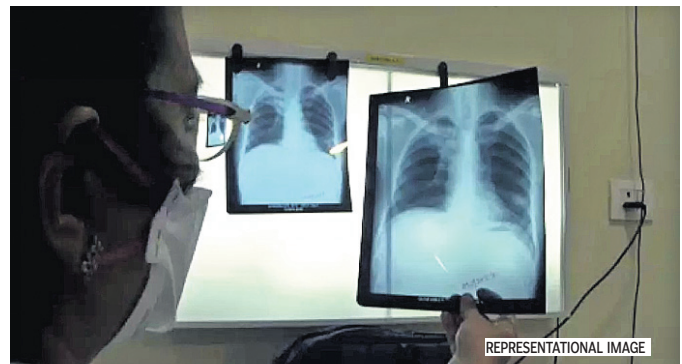
in a decade in 2020. While billions of dollars were being thrown at the Covid fight, global economic woes and swelling geopolitical tensions prompted top donors towards the TB battle to tighten their purse-

The TB Alliance, a non-profit working to develop and deliver faster-acting and affordable drugs against the disease, especially in poorer countries, points out that based on the annual death rate, TB kills 4,109 people a day

strings. Most of the TB Alliance donors suddenly could not commit more than a year of funding at a time and slashed the amounts given, with traditional top donor

Britain providing no funding at all this year.

Around five percent of the 9.5 million people who contract TB each year are resistant to commonly-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



## of the day quote

We are heading into a truncated festival week where bulls have reason to celebrate Diwali on a higher note as the US market witnessed a sharp rebound in Friday's trading session

**SANTOSH MEENA**  
HEAD OF RESEARCH, SWASTIKA INVESTMART

We will approach the end of the year with global headwinds potentially likely to impact demand momentum as occupiers pause to watch for macroeconomic signals before embarking on future real estate growth plans

**SAMANTAK DAS** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, JLL INDIA

Our plants have achieved higher capacity utilization and we have many revolutionary products in the pipeline

**VIMAL ALAWADHI** | MD, BEST AGROLIFE

## SHORT TAKES

### IGL net rises 4%

**New Delhi:** Indraprastha Gas Ltd, which retails CNG and piped cooking gas in the national capital and adjoining cities, reported a 4 per cent rise in its September quarter net profit as rise in input natural gas prices hurt margins. The net profit stood at ₹416.15 crore in July-September compared with ₹400.54 crore in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement. Revenue almost doubled to ₹3,922.02 crore in the second quarter of fiscal year starting April 1 against ₹2,015.99 crore revenue in the year ago period. Gas prices have doubled since Russia invaded Ukraine.

### Cashew exports plunge deeper

**New Delhi:** Contracting for the last eleven months, the country's cashew exports contracted by 38 per cent to \$22.71 million in September succumbing to intense competition in the international markets. The exports have been declining since November last year, according to the data of the commerce ministry. The data showed that the exports dipped by 34 per cent in April, about 30 per cent in May, about 6 per cent in June, 26.62 per cent in July and 31.5 per cent in August.

### Samsung profit falls 5 per cent

**New Delhi:** Samsung India Electronics' profit after tax for FY22 fell 4.86 per cent to ₹3,844.40 crore, while its revenue from operations went up 8.65 per cent to ₹82,451.60 crore, said data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler. The electronic major had reported a PAT (profit after tax) of ₹4,040.80 crore and its revenue from operations was at ₹75,886.30 crore for the financial year that ended March 31, 2021. Samsung India's EBITDA (Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) was almost flat at ₹7,081.80 crore in the latest FY22 as against ₹7,093.40 crore.

### Borosil Renewables acquires Interfloat

**New Delhi:** India's first solar glass manufacturer Borosil Renewables Ltd has acquired 86 per cent stake in Europe's largest solar glass manufacturer Interfloat Group for an undisclosed sum of money. "With its acquisition of the Interfloat Group, BRL's solar glass manufacturing capacity will grow to 750 tonne per day from the current 450 TPD, an increase of 66 per cent," the company said in a statement.

## Eight of top-ten firms add ₹2trn in mkt valuation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Eight of the 10 most valued firms together added Rs 2,03,335.28 crore in market valuation last week amid an overall positive trend in equities, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer.

Last week, the BSE Sensex climbed 1,387.18 points or 2.39 per cent.

Barring HDFC Bank and Bajaj Finance, rest eight firms in the top-10 pack witnessed addition in their market valuation.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of index heavyweight Reliance Industries jumped Rs 68,296.41 crore to stand at Rs 16,72,365.60 crore. State Bank of India (SBI) added Rs 30,120.57 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 5,00,492.23 crore.



ICIICI Bank's market valuation climbed Rs 25,946.89 crore to Rs 6,32,264.39 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) advanced Rs 18,608.76 crore to Rs 6,23,828.23 crore. Bharti Airtel's valuation grew by Rs 17,385.1 crore to stand at Rs 4,43,612.09 crore.

The market valuation of ITC jumped Rs 16,739.62 crore to Rs 4,28,453.62 crore and that of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) spurred Rs 15,276.54 crore to Rs 11,48,722.59 crore. The mcap of Infosys soared Rs 10,961.39 crore to Rs 6,31,216.21 crore.

However, the valuation of Bajaj Finance plunged Rs 4,878.68 crore to Rs 4,35,416.70 crore and that of HDFC Bank declined Rs 1,503.89 crore to reach Rs 8,01,182.91 crore.

Reliance Industries continued to rule the top-10 most valued firms chart, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICIICI Bank, Infosys, HUL, SBI, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance and ITC.

## India smartphone shipments plunge 6% in Q3, Xiaomi leads

**5G DEVICES ARE ALSO GAINING POPULARITY, SUPPORTING OVERALL DEVICE ASP GROWTH AND SALES REVENUE**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** India saw 44.6 million smartphone shipments in the third quarter this year, a 6 per cent decline from the previous year dragged by a lacklustre low-end segment.

According to a report by market research firm Canalys, Xiaomi held onto the first place with 9.2 million units as the brand gained traction from July's online sales ahead of the festival season.

Samsung came second with 8.1 million shipments and saw strong momentum in the mid-high-end category owing to aggressive offers and promotions.

Vivo and OPPO jumped to third and fourth place, shipping 7.3 million and 7.1 million units respectively, while realme dropped to fifth, shipping 6.2 million.

"Hit by inflation, entry-level device contribution declined this year, while the mid-to-high segment performed relatively well thanks to aggressive promotions. OPPO's OnePlus and Vivo's iQOO were the two brands driving mid-

## DESPITE BAN CALLS

# Chinese LED lights swarm Indian homes this Diwali

Chinese-made Diwali-related goods were delivered in huge quantities to India this year, the demand was super strong despite the pandemic and looming inflation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** As millions of Indians gear up to celebrate Diwali on Monday, Chinese suppliers have delivered record products, from LED light decors to stickers, amid the lingering voices in the country to decouple with China over supply chain and push for local manufacturing, according to Chinese state-run publication Global Times.

Traders in China rushed to catch up for their last shipments and the orders remained strong, the re-

## FREE HAND TO NEW PROMOTERS

# No govt, LIC veto post IDBI Bank privatisation

The government is expecting to get the financial bids for IDBI Bank by March and complete the process of privatisation in the first half of next fiscal beginning April 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** The government and state-owned insurer LIC, who will continue to hold significant shareholding in IDBI Bank post its privatisation, will not veto any proposals of the new owner as part of their plan to give the incoming promoters a free hand, a senior official said.

The government earlier this month invited bids for the sale of 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, which is 45.48 per cent owned by the government and 49.24 per cent by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

At Friday's closing price of Rs 44.30, IDBI Bank is valued at Rs 47,633 crore but the government is looking for at least 30 per cent markup in the sale. At the current price, sale of 61 per cent stake would fetch about Rs 29,000 crore to the government.

The official said post-privatisation, the government and LIC shareholding will come down to 34 per cent but they do not intend to move in tandem to block any special resolution proposed by the new promoter. This is with a view to assuaging the concerns of investors.

"There should not be any such concern. If we are selling a 60.72 per cent stake and transferring management control, it should be clear to investors that we are not interested in controlling the institution and hence will not oppose any resolution," the official said.

"We will give an assurance on this at the RFP or financial bids



It (demonetisation) contributed to the buoyancy in taxes the country is benefitting from today. This helps us move towards the ideal of low tax rates on a large base

ASHIMA GOYAL | MPC MEMBER, RBI



## THE BIG BANK SALE

Government, together with LIC, Oct 7 offered to sell 60.72% stake in IDBI and has invited preliminary bids from potential buyers by Dec 16

LIC and government hold 49.24% and 45.48% stake respectively. The remaining 5.28% shareholding is with the public

Of this, the government will sell 30.48% and LIC 30.24% stake, aggregating to 60.72% of the equity share capital of IDBI

In addition, the buyer will have to make an open offer to the minority shareholders of IDBI Bank for buying 5.28% stake

stage to the qualified bidders for IDBI Bank," the official told PTI.

There have been concerns in some quarters that the government and LIC holding 34 per cent stake in IDBI Bank after its privatisation may act as a deterrent for bidders as a shareholder or a

group of shareholders together holding 25 per cent or more of the shares can effectively oppose a special resolution.

Allaying such a concern, the official said "if that was the intent, then we would not have gone ahead with selling about 61 per cent stake. We could have sold less. The government and LIC would not act together in opposing any resolution and we will clarify that in writing in the share purchase pact."

Decisions like share buyback, loans and investments by company, removal of auditor before time and reduction in share capital require to be approved by a special resolution, with at least 75 per cent of shareholders voting in favour.

While inviting the expression of interest (EOI), the government already clarified that if the successful bidder intends to amalgamate IDBI Bank with itself or if the same is required by RBI, the Centre and LIC will vote in favour of any such merger/ amalgamation at the board and/or shareholders' meetings of IDBI Bank.

## CLEAN CHIT TO TREE HOUSE EDUCATION

After a six-year long forensic audit, Sebi has given a clean chit to Tree House Education & Accessories Ltd, its promoters and other officials in a case related to alleged misstatements of the company's financials



## STRENGTHENING DOLLAR

# FPIs sell equities worth ₹6K-crore in Oct so far

WITH THIS, THE TOTAL OUTFLOW BY FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS HAS REACHED ₹1.75 LAKH CRORE SO FAR IN 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Foreign investors have pulled out close to Rs 6,000 crore from the Indian equity markets so far this month in the wake of strength in the US dollar against the rupee.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) has reached Rs 1.75 lakh crore so far in 2022, data with the depositories showed.

Going forward, FPIs' flow is expected to remain volatile in the coming months due to ongoing geopolitical risk, elevated inflation, expectation of rising treasury yields, etc. Shrikant Chouhan, Head-Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities, said.

"FPIs are unlikely to sell heavily in the near term. But they will turn sustained buyers only when the dollar starts declining. This, in turn, will depend on the trajectory of US inflation and the Fed's monetary stance," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to the data, FPIs withdrew Rs 5,982 crore from equities in October (till 21). However, during the last few days FPIs had slowed down their selling substantially.

A major trend in the market is that sustained buying by domestic institutional investors (DIIs) and retail investors has been overwhelming FPI selling.

The withdrawal so far this month came following an outflow of over Rs 7,600 crore in September on hawkish stance by the US Federal Reserve and sharp depreciation in rupee.

Prior to this, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 51,200 crore in August and nearly Rs 5,000 crore in July. Before July, foreign investors were net sellers in Indian equities for nine months in a row which started in October last year.

The rupee sharply depreciated last week as it touched an all time low of Rs 83 against the dollar.

The flows from FPIs have been inconsistent over the last few months as they kept on changing their stance frequently tracking the fast-changing investment scenario. The broader sentiment has been uncondusive although there have been some intermittent breathers.

In terms of sectors, FPIs have been sellers in financials, FMCG and IT in October.

In addition to equities, foreign investors have pulled out Rs 1,950 crore from the debt market during the period under review. Apart from India, FPI flows were negative for Thailand and Taiwan so far this month.

## Two Russian banks open spl vostro account

The move to open the special vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Two Russian banks have opened a special vostro account following permission from the Reserve Bank of India to facilitate overseas trade in rupee.

Sberbank and VTB Bank - the largest and second largest banks of Russia - are the first foreign lenders to receive this approval after the RBI announced the guidelines on overseas trade in rupee in July.

These banks have opened special vostro account in their respective branches in Delhi, sources said.

Last month, state-owned UCO Bank received the RBI's approval to open a special vostro account with Gazprombank of Russia.

The Kolkata-based lender, among the first banks to receive the regulator's approval following the RBI's decision to promote rupee settlement, opened the account during this month.



The RBI has allowed the special vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularise the new arrangement.

According to reports, Gazprombank is only facing sectoral sanctions, and is not under the

Specially Designated Nationals, or SDN, sanctions. Gazprombank, or GPB, is a privately-owned Russian lender and the third largest bank in the country by assets.

UCO Bank already has a vostro account-based facility with Iran. Last month, the RBI and the finance ministry had asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push export and import transactions in rupee.

They wanted the banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the US dollar.

## POST EXPORT CURBS

# Wheat exports see miniscule rise of 10% YoY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** India's wheat exports have seen a miniscule rise of 10 per cent during this calendar year over last year after the government imposed a ban on shipments of the grain to other countries five months back to curb domestic prices.

According to Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs data, the country exported 24.08 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of wheat between May 15 and September 30. This was



10.3 per cent more than 21.83 LMT of wheat which was exported between April 1, 2021 and May 14, 2021.

In May this year, India had restricted export of wheat to enhance domestic availability. In September, it had also banned export of broken rice and imposed a 20 per cent

export duty on non-Basmati rice to increase domestic supplies amid a fall in area under paddy crop in the current kharif season.

Food security concerns had led to imposition of curbs on exports of wheat, official sources had said.

Recently, India had also justified its decision to ban export of wheat and rice at a WTO meeting, despite many countries raising concerns that New Delhi's decision could have an adverse impact on importing nations, mainly in Africa.



In H1 of 2022, China exported a total of \$710 million-worth of LED light-related products to India, an increase of 27.3% YoY

Spending during the festival season this year can hit \$32 billion as Indian households prepare for a restriction-free Diwali

ket", in Zhejiang, said this year's order placement period lasted longer than usual and tens of thousands of the festive goods have been delivered so far.

"Our products are not only consistent in terms of quality, but we also offer reasonable market prices

and timely delivery, and we are flexible about the methods of payment, which are all the reasons why Indian clients like to do business with us," Zhang was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Chinese LED lights and the corresponding products have gained a rising popularity

among the Indian consumers

In the first half of this year, China exported a total of \$710 million-worth of LED light-related products to India, a year-on-year increase of 27.3 per cent, a significant 135.3 per cent higher than the same period in 2020, according to data from the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products.

The report said, "While the Indian government and media has relentlessly sought to advance a decoupling with China, following in the US' footsteps, by attempting to replace Chinese products with the Indian ones, there has been little progress."

## FRL insolvency: Deadline for bids extended to Nov 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** The deadline for submission of expression of interest for debt-ridden Future Retail Ltd (FRL) has been extended by almost two weeks to November 3.

As per the modified invitation of expression of interest (EOI) for the Future Group firm undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), the last date for the prospective buyers to submit their EOI is November 3.

Earlier, the last date for the prospective resolution applicants (PRA) for submission of EOI was October 20, 2022.

Now, a final list of PRAs will be published November 20, 2022 and the deadline for the submission of the resolution plan is December 15, 2022, as per the modified invitation for submitting EOI.

Operational creditors of the Future group firm have filed claims worth Rs 2,464.41 crore, according to the documents uploaded on the FRL website.

As per the EOI invitation document, FRL currently has access to 302 leased retail stores spread across 23 states and Union territories, consisting of 30 large format stores such as Big Bazaar and FBB stores and 272 small format stores.



# King Kohli lords over Pakistan

**VIRAT GIVES FANS THE PERFECT DIWALI GIFT AS INDIA BEAT ARCH RIVALS IN PULSATING ENCOUNTER AT MELBOURNE**

AGENCIES

Melbourne, Oct 23: The indications were there that he was getting his mojo back when Virat Kohli slammed a century in the Asia Cup against Afghanistan. And Kohli (82 n o, 53b, 6x4, 4x6) showed that he has recovered his match-winning ways as he led India to a four-wicket win over arch rivals Pakistan in their T20 World Cup here Sunday.

It was match, where India were down and out at 31 for four in the seventh over of the innings chasing a target of 160. Pakistan, may have smelt blood then, but then they had not reckoned with Kohli who really emerged 'King' of the

show. Kohli first steadied the innings with Hardik Pandya (40, 37b, 1x4, 2x6) and then launched a murderous assault on the Pakistani bowlers to take India over the line. Yes,



Ravichandran Ashwin did hit the winning run, but India were brought to the doorsteps by the sheer brilliance of Kohli who was lustily cheered on by the Indian fans. The task which looked

mammoth at one point of time, suddenly looked manageable due to Kohli's efforts.

Pandya, the most important cog in India's T20 wheel, gave Kohli the right support as the two put on 113 runs for the fifth wicket to put India on a firm pedestal. Kohli's failure to win matches for India was coming under the scanner due to a prolonged lean patch. However, he sang the perfect

redemption song on the grandest stage.

Kohli launched the winning assault in the 19th over when he hit Haris Rauf for two successive sixes. That assault completely changed the complexion of the game.

With 16 needed off the last over, Pandya holed out off

Mohammed Nawaz's bowling. Dinesh Karthik faced his first delivery and took a single. With 14 needed off three balls, Nawaz's juicy full toss was dispatched by Kohli for a six over square -leg and it was called a no-ball after deliberation by on-field umpires.

Nawaz, the hero of Pakistan's Super 4 victory in the Asia Cup, by then had lost his nerves. After Karthik was stumped by an alert Mohammed Rizwan, left-arm spinner bowled a wide and Ravichandran Ashwin scored the most important boundary of his career.

But the script could have gone awry. KL Rahul's struggles against extreme pace and his distinct lack of footwork, Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav getting out cheaply did upset the rhythm that was set by Pandya and Arshdeep when they restricted Pakistan to 159 for 8. Thankfully, there was a Kohli there to steal Pakistan's thunder.

Only when leg-spinner Shadab Khan came into operation did Pandya chance his arm and sent him soaring into the stands. In Nawaz's next over, Kohli gave him

## BRIEF SCORES

**Pakistan** 159 for 8 (Shan Masood 52, Iftekar Ahmed 51, Hardik Pandya 3/30, Arshdeep Singh 3/32, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1/22, Mohammed Shami 1/25) lost to **India** 160 for 6 (Virat Kohli 82 n o, Hardik Pandya 40, Haris Rauf 2/36, Mohammad Nawaz 2/42) by four wickets.

the same treatment while Pandya got his second six. The floodgates had opened.

Earlier, Arshdeep (3/32) bowled a dream first spell and Pandya (3/30) displayed his true worth as an all-rounder as India restricted Pakistan. Arshdeep removed skipper Babar Azam (0) and Rizwan (4) in his first two overs to set the tone. Then Pandya ran through the middle. It was also redemption of sorts for the left-arm fast bowler who is growing in stature with every game. Imagine, the criticism he had to face for dropping a sitter during a game against Pakistan in the Asia Cup.

Iftikhar Ahmed (51, 34b, 2x4, 4x6) was the only batter who looked like taking the attack back to India. Shan Masood (52, 42b, 5x4) also struck a half century but never looked comfortable during his stay in the middle.

# Best T20 innings of my life: Virat

**SKIPPER ROHIT DID NOT GIVE UP HOPE DESPITE INDIA'S AWFUL START**



**WHAT A KNOCK!** An elated Rohit Sharma lifts Virat Kohli (L) on his shoulders after India's thrilling victory, Sunday. PFI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Oct 23: Virat Kohli was lost for words after leaving the cricket world speechless with his batting here Sunday. In his own words, Kohli had no idea how he had engineered India's epic win over arch rivals Pakistan in their blockbuster T20 World Cup face-off.

"Well, it's a surreal atmosphere. I honestly have no words. I have no idea how that happened," Kohli said after his incredible knock in the team's big-ticket tournament opener. "Hardik kept telling me, just believe we can stay till the end. I'm totally lost for words," the former Indian skipper added.

Kohli was asked when he decided to shift gears. "Well, I think when Haris (Rauf) bowled from the 'Pavilion End', I told Hardik we have to take him down. The calculation was simple. Nawaz had one over to bowl, so if I could take Haris down, they would panic. It came down to 16 off six deliveries and it was doable," Kohli said.

Then Kohli was speaking about his best T20 knocks. "Till today I said Mohali was my best T20 innings against Australia. Then I got 82 off 52 deliveries, today I got 82 off 53. Both are just as special. I will count this one higher because of the magnitude of the occasion and the situation we were in. All these

**I am totally lost for words, I really don't know how we managed to get over the line. Hardik kept on egging me that we can do it**

VIRAT KOHLI

months when I was struggling, you guys (the crowd) kept me going. Thank you so much," Kohli said.

Captain Rohit Sharma, who was dismissed early alongside KL Rahul, couldn't praise his predecessor enough. "Hats off to Virat. It has to go off as not one of his best, but the best innings he has played for India," Rohit said.

"I have no voice left. We just wanted to make sure we stayed in the game as long as possible. We've been talking constantly about it. No matter what the situation, you've got to believe you can pull through, and that partnership (Kohli and Pandya) changed the game for us," Rohit added.

Rohit was also all praise for the bowlers. "There was good carry, good swing as well, and we utilised that well up front. That was good to see from the bowling perspective. Arshdeep (Singh) really bowled an important first spell. They (Pakistan) batted well in the middle. We knew it would not be an easy target on that pitch, but we backed ourselves," Rohit informed.



**ALL-ROUND SHOW:** Hardik Pandya celebrates after dismissing a Pakistani batter at the MCG, Sunday



**TERRIFIC SPELL:** Arshdeep Singh is all pumped up after catching Pakistan skipper Babar Azam plumb in front

## SHORT TAKES

### Sourav backs out

**Kolkata:** Former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly pulled out Sunday of the race to become the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) next chief, paving the way for his elder brother Snehasish to be elected uncontested at its upcoming AGM October 31. "I had said that I would contest only if there's election. There's not going to be any election, so it will be uncontested," Sourav told reporters at Eden Gardens after he chose not to file his papers for the president's post on the last date of nomination. "Had I been there, it would have meant two or more people would not get any posts. So, I've moved aside," Sourav said.

### Title for Rune

**Stockholm:** Denmark's Holger Rune wrote another chapter into his standout season as he clinched the men's singles title Sunday at the Stockholm Open tennis tournament, upsetting top seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the final here. The 19-year-old Rune opened his shoulders and hit through the World No.5 throughout the 95-minute clash. He fired 20 winners and saved the one breakpoint he faced to earn his third win against a top 5 player. He also got 250 ATP points for his effort.

### Bayern march on

**Berlin:** Bayern Munich remain on the heels of front-runners Union Berlin after securing a 2-0 victory over Hoffenheim in the 11th round of Bundesliga, Saturday night. The German record champions took the reins from the starting whistle and turned the dominance into a tangible reward in the 17th minute when Jamal Musiala tapped home a flicked-on Joshua Kimmich cross. However, then Leon Goretzka and Gnabry missed easy chances. Bayern doubled their advantage on the 38 minute with Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scoring.

# SAINZ TAKES POLE AT US GRAND PRIX

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Austin (US), Oct 23:** Ferrari's Carlos Sainz will start on pole position for the United States Grand Prix after Formula One (F1) season champion Max Verstappen finished third in Saturday's qualifying session that began shortly after his Red Bull team learned that founder and owner Dietrich Mateschitz had died.

Verstappen however, will still start on the front row. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc qualified second, but must take a 10-place grid penalty for using new engine parts. Every winner in the previous nine races at the Circuit of the Americas has started from the front row.

Verstappen is chasing a single-season record-tying 13th victory. He clinched his second consecutive season championship at the previous race in Japan.

Verstappen and his Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez had to drive less than an hour after the team was gathered together to be told Mateschitz had died at age 78.

"What he (Mateschitz) has done for me, my career so far, my life, cannot just be described," said Verstappen, who joined F1 as a 17-

**It is really a very tough day for me. I cannot imagine life without Mateschitz who was like a father figure. We have to win the race for him**

MAX VERSTAPPEN

year-old with Red Bull's junior team, then named Toro Rosso. "It's a very tough day... We tried to give it everything but unfortunately we missed out. But there's a race tomorrow (Sunday) and we'll try and make (him) proud," the champion added.

A Verstappen win Sunday would tie the season record held by Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel.

Mateschitz bought the Jaguar team in 2004 and rebranded it as Red Bull in 2005. He added a second team to the Red Bull stable when he bought the Minardi program renamed it Toro Rosso and that team is now Alpha Tauri.

Red Bull's greatest success came with Sebastian Vettel's four consecutive driver's championships from 2010-2013.

# OFC register 1st home triumph

Hosts script thrilling comeback after being a goal down to bag 3 points

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Odisha FC (OFC) made a stunning comeback to register a 2-1 victory over Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) in their ISL home encounter at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday. It was indeed a Diwali gift for the OFC fans who had been hoping to see their team do well, and the hosts duly obliged.

Harmanjot Khabra scored in the 35th minute to put KBFC ahead. However, in the second half, OFC came out all guns blazing and Jerry Mawihmingthanga equalised in the 54th minute. Then super-sub Pedro Martin won it for OFC with a brilliant goal in the 86th minute.

Odisha FC made one change to the side that lost to Mumbai City FC. Thoiba Singh replaced Raynier Fernandes in the midfield as they retained their 4-3-3 formation with Diego Mauricio the lone attacker up-front. KBFC fielded the same XI that lost against ATK Mohun Bagan as Ivan Kaluzhny retained his place up front alongside Dimitrios Diamantakos.

The ball was in the Kerala Blasters' net after seven minutes of the game starting. However, it was disallowed as Jerry had tapped



OFC footballers celebrate at the Kalinga Stadium after their victory Sunday. OP PHOTO

the ball in while the opposition goalie Prabhsukhan Gill was still holding it.

However, OFC continued to maintain pressure and rarely allowed the KBFC players have a look at the opposition goal. The visitors however, got their noses in front much against the run of play. Adrian Luna played a short corner to Lalthathanga Khawhhring before whipping a brilliant in-swinging ball from the left flank. Khabra beat the offside trap and broke the deadlock with a thumping header.

The hosts almost equalised three minutes later from a corner. Saul Crespo headed the ball, but it was

just off the mark.

It was all square in the 54th minute when Shubham Sarangi's long throw from the right was flicked on by Osama Malik and the ball fell in Jerry's path, who made no mistake from close.

Four minutes from time, Martin latching on to a ball from Amrinder Singh, beat Gill with a pile driver to give OFC all three points.

OFC are now third in the points table with six points from three games. They have won two and lost one match. They have a tough home game coming up October 27 against Bengaluru FC also at the Kalinga Stadium.

# Solid show by home golfers at Indian Open

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Gurgaon, Oct 23:** Amandeep Drall's tied second place at the US\$400,000 Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament was the icing on the cake in a week that saw a very strong display by the home contingent. Amandeep was in contention for the title till late on Sunday but finally finished with scores of 67, 72, 76 and 72.

"Today I wouldn't say it was a bad round. Level par on this DLF course is always a very good score especially when I was playing in the leader group for the first time. My front nine was better and on the back nine, I missed two short birdie putts on the 12th and 13th. Yet, overall I was very happy with the way I played over the four days," Amandeep said.

Taking sole fourth place was LPGA regular Aditi Ashok (70-71-69-71) with a seven-under-par 281 aggregate while Gaurika Bishnoi (71-68-72-73) was tied for sixth place on four-under 284.

"Not a bad result overall but I was hoping for better. This is not an easy course but I also missed a lot of birdies throughout the week," Aditi said.

# South Africa stun Indian colts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

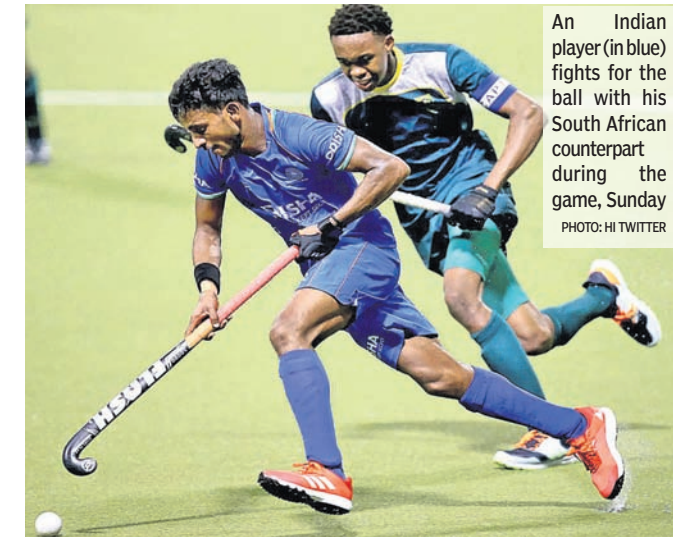
**Johor (Malaysia), Oct 23:** The Indian junior men's hockey team squandered a two-goal lead at half time to lose 4-5 against South Africa in their second match at the Sultan of Johor Cup hockey tournament here Sunday. Marvin Simons (seventh), Fawaaz Kahder (34th), Senzwehile Ngubane (35th) and Cameron Le Forestier (49th, 57th) scored for South Africa. Sharda Nand Tiwari (ninth, 10th), captain Uttam Singh (17th) and Sudeep Chirmako (45th) found the target for India. India had beaten hosts Malaysia 5-2 in their first round-robin match Saturday.

Amandeep Lakra set the tone of high press for India from the get-go,

keeping South Africa in their half during the first few minutes. However, it was South Africa who took the lead against the run of play with Simons hitting the target.

India though roared back into the game within minutes as Tiwari converted two penalty corners. India ended the first quarter with a 2-1 lead. A couple of minutes into the second quarter, India struck again with Uttam getting his first goal of the tournament. With the momentum going their way, India were 3-1 ahead at the end of first half.

South Africa made a comeback in the second half. Kahder made it 2-3 for South Africa, before Ngubane restored parity with both goals coming from penalty corners.



An Indian player (in blue) fights for the ball with his South African counterpart during the game, Sunday. PHOTO: HI TWITTER

# Shooters bag 2 more medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cairo, Oct 23:** India won two more medals in the ISSF World Championship here Sunday. The women's 25m pistol team won a silver medal and the men's 50m rifle 3 positions team bagged a bronze, even as India ended their Paris 2024 Olympics quota quest at two from the championship. Their tally stood at 12 gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals.

The women's 25m pistol team comprising Rhythm Sangwan, Manu Bhaker and Abhidnya Ashok Patil first qualified for the top eight stage with a sixth-place scoring 873. In the final eight contest, the Indian trio finished with 443 points to finish second behind China (444). However, in the final

against China the Indian shooters were no match and lost 0-16.

In men's 3P, Aishwary Tomar, Swapanil Kusale and Niraj Kumar topped stage one of qualification with a combined score of 1324. In the bronze medal play-off India beat the USA 17-15. Norway won gold and France silver.

In the men's 25m rapid fire pistol, which had four Paris Olympics quotas up for grabs, Vijayveer Sidhu shot 289 in the rapid-fire round for a total of 583 to finish 11th. Peter Florian of Germany took the eighth and final qualifying spot with a score of 584. Olympic silver medalist Vijay Kumar shot 581 in his comeback championship to finish in 13th spot. Anish, the third Indian in the field, was further back in 28th with a score of 575.