



**FEARLESS KIRTI**  
Actor-producer Kirti Kulhari talks about fearlessness; says empowerment doesn't happen overnight **LEISURE P2**



**ZULU KING CORONATION**  
Thousands gather at a huge soccer stadium to celebrate the official coronation of South Africa's Zulu king **INTERNATIONAL P10**



**INDIA FACE SPAIN**  
Indian hockey team aim for a disciplined effort when they take on Spain in their FIH Pro League match today **SPORTS P12**

## 103mn forcibly displaced in first half of '22: UNHCR

The number of refugees and people in need of international protection worldwide rose by 24%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Geneva, Oct 29:** The number of people forcibly displaced from their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order globally surged to 103 million in the first half of 2022, meaning that one in 77 people on Earth is forcibly displaced, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Geneva.

This is an increase of 13.6 million, or 15 per cent, as compared to the end of 2021, more than the entire population of Belgium, Burundi or Cuba, according to the latest report from UNHCR released Friday.

According to the report, the total number of refugees and people in need of international protection worldwide rose by 24 per cent from 25.7 million at the end of 2021 to 32 million by mid-2022. At the end of June this year, more than half (56%) of all refugees

were Syrian, Venezuelan or Ukrainian.

In mid-2022, the report showed, Turkey hosted 3.7 million refugees, the largest refugee population worldwide. Colombia was second with 2.5 million and Germany third with 2.2 million refugees, followed by Pakistan and Uganda (1.5 million each), Xinhua news agency reported.

The UNHCR report also showed that the number of asylum-seekers waiting for a decision had climbed to 4.9 million by mid-2022 from 4.6 million at the end of 2021.

In the first half of this year, more than 9.6 million new displacements due to conflict and violence were reported. The vast majority were in Ukraine, which accounted for 74 per cent of all new internal displacements.

During the same period, significant displacements of people were also reported in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, as well as in Myanmar, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Mozambique and Congo.



**EMBANKMENT BREACH:** People look at a 100-ft breach on Pattamundai canal embankment that washed away a two-storey building housing six shops at Trivenishwar market under Mahanga block in Cuttack district, Saturday (REPORT P7)

## 59 dead, 150 hurt in Seoul stampede



AGENCIES

**Seoul, Oct 29:** At least 59 people were killed and 150 more were injured after being crushed by a large crowd pushing forward on a narrow street during Halloween festivities in the capital of Seoul, South Korean officials said.

Choi Seong-beom, chief of Seoul's Yongsan fire department, said the death toll could rise as emergency workers were continuing to transport the injured to hospitals across Seoul following the stampede in the leisure district of Itaewon on Saturday night. He said 13 of the dead have been sent to hospitals while the bodies of the remaining 46 were still on the streets.

Officials said it was believed that people were crushed to death after a large crowd began pushing forward in a narrow alley near Hamilton Hotel, a major party spot in Seoul.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol issued a statement calling for officials to ensure swift treatment for those injured and review the safety of the festivity sites.

He also instructed the Health Ministry to swiftly deploy disaster medical assistance teams and secure beds in nearby hospital to treat the injured.

## Disaster mgmt edu in schools, colleges

Govt plans to set up telemetric rain gauge in panchayats, automatic weather stations at block headquarters and sensors in river systems to tackle calamities more effectively

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday said the state is all set to introduce disaster and pandemic management curricula in schools and colleges to prepare Disaster Management Yodhas (warriors) in every village and household.

Patnaik said this while addressing a meeting marking the observance of the Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and National Day for Disaster Reduction. The day is observed to remember the 1999 Super Cyclone which killed about 10,000 people in the state.

"Disaster and Pandemic Management is being introduced in the educational curricula of students from Standard 4 to graduation level with a view to preparing Disaster Management Yodhas in every village and household," the chief minister said.

Noting that the state government has done everything possible to make Odisha a safer place during natural calamities, Patnaik said during 23 years since the Super Cyclone, the state has developed the most robust infrastructure for disaster management.

The world has now recognised our efforts in all these years, he said while thanking the 4.5 crore people of Odisha for their support



CM Naveen Patnaik addressing the gathering on Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day through videoconferencing

**During 23 years since the Super Cyclone, the state has developed the most robust infrastructure for disaster management**

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

and solidarity in building a disaster resilient Odisha.

He also appreciated the efforts of PRI (Panchayati Raj Institution) members, Mission Shakti Group members, frontline workers like ASHA and Anganwadi Workers, NGOs and community level volunteers, government officials, ODRAF, Fire Services, NDRF and Police personnel for their coordinated work to reduce human casualty.

Stating that during 2022 so far, the state faced floods in the Mahanadi, Baitarani and Subarnarekha river systems, af-

fecting more than 23 lakh people in 16 districts, Patnaik said that only due to robust preparedness and coordinated efforts, the state evacuated nearly 2.7 lakh people to safer places and took up timely relief and restoration measures.

"Our geographic location makes us prone to natural disasters. Nearly 10 thousand people died in Super Cyclone 1999. Then, we did not have safe shelters," Patnaik pointed out and said during these years, 815 multi-purpose cyclone and flood shelters have been constructed. Fifty-five new such shelters are under construction out of Chief Ministers' Relief Fund, he said.

For better impact-based forecasting, the government will set up telemetric rain gauge in all gram panchayats (GPs), automatic weather station at block headquarters, and sensors in our river systems.

Continued on P4

## Kerala HC nixes gender neutrality

INDO-ASIAN NEWS AGENCY

**Kochi, Oct 29:** A division bench of the Kerala High Court noted that in the Indian context, a female family member is always needed to look after children as we have not reached the level of Scandinavian countries where you have same-sex marriage and everybody is equipped to rear children.

Justices Alexander Thomas and Sophy Thomas made this observation while considering a habeas corpus plea moved by a man, who is based in Gujarat, for releasing his 4-year-old daughter, who he alleged was being illegally detained by his in-laws.

The court also took note of the fact that the petitioner resided in Gujarat and that there was no material placed before it to indicate that any female family member resided with him who may be capable of taking care of the child.

"Always there should be a woman at home. Either mother, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, grandmother, somebody should be at home to look after the children," the bench opined.

The bench compared the importance placed on the role of women in child rearing in India as opposed to the more equal sharing of responsibilities that exists in other countries, including Scandinavian countries.

"We have not reached the level of Scandinavian countries where you have same-sex marriage and everybody is equipped to rear children. Men, women and everybody looks after children and they divide their time and energy for that. In Indian scenario, when

## HSRP deadline extended by 1 more month

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** The state government Saturday once again extended the deadline for fixation of High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) on vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019 by another month.

The State Transport Authority (STA) issued an order revising the prescribed deadlines, just two days ahead of the last day set for fixation of the HSRP for vehicles with registration numbers ending with 1,2,3 and 4. As per the revised deadlines, the vehicles carrying Odisha registration mark and registration number ending with 1,2,3 and 4 can fix the HSRP by November 30, 2022 while December 31, 2022 and January 31, 2023 are the deadlines for the vehicles with registration number ending with 5 and 6 and 7 and 8, respectively.

Similarly, the vehicle owners carrying Odisha registration numbers ending with 9 and 0 will have to affix the HSRP by February 28, 2023. Dipti Ranjan Patra, joint commissioner transport (technical), said that the vehicle owners can now apply for HSRP through nearby Mo Seva Kendras in the state as per their convenience.

Till now, the booking facility was available only on online portal - siam.in and vehicle owners were booking themselves. However, considering that some people may not have access to the internet or do not have knowledge of technology, the facility has now been extended to Mo Seva Kendras also, said Patra. For the convenience of the vehicle owners, HSRP help desks are now functional in the offices of all the regional transport officers (RTOs) and additional RTOs across Odisha. One can apply for HSRP through these help desks as well, he said.

The transport official further said that as on October 28, a total of 29,59,544 vehicle owners have booked slots, out of which HSRP has been affixed in 11,73,459 vehicles.

The vehicle manufacturers through their authorised vendors have opened temporary fitment centres at 88 locations and at other places of the state like important government and private establishments where the dealers' network of all manufacturers are not available. In addition to this, fitment facility at some RTO offices is also being provided by the vehicle manufacturers.

Patra further said that fitment of HSRP with old vehicles, whose manufacturers have closed down their businesses, can be done at the office of RTO from where the vehicle is purchased. This facility can be provided only at RTO offices through Vahan application, he added.



HABEAS CORPUS PLEA

The court made the observation while considering a habeas corpus plea moved by a man, who is based in Gujarat, for releasing his 4-year-old daughter, who he alleged was being illegally detained by his in-laws

Always there should be a woman at home. Either mother, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, grandmother, somebody should be at home to look after the children, said the HC

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



WhatsApp says our supreme leader is discouraging fake news. Looks like a fake news for me!

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.2°C	30.0°C	
MIN	20.0°C	20.0°C	
Humidity	70%	68%	Forecast
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clearsky

## Millennials prefer pocket-friendly first dates

Youths find their first dates a little more romantic with a simple picnic at a park with some yummy snacks or long evening strolls by the seaside

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** In this economy, it's no wonder young Indian daters are all down for affordable dates! In 2021, a popular dating app revealed through its Future of Dating report that young singles around the globe prefer keeping dates simple and creative because going outside is expensive.

This year, Tinder found that its members are turning to affordable dates as frugal flirting catches on. Young daters are following suit as 73 per cent of them prefer simple dates to fancy ones according to Tinder's new ways of dating.

Here are some pro tips to get you started and make you cool:

Long walks and nature talks: Beaches and parks are free for all! To make your first date a little more romantic, a simple picnic at the park with some yummy snacks or long evening strolls by the sea while you play 20 questions with your date could be exactly what you need. Tinder saw a two-fold increase in mentions of 'long walks' in bios and requests for date activities from cycling to taking a pottery class in bios. Maybe throwing in a 'Gola' binge could make you seem cool in all the right ways? Explore Street Food: Use your



chaat-tastic knowledge of street food and challenge your date to a Gol-Gappa competition, or maybe two? They say a way to a person's heart is from their stomach, so hit up your local chaat-stores and go crazy with your taste buds. 42 per cent

Tinder members share that they love to check out new food joints, so take this opportunity to share some funny stories from your childhood and see the sparks fly!

The classic museum date: Make your first meeting as creative as

your personality with an art-inspired date. If both of you are into visual art and marvel over the rich history of India, invite your match to a museum date or hit the art gallery to share your knowledge and creativity. Don't forget to take bomb pics for the 'gram!

Date Night with a Home-Cooked Meal: Take a tip or two from your Maa's recipe books and make your match a fancy meal right at home! You could also make your date a sous-chef and showcase your flirt game! So channel your inner Salt Bae and amaze your date with a fancy meal at home and some great music and conversation! **Continued on P4**



# leisure



## 'EUPHORIA' STAR SYDNEY SWEENEY ALL SET TO STAR IN HORROR FILM

Sydney Sweeney is all set to star in and produce an upcoming horror film – 'Immaculate'. Michael Mohan will be directing the psychological horror film. In 2021, Sweeney and Mohan worked together in 'The Voyeurs'.

## JEFF IN FINAL TALKS ABOUT JOINING 'WICKED' MOVIES

Actor Jeff Goldblum is in final talks to play the wizard in Jon M. Chu's upcoming 'Wicked' movies. 'Wicked' is a prequel to 'The Wizard of Oz', telling the story of how Elphaba became the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

**GaneshaSpeaks.com**  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You will be torn between work and family as both try to grab your attention. You may reserve the evening for having fun. You crave to become famous and are likely to accomplish your ambition shortly. You have Ganesha's blessings to support you.

**TAURUS**  
Ganesha sees you happily engaged in attending to day to day affairs. The day will turn out to be a hectic one. Do not expect too many time outs or even small breaks. Fortunately you will not be too uncomfortable with your tight schedule and will feel as fresh and easy as cease work as you had been at the beginning of the day.

**GEMINI**  
You have a certain degree of equanimity when it comes to reacting to praise and criticism. Today, however, you will be emotional, and it won't be too bad. You will get appreciated at work and your liberal show of emotions will only make others like you more.

**CANCER**  
Today, Cupid will send its arrow right through your heart. You will be trembling with pain – the sweet pain of lust and love. But the overzealous Cupid may not stop at just that. Just to be completely sure, it will virtually do shooting practice at you.

**LEO**  
It is good to be impulsive sometimes; but if one were to ask you today, you would be all for a meticulously planned approach to life. So much so that from now on, planning will become almost a part and parcel of your life, predicts Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Today you need to carry on with your success without resting on your past laurels. You will also need to stay focused and organised to continue with the same success level that you enjoyed in the past. Pay attention to your relationship matters as they are the quintessential of your success and peace of mind.

**LIBRA**  
It is very likely that you will arouse immense jealousy in others with your success and growth in business. Your business rivals may attempt to dent your credit worthiness in one way or the other. You may prefer to deal with them subtly rather than confront them openly, feels Ganesha.

**SCORPIO**  
You may find yourself at crossroads, wondering which path to take. Crucial decisions regarding your personal life may numb your thoughts. Let this not interfere with your routine or it may lead to complications at work and with loved ones. Avoid making any hasty decisions, and in case you cannot find an apt solution, then delay the decision altogether, advises Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You seem to be on a self-appreciation mode today. Grooming, makeover and attracting attention in on your cards today, you make extra efforts to get that glamorous look for your self. And as Ganesha says, it will surely not go unnoticed as you bag a lot of compliments for it. One of the fortunate days in store for you!

**CAPRICORN**  
You regret spending hefty amount of money on branded items and luxuries, but you'll see a ray of hope today, feels Ganesha. Your bank account is strengthened by some heavy cash flow, and needless to say, it will give you a great relief. Now, you'll understand the value of money and curb on your urge to spend lavishly. Your work place will make you feel more comfortable.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today is your day! Your performance will speak for itself and everyone at work, including bosses, will appreciate your efforts, says Ganesha. Work will not seem burdensome any more, in fact you will enjoy your job like never before. You may wish to contact some old friends and be in touch with them once again.

**PISCES**  
You are likely to feel a lot of tension and stress today. You will feel down owing to some disagreement with someone or due to some unfathomable reason. Even that special someone will be unable to chase away your blues.

## 2ND LK MAHAPATRA MEMORIAL LECTURE

# 'Historical wrongs in policymaking hit tribals'

**Bhubaneswar:** The 2nd LK Mahapatra Memorial Lecture was jointly organised by the LK Mahapatra Memorial Trust and the PG Dept. of Anthropology at Utkal University Saturday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Professor Mahapatra. Professor Lakshman Kumar Mahapatra (1929-2020) was a world-renowned anthropologist and educationist from Odisha, who spent most of his career at Utkal University establishing the discipline of anthropology in Odisha and turning the Anthropology Dept. at the University into a vibrant and pioneering intellectual space that led to it becoming one of the two Centres for Advanced Study in Anthropology in India. He had conducted pioneering research in the country in South East Asian Studies and the now established

fields of development anthropology and population anthropology. He was also Vice-Chancellor of Utkal and Sambalpur Universities and Director and later Chairman of the Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies. The 2nd LK Mahapatra Memorial Lecture titled, "Historical Wrongs and the Aftermath: Journey of a Tribe" was delivered by Professor Geetika Ranjan, one of India's most eminent contemporary anthropologists, based at the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. The 1st Memorial Lecture had been delivered last year by Professor PC Joshi of Delhi University in an online mode because of the pandemic. In her lecture, Prof Ranjan discussed the case of the Bhoksa, a PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) from Uttarakhand.



Despite plans and schemes for improving its state, the tribe continued to remain vulnerable, she stated. She argued that certain historical wrongs in policymaking and implementation have left deep

ineradicable scars, which render the later amelioration plans less effective. She discussed the reasons which make it very difficult to undo the wrongs.

Anthropology Prof Kanhu Satpathy gave the welcome address and the meeting was presided over by Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, Professor Sabita Acharya, also a Professor of Anthropology and a

student of Professor Mahapatra. Prof NC Dash, who retired from Fakir Mohan University, spoke about the intellectual legacy of Prof Mahapatra. The Meeting was attended by eminent scholars and students of anthropology and social sciences from Utkal and other universities and colleges. The LK Mahapatra Memorial Trust had earlier this year set up the LKM Centre and Library at 16 Satyanagar, the residence of Professor Mahapatra. It was inaugurated by Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, also a student of Anthropology and Professor Mahapatra. The LKM Centre is a reference library on social sciences that is being managed by the Trust and Bakul Foundation, which operates from the same premises.

# Have become fearless over the years: Kirti

Actor Kirti Kulhari who forayed into films 12 years ago, known for shows like Four More Shots Please! and Criminal Justice, feels that besides venturing into film production and turning into a biker, she has also added a new facet to her personality – the ability and courage to express herself freely. She says, "I am not trying to box myself anymore. I have become more fearless and life is becoming easier". Kirti shares that the idea of starting a production house came about suddenly: "It just hap-

pened one day, and I stepped into it without much planning." Kulhari adds, "Empowerment doesn't happen overnight. I had to work on this attitude for years to believe that everything is happening for me to learn from it and not feel like a victim". As a producer she said, "There is a lot of mediocre work happening in the industry, so as a producer I am trying to do things that will fill the gap and creatively satisfy me as an artiste as well."



AGENCIES

### 16TH GURU DEBAPRASAD AWARD FESTIVAL 2022

28th to 30th October | 2022 at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar | 6:30pm onwards

**GURU DEBAPRASAD LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2022**  
Dr. Sonal Mansingh  
Padma Vibhushan  
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha  
Eminent Odissi Dance Maestro of International Repute

**GURU DEBAPRASAD AWARD 2022**

- Bidushi Deepika Reddy (Hyderabad (Kuchipudi))
- Bidushi Prerana Shrimali, (New Delhi (Kathak))

**GURU DEBAPRASAD PRATIVA AWARD 2022**

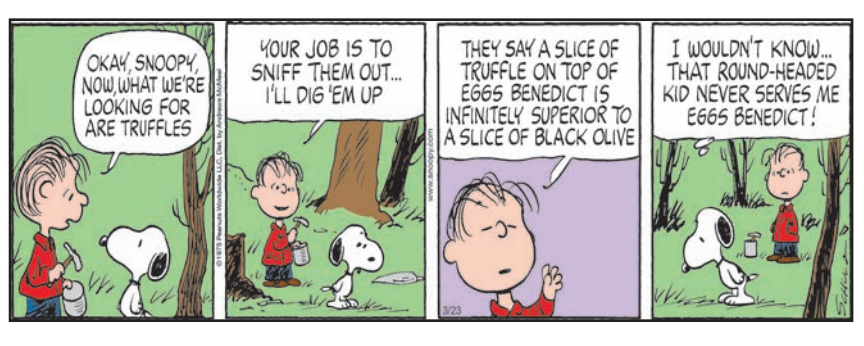
- Ms. Tan Mei Mei (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Odissi Dance))
- Sri Radhasyam Tarai (Bhata Kumarada, Ganjam (Ghuduk/Sakhi Nata))

**GURU DEBAPRASAD SISHU PRATIVA AWARD 2022**

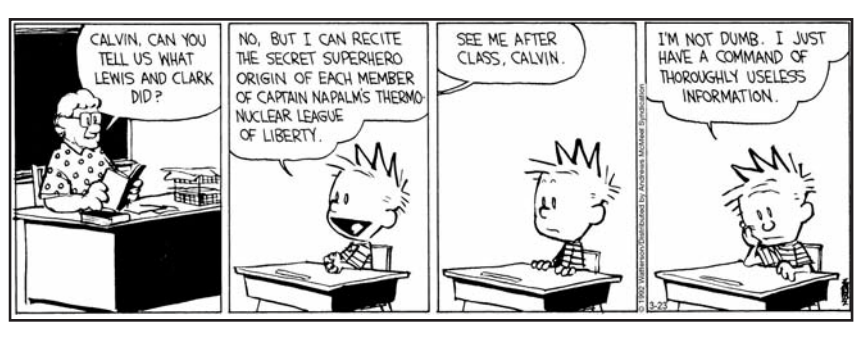
- Aishwaryaa Lakshmi Errisson (Kuala Lumpur Malaysia)
- Suhana Mishra (Birikshorpur Sashan, Golbai, Puri)

Support & Sponsor: ODISHA, S.N. KANUNGO INFRASTRUCTURE, vedanta, Ajanta, ANIC, etc.

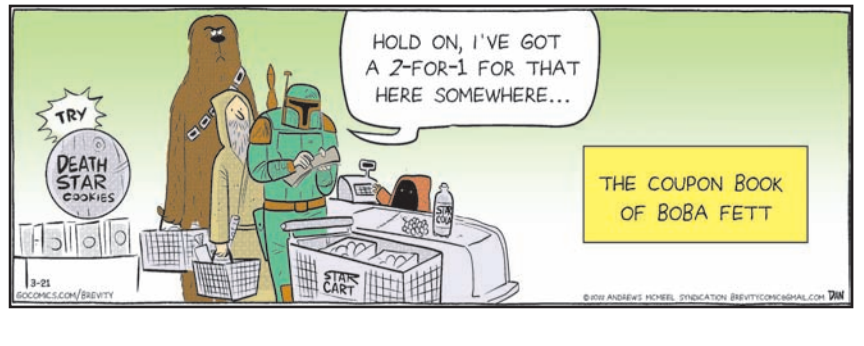
### PEANUTS



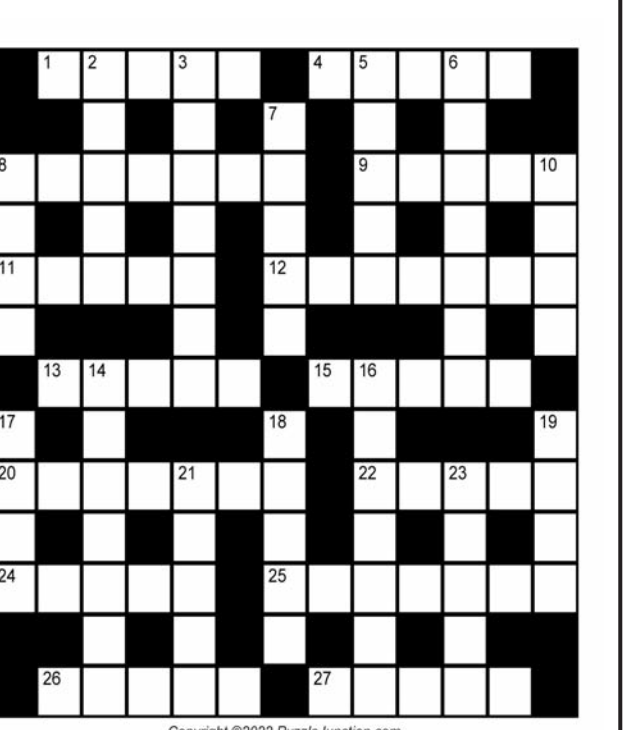
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY

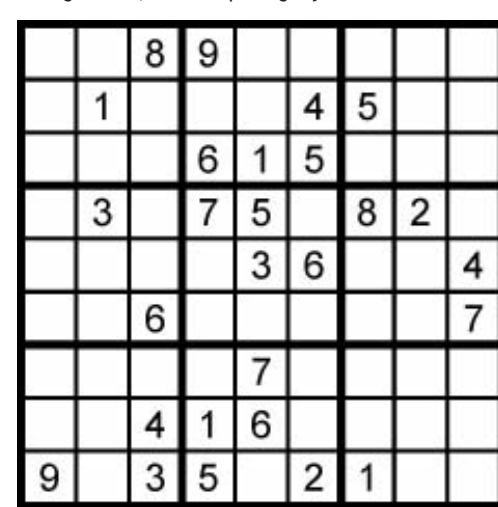


### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Dust coat
  - 4 Greyish brown
  - 8 Sports meeting
  - 9 Camping gear
  - 11 Model material
  - 12 Worldly
  - 13 Mature
  - 15 Small vascular growth
  - 20 Plains drifter
  - 22 Lure
  - 24 Tender spots
  - 25 Like some peanuts
  - 26 African river
  - 27 Sword
  - 7 Poker play
  - 8 Choir attire
  - 10 Breakers
  - 14 Conflagration
  - 16 Eccentric
  - 17 Bird venerated by ancient Egyptians
  - 18 Swine
  - 19 Changed colours
  - 21 It's a plus one
  - 23 Quoted

### SUDOKU



### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## Dhoni has called me on the field!



# CM launches ₹488cr projects for Padampur

# In IAS reshuffle, PK Jena gets additional charge of APC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** In a bid to woo voters ahead of the bypoll to Padampur Assembly constituency, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several projects worth Rs 488 crore for the Assembly segment under Bargarh district through video conferencing.

The CM inaugurated 20 lift irrigation projects worth Rs 10 crore. Besides, he also launched the work on a project worth Rs 18.48 crore for the development of agricultural market infrastructure.

He laid the foundation stone for 38 bridges worth Rs 260 crore, 25 roads worth Rs 136 crore, Kalyan Mandaps, community centres, RI offices, market yards, Gramin Bazar, town hall and market complexes for the area.

Naveen also laid the foundation



stone for the development of tourist spots in the district - Sri Nrusinghanath temple and Ganghamardhan hill and Bed Barah peeth - at a cost of Rs 26 crore.

In his address, Patnaik said his government is committed to developing western Odisha in general and Bargarh district in particular.

The CM said these projects will

play an important role in leading the development of Padampur region. He also said that this trend of development will continue further.

He accused the Central government of depriving the Padampur farmers of crop insurance although they had suffered heavy losses due to crop failure.

"I will once again pursue the government of India to expedite

### EYEING BYPOLL

NAVEEN INAUGURATED 20 LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECTS WORTH ₹10 CRORE

HE ALSO LAUNCHED THE WORK ON A PROJECT WORTH ₹18.48 CRORE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE

THE CM LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR 38 BRIDGES WORTH ₹260 CRORE, 25 ROADS WORTH ₹136 CRORE, KALYAN MANDAPS AND MARKET COMPLEXES FOR THE AREA

crop insurance compensation to the farmers of Padampur," he added.

Similarly, expressing the opinion that the transformation of schools under 5T charter has played a special role in the development of education, Naveen said that 30 high schools of Padampur have been transformed in this program while work has started at 44 more schools.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** In a minor reshuffle among senior IAS officers, Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena with additional charge of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) and Managing Director of Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) will take the additional charge of Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC).

Sanjeev Chopra, the present APC will be relieved from the state government October last this year, according to a notification of the General Administration and Public Grievance department, Saturday.

1993 batch IAS officer Deoranjay Kumar Singh, who is serving as principal secretary of Steel & Mines department with additional charge of chairman of OMC, OMECL and



IDCOL, will have additional charge of principal secretary of Home department, it said.

Raj Kumar Sharma, the Director General of Gopabandhu Academy of Administration was appointed as Member; Board of Revenue consequent upon retirement of GVV Sarma with effect from October 31. Sharma is allowed to remain in additional charge of DG of Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Bhubaneswar.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of Revenue and Disaster Management department Satyabrata Sahu will remain in

additional charge of ACS of Odia Language, Literature and Culture department after superannuation of Madhu Sudan Padhi October end, said the notification.

Saswata Mishra, principal secretary to Governor with additional charge of chairman of OSSSC, will now remain in additional charge of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) department.

Roopa Roshan Sahoo, special secretary to the Chief Minister with additional charge of director of TE&SCERT and English Language Training Institute, will also remain in additional charge of commissioner-cum-secretary of ST&SC Development department.

Moreover, the additional appointment of Saswata Mishra in the ST&SC Development department will stand terminated from the day Sahoo joins the duty, it said.

# RWSS engineer with 275% DA held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** A day after carrying out simultaneous raids at multiple places related to Nihar Ranjan Das, the additional chief engineer of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) here, the Vigilance Directorate Saturday arrested the officer on charges of amassing disproportionate assets (DA) to a tune of 275 per cent of his known sources of income.

On the allegation of possession of DA, the anti-corruption wing sleuths Friday raided multiple places related to Das, the additional chief engineer of RWSS (planning, monitoring, design and investigation) circle here.

The places where the Vigilance officials raided include his residence at Flat No-201, Sriram Mansion at Kharavel Nagar, three-storey building at Modipada in Sambalpur, paternal house at Rohinayan in Bargarh district, his office chamber located at O/o Superintending Engineer, RWS&S, PMDI Circle here and two of his relatives' house at Kharavel Nagar and at Lalit Bhaban of Gandhi Nagar area in Sanapalla of Khurda district.

When the Vigilance sleuths reached his Kharavel Nagar residence in the morning, Das, who is scheduled to re-



During the raid, the Vigilance claimed to have found details about Das's investment in cryptocurrency to the tune of ₹1.75 crore

tire October 31 this year, tried to destroy documents.

"When Das saw our officers at his house, he threw away a bundle of papers, including crypto investment details, a mobile phone through a nearby window. However, we managed to recover those," said a senior official of the Vigilance Directorate.

During the Friday raid, the Vigilance claimed to have found details about Das's investment in crypto currency to the tune of Rs 1.75 crore. The value is likely to go up, they said.

Various teams of the Vigilance led by five DSPs, 12 inspectors, one sub-inspector, 11 ASIs and other staffers conducted the raid, the officer pointed out.

A flat worth about Rs 32.5 lakh was found in his name in Kharavela Nagar area. Eight plots worth Rs 1.27 crore were

owned by Das and his relatives in Sambalpur. Bank and insurance deposits worth Rs 64.42 lakh have been found in his name.

The officials found Rs 1,07,785 in cash, gold jewellery worth over Rs 10 lakh and other household articles to the tune of over Rs 15.55 lakh from his possession.

The Vigilance Directorate has registered a case (35/2022) against Das and his wife under Section 13(2), r/w 13(1)(b)/12 PC Act, 1988 as amended by PC (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Addressing media, Vigilance director YK Jethwa said, "Odisha Vigilance is committed to take stringent action under the Prevention of Corruption Act against ill-gotten assets, both physical immovable/movable assets as well as those generated and stacked in crypto/other virtual modes."



MAKING A MOVE: Children take part in District Chess Championship organised at Barabati Stadium convention hall in Cuttack, Saturday

# Craze for instant gratification takes a toll on mental health

As the selfie craze and short-form video consumption grow exponentially in India, healthcare experts caution that the constant urge to stay connected on digital platforms is leading to several mental health issues, including a condition called 'phantom pocket vibration syndrome'.

Phantom pocket vibration syndrome is when a person feels the phone vibrating in his/her pocket when it's not. The best way to combat the syndrome is to reduce the overall usage of mobile phones and turn off the vibration sometimes.

"Overuse of mobile phones and social media has severe effects on the mental health of children as well with developing problems like increased risk of depression, anxiety, loneliness, self-harm, and even suicidal thoughts," Gorav Gupta, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Tulasi Healthcare, New Delhi, said.

Sometimes, social media is the reason for promoting negative experiences like inadequacy about one's life and appearance. Selfie phones and selfie sticks are no longer just a convenience, but are considered the new symbol of self-absorption, experts said, adding that the selfie fever can further isolate this generation and those to come.

Behavioural experts have divided selfies into three broad categories - those taken with friends, those taken during certain activities or events, and those that focus on physical appearance.

A study, published in the journal



### PHANTOM POCKET VIBRATION SYNDROME

Phantom pocket vibration syndrome is when a person feels the phone vibrating in his/her pocket when it's not

The best way to combat the syndrome is to reduce the overall usage of mobile phones and turn off the vibration sometimes

'Psychology of Popular Media Culture', found that people who post a lot of selfies tend to have higher levels of certain narcissistic traits, such as fragile self-esteem.

According to experts, we should be worried about the nature and the intensity of the digital interface children have. It's not only about a selfie or making a video.

"It's also about why you make a selfie and whether you are feeling conformity/peer pressure on social media, are you trying to imitate someone, are you losing your originality, or you are focused so much upon whether what you post is liked or not that you lose track of what are the more important things in life," Samir Parikh, Director, Mental Health and Behavioural Sciences, Fortis Healthcare, said.

When it comes to videos, the same thing happens. More importantly, the more digital interface you have, the more you are likely to go away from physical activity, social engagement, academics, sports and creativity "And then more and more of your time is

spent indoors, in front of a mobile phone. So, it's that aspect of digital interface which is a bigger concern. It'll affect your concentration abilities or a physical component or your social aspect," Parikh said.

Parents should encourage children to have a balanced life and engage in physical activities and sports and meet friends, the experts advised.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, and even earlier than that, India has seen a huge spike in the number of mobile phone users, especially children with the numbers increasing every year.

"The best way out of this problem for parents is to limit the amount of time their children spend on these electronic gadgets. Avoid giving young or newborn babies phones for playing games or watching videos, basically for distracting them. Parents can also disallow children to use mobile phones late at night which can sometimes become the reason for insomnia," said Gupta.

IANS

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# And I've been called by Sachin on the field!





# Draft action plan for drivers' welfare: CS

Suresh Chandra Mahapatra asked the Transport department to draft a comprehensive action plan in the perspective of Odisha Motor Transport Workers Rule

This was discussed during a high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra wherein Commerce and Transport secretary Bishnupada Sethi outlined the legal and financial issues for discussions.

Mahapatra asked the Transport department to draft a comprehensive action plan in the perspective of Odisha Motor Transport Workers Rule. He also directed the departments to propose amendments to the existing rules for facilitating rollout of the welfare measures.

The departments of Commerce and Transport and Law were asked to examine details of the legal, financial, and administrative aspects for making the scheme smooth and seamless.

It was decided to assess the number of drivers working in the transport organisations. The Transport Commissioner was asked to draft the scheme and the required amendments in the rules in about a week.



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** For the welfare of drivers in the unorganised sector, the state government is going to prepare a comprehensive action plan in the perspective of Odisha Motor Transport Workers Rules.



**ARTISTE IN ACTION:** A play being enacted by the artistes of Binod Bihari Kala Parishad during 140th birth anniversary of Ganakabi Baishnab Pani at Saheed Bhawan in Cuttack, Saturday

## Cops appeal to Maoists to shun violence

**Malkangiri:** The state Police Saturday appealed to Maoists to shun violence and return to the mainstream. Director of Intelligence Sanjeeb Panda visited Malkangiri district during the day and held a high-level meeting there to review the state-of-affairs in the red corridor. "The Maoists should shun violence and return to the mainstream," IG Operations Amitabh Thakur later said, calling on the Leftwing extremists to give up arms and avail the benefits of government schemes. Friday, a similar meeting was held in Kandhamal.

## Continued from P1

## Disaster mgmt edu in schools, colleges

These steps will help us to get precise real time information for more effective management of disasters, the chief minister said.

Revealing additional measures to further strengthen community driven preparedness, Patnaik said the state government has been training more than 40,000 volunteers at village and shelter level.

Further, the government is taking up capacity building of elected representatives of PRIs, urban local bodies, Mission Shakti members, ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) members, as they play a key role in disaster risk reduction, he said.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister appealed to all stakeholders and citizens to come forward and join hands to reaffirm the resolve to create a disaster resilient Odisha.

## IWWA-OWA MEET

# FOCUS ON URBAN WATER SECURITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** Indian Water Works Association (IWWA), Odisha Centre in collaboration with Odisha Water Academy (OWA) organized a workshop here Saturday on 'Urban Drinking Water Security'.

The key note message, on this occasion, was delivered by G Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department and a presentation on 'Drink from Tap Mission in Puri city' was given by PK Swain, CEO, Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO).

"The drinking water security journey of Odisha started from the prevailing precarious water situation during 2014 - 2015. We successfully implemented the universal coverage of piped water supply with 100 per cent house connections leaving no one behind and then Drink from Tap quality (IS 10500) water supply on 24x7

basis. In this journey, in 2021, Puri became the 1st city in India to drink straight from the tap with round the clock water supply" Vathanan said in his address.

Indian Water Works Association (IWWA), a nation-wide platform of more than 11,000 professionals across the country, concerned and connected with water supply for municipal, industrial, agricultural uses and treatment & disposal of wastewater since 1968.

More than 50 senior engineers and water sector experts from 29 IWWA centers across India and around 100 officials from Public Health Engineering Organization (PHEO), Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) and Odisha Water Supply & Sewerage Board (OWSSB) under Housing & Urban Development Department together with Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWSS) under Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, participated in the workshop.



## CARE Hospitals holds walkathon on World Stroke Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** On World Stroke Day, CARE Hospitals organized walkathons to raise awareness about brain health at Bhubaneswar and Paradeep Saturday.

Ashok Mohapatra (Former Director - AIIMS BBSR & Former Chief - Neuroscience Center - AIIMS New Delhi), SS Jena (Sr. Consultant - Neurology), Susant Das (Sr. Consultant - Neurosurgery) and Kishlay Anand (HCOO-CARE BBSR) flagged off the walkathon from Bhubaneswar. Similarly, CGM HR & ED of IOCL Paradeep Refinery, Deepak Parida (Sr. Consultant - Neurosurgery), Mitalee Kar (Consultant - Neurology) and Lokanath Dash (GM - BD) of CARE Hospitals flagged off the walkathon from Paradeep.



Speaking on this occasion Anand said this is a big initiative, and we at CARE Hospitals have come forward to walk together for good health. I am happy to see that our hospital is contributing to spread awareness among the people and their loved ones to stay healthy and keep fighting against many lifestyle diseases.

## 'Covid-19 management should be documented'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** The way several states including Odisha battled the Covid-19 pandemic and emerged successful must be documented for evidence so that the situation could be tackled effectively if the country faced a similar calamity in future, K Madan Gopal, Senior Consultant (Health) of the Niti Aayog, said Saturday.

Such evidence must then be presented for understanding at different levels at greater speed and should be discussed for better preparedness and management, he said while speaking as the guest of honour at the first Cochrane India Network (CIN) annual meet held at the Institute of Dental Sciences, SOA's faculty of dental sciences here.

SOA Vice-Chancellor Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, addressing the meeting, said though WHO had estimated that Covid-19 would cause the death of around 35 lakh people in India, the toll remained much less because of the dedicated effort of doctors, nurses



**Mahapatra said though WHO had estimated around 35L deaths in India, the toll remained much less due to the dedicated efforts of doctors and medical staff**

and paramedics who battled the pandemic.

Dibyendu Mazumdar, President of Dental Council of India (DCI) spoke about the new curriculum developed for dental science education. As per the new curriculum, the students would study for four and half years and then go for one-year internship, he said.

Ashok Dhoble, Secretary General of DCI, Anju Pradhan and Meenu Singh, Co-Chair of Cochrane India Network, also addressed the gathering.

Neeta Mohanty, Dean of IDS and Director of Cochrane Affiliate Centre, welcomed the guests and elaborated on the work of Cochrane India Network.

## NSUI barges into minister's house

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** Activists of Congress students' wing NSUI barged into the compound of Minister of State (MoS) for Home Tusharkanti Behera's official residence here and pelted the house with eggs during a protest over the death of a Zilla Parishad member.

The minister was not present at the house during the incident.

The march staged by the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) was stopped short of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's residence, Naveen Niwas, as the police set up barricades and detained the agitators at various locations.

Shouting slogans, the protesters jostled with the police as they tried to break the barricades

The demonstrators allegedly threw eggs at the security personnel

Shouting slogans, the protesters jostled with the police as they tried to break the barricades. The demonstrators allegedly threw eggs at the security personnel. Sources informed that they also damaged police vans parked at the spot and some police personnel sustained injuries in the scuffle.

During the march, some of the protesters barged into the premises of Behera's residence, which is on the way to that of Patnaik, and pelted the house with eggs.

There was thin police deployment at Behera's residence, which is around 2.5 km from the Chief Minister's house. The Congress was demanding a proper investigation into the death of Dharmendra Sahoo, BJD zilla parishad member of Nimapara in Puri.

BJP had September 27 blocked the arterial Nimapara-Pipili Road, alleging that Sahoo was "murdered" for political reasons.

Sahoo (48) was found hanging at his home in Sisupalgarh September 24. His post-mortem report suggested that he died of asphyxia. Ahead of his death, Sahoo had posted a message on social media, asking the police to examine the contents of his phone.

His phone was found a few metres away from his home in a field. Both Congress and BJP demanded the resignation of School and Mass Education minister Samir Ranjan Dash, who is also the local MLA, alleging he had a role to play in the incident. Even as allegations went rife that Dash had been creating disturbances in Sahoo's personal life, the minister expressed grief over the death but said he was not aware of any controversy.

"Why should I react over opposition allegations? These are all politically-motivated to tarnish my image in public. Sahoo's family members have not made any allegation against me or anyone. Therefore, I do not think that I should respond to opposition allegation," he had said earlier.

## Millennials prefer...

Hit the thrift shops: If you've only got ₹200 in your pocket, thrifting is freaking awesome. In fact, that's probably why mentions of 'thrifting' in bios have grown by 56 per cent! Take your date to a popular street shopping market and show your quirk with your fashion! This might also be a nice time to get to know what they are into.

Hike up a mountain: If getting dirty and sweaty is your vibe, you can never go wrong with adrenaline-inducing experiences! Maybe starting off small and being one with nature while exploring the great outdoors over the weekend could be your vibe! You can take your date for a mini-trip and watch the sunrise or sunset together. Explore new paths together by hiking up a mountain and don't forget to bring a snack for you two to share later!

Wholesome art day: If you both share a passion for art, or want to try something fun and aren't scared to get messy, invite your date over for an art day! You can showcase your talents and be goofy together. Maybe even turn it into a competition and bring out your competitive sides?

# Declining bat populations a cause for human concern

Fewer bats will be flapping through the evening skies in the coming months. It's the time of year where some species go into hibernation, cooing up in narrow rock crevices or caves to overwinter.

Fortunately, this disappearance is only seasonal. Bats are critical for the functioning of healthy ecosystems. They help cycle nutrients in the environment and pollinate plants. They also eat agricultural pests, which reduces the need for pesticides.

Bats provide enormous value to our ecosystems, but because they do their work under the cover of darkness, we aren't always aware of the help they give.

### Threatened habitats

More worrisome than this seasonal disappearance is the fact that bat populations have been declining in North America for decades. Loss of habitat due to forestry, urbanization and conversion of land to agriculture reduces suitable habitats for bats, while pesticide application kills the insects that they feed on.

These impacts are exacerbated by the fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which causes white-nose syndrome. This fatal fungus is responsible for the deaths of over six million bats in North America.

White-nose syndrome has been particularly devastating in Eastern Canada where it's caused an over 90 per cent decline in populations of little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) and northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*).

The fungus is making its way further west, with the first recorded case in Saskatchewan in July. White-nose syndrome hasn't been detected yet in British Columbia, but the deadly threat is looming.

Our research team at the B.C. Node of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative has been working to support wildlife health for over a decade. To understand the threats currently facing the 15 species of bats living in British Columbia, we studied 275 bats that had died between 2015 and 2020. We found that the most common causes of death were linked



Bats provide enormous value to our ecosystems, but because they do their work under the cover of darkness, we aren't always aware of the help they give

Loss of habitat due to forestry, urbanization and conversion of land to agriculture reduces suitable habitats for bats, while pesticide application kills the insects that they feed on

**BECAUSE BATS HAVE RELATIVELY FEW YOUNG EACH YEAR, THE DEATH OF FEMALE BATS IN OTHERWISE GOOD CONDITION HAS OUTSIZED IMPLICATIONS FOR THEIR POPULATION NUMBERS INTO THE FUTURE**

### to human activity

This information can help us track bat populations over time and in response to urbanisation and climate change. In order to help bats live, we need to know why they die.

### Killer cats

A quarter of the bats in our study were killed by cats. This wasn't surprising—domestic cats are well-known predators of wildlife. In Australia, free-roaming pet cats are estimated to kill 390 mil-

lion animals a year.

Free-roaming cats pose not only a risk to bats, but also to biodiversity. Some cities in Iceland have implemented a cat curfew to save their declining bird populations.

One of our more surprising findings was that most of the bats we found that were killed by cats were female and in relatively good body condition. This greater proportion of dead female bats might be due to cats entering maternity roosts where female bats give birth to and raise their young.

Because bats have relatively few young each year, the death of female bats in otherwise good condition has outsized implications for their population numbers into the future.

### Worlds collide

Half of the bats in our study died by human-associated causes. That's partly because the bats we studied were submitted to our lab by members of the public. Most of the bats in our study (90 per cent) were synanthropic species, those who live alongside people.

Reflecting these close contacts,

another 25 per cent of bats in this study died due to blunt force trauma, such as through vehicle or garage door collisions.

Interestingly, bats that died in this way were more likely to be male. It's not entirely clear why this is, but research suggests that males may fly further than females, increasing their likelihood of collisions with cars or buildings.

Understanding differences in death by sex is helpful because it can inform conservation and management. For example, identifying where bats fly and how far could determine where to construct new roadways. The creation of wildlife crossings in busy bat areas could also help reduce fatalities.

### An incomplete picture

Studying wildlife isn't easy. Bats roost in lots of different places, from caves to barns to attics, and scientists can't monitor bats in all places at all times.

Reports from communities contribute to the information gathered about bats, and help us to understand the health of local bat populations.

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**You must abstain from thinking about someone when you cannot think well of him.**  
**THE MOTHER**



## Pak Democracy

It has been 14 years since Pakistan's fourth dictator Pervez Musharraf left office. Pakistan goes to general elections next year and though once again its army is in the news (for reasons we don't need to go into here today) it appears Pakistan is now out of the cycles of periodic military rule.

To know why, let's take a look at Pakistan's history, which can be parcelled quite neatly into 10-year periods. The first decade was one of confusion. Jinnah delivered a nation and passed away just after Gandhi but for his heirs drafting the constitution was hard. The Muslim League papered over its differences by rotating prime ministers from the various communities. These included two Bengalis (Suhrawardy and Bogra), a Gujarati (Chundrigar) and two Punjabis (Noon and Muhammad Ali). Real power for much of this period was held by a Pashtun, Malik Ghulam Muhammad. He was a bureaucrat who left office to begin a business importing jeeps, founding a company called Muhammad and Mahindra (later renamed Mahindra and Mahindra), before exiting the business to serve Pakistan. In his autobiography, Friends Not Masters, General Ayub Khan says it was Muhammad who nudged him to take over. Khan was the defence minister cum army chief about to retire at 48 when a paralytic and dying Muhammad told him to 'save' the country from the politicians, which Ayub duly did.

The second decade of Pakistan was called the 'decade of development'. Ayub Khan so impressed the world with his apparent brilliance that Samuel Huntington (of 'clash of civilisations' fame) likened him to the Athenian lawgiver Solon. This was the period in which Pakistan's growth rate leaped ahead of India's, and in which Nehru and Ayub wisely signed the one treaty that has helped keep the peace, dividing the Indus waters. Pakistan seemed to have found a model for itself, which combined laissez faire economics with something called 'basic democracy'.

Of course Ayub, like all dictators was flawed. In a moment of madness he acquiesced to a plan by his 35-year-old foreign minister, ZA Bhutto, to send soldiers in civilian dress across the Line of Control to 'liberate' Kashmir. Shastri responded by sending the army across the international border near Lahore and the Soviets intervened to produce a ceasefire. The wily Bhutto resigned and went public, claiming betrayal. The 1965 war fatally weakened Ayub and he was pushed out by his fellow generals of whom one, Yahya took over, ending the decade of development.

The third decade began with the rise of Bhutto and ended with his hanging in 1979. It saw the first proper elections in Pakistan, which offended the Punjabis. The Bengalis under Mujibur Rahman won a majority, not just in the East, which it swept but in the overall assembly as well. Rule by Bengalis was unacceptable to West Pakistan. Another war followed which resulted in the partition of Pakistan and the coming to power of Bhutto, whose Pakistan Peoples Party had won a narrow majority in the west.

Like all of our subcontinent's charismatic and messianic rulers, Bhutto turned out to be a disaster. He took on military airs, wearing a liveried costume with braided epaulettes and hugging world leaders. He pushed a socialism which nationalised even small businesses like flour mills and chased much of the Gujarati talent out of Karachi, damaging Pakistan's economy. He thought he had tamed the army and refused to accept the 90,000 prisoners from West Pakistan in Bangladesh. These men spent a few years in North Indian internment camps before being returned a few years later. Bhutto sidelined or fired all the generals from that time and appointed a Jalandhari from the non-martial Arain caste of peasants as army chief. He made fun of this man, Zia ul Haq, and referred to him his monkey. Zia was cunning and played along, allowing Bhutto to get into trouble as he inevitably would. Bhutto rigged the next election and the violence from the opposition compelled the Pakistan army to once again 'step in' which Zia did.

The fourth decade under Zia was Pakistan's worst. The year Bhutto was hanged, 1979, was momentous. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan, the Shia clergy captured Iran under Khomeini and fanatics laid siege to Mecca, frightening the Saudis. Radicalism spread across the Muslim world and the Pakistan army profited, though Pakistan suffered heavily. It was Zia's soldiers who helped the Saudis clear Mecca and of course it was the Pakistani ISI which armed and trained the Pushtun, Tajik and Uzbek militias that undid the Soviets.

Zia died in an unexplained plane crash along with the US ambassador in 1988. Bhutto's daughter Benazir returned to Pakistan for the elections and it seemed that at long last real democracy would return to the people. Unfortunately, this was the same period in which India mishandled Kashmir and gave the Pakistanis the opening, beginning something the experts call a low-intensity conflict, but which claimed at its peak 4,507 lives in 2001. Benazir was too weak to resist the ISI's capture of foreign policy and its mischief against India, but even though she played along, she was booted out by the army twice, rotating the leadership with the army's favourite Nawaz Sharif, a 34-year-old steel manufacturer.

This fifth decade was democratic only in name with real power still resting with the army chief and, more worryingly, with the ISI chief. Readers may remember that this was the period during which India was constantly asking Pakistan for talks and Pakistan was refusing to engage, the reverse of which is true today.

The sixth decade was that of General Musharraf, the fourth dictator who profited greatly from the 'war on terror' which returned Pakistan to primacy because of its location. The Ayub model of laissez faire economics and 'guided' democracy also returned, boosting Pakistan's growth rates to around 5%, where they remain today, despite all the troubles. Musharraf's exit produced the seventh decade which ended with the first three consecutive general elections without overt army interference. The army is still up to mischief, of course, but it is less adventurous.

It seems, at last, that in its eighth decade, Pakistan has settled into being a parliamentary democracy just like Bangladesh also has and like we have always been.



Aakar Patel

**It appears Pakistan is now out of the cycles of periodic military rule**



Lekha Rattanan

**NEWER HARSH LAWS AGAINST WOMEN SINCE 1979 HAVE PUSHED WOMEN TO THE BACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT BUSES AS GENDER SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC WAS APPROVED**

Iran is on the boil. Women are up in arms and the uprising is being crushed by the Iranian government, making world headlines that once again point to the brutality brought by a mix of fundamentalist ideology and political power. But the Iran story is slightly different from the standard tale of clerics seeking subjugation to their religious demands. It was groups of women who supported the Islamic Revolution of 1979, turning away as they then did from the Westernised influences brought by the regime of the US-supported Mohammad Shah Reza Pahlavi, who was overthrown as mass protests took over Iran. Those days, skirts were more common than the hijab. In fact, the hijab was banned! And yet, that was a regime that the women helped uproot with their support against what was perceived as an almost un-Islamic, US-influenced modernity that had made Iran a popular destination for celebrities and heads of State, a high level of women participation and a country with a pumped-up economy.

A lot changed with the Islamic Revolution but it would not have been easy to take the women in the workforce and daily life and quickly lock them behind the doors of their houses and villas. So, women were everywhere even after the Islamists under Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's then Supreme leader, took charge. But the headscarf designated for women was back, often with a touch of fashion attached to it. Soon came a law (in April 1983) that made covering heads mandatory even for non-Muslim and foreign women visiting Iran.

Some two decades ago, this writer was part of a team of Indian lawyers, journalists and social activists invited to visit Iran. An important part of the itinerary was meeting Dr Massoumeh Ebtekar, an immunologist and the then Vice President. As the country turned away from a Western influenced monarchy to an Islamic Republic, Dr Ebtekar had been one of the more famous faces in Iran, both pre and post the Islamic revolution. She lived for some years in the US with her parents before returning to enrol in an Iranian univer-



**Many efforts have been made to shape the narrative on women, but ultimately, what was sought to be sold to the world has not been bought by the ordinary women of Iran**

sity. It is here that Ebtekar chose to start wearing the chador and joined the revolution. English speaking and articulate, she became the voice of the revolution as the spokesperson of a group of militarised students who laid siege to the US embassy in Tehran and held 52 American diplomats hostage over 444 days before finally releasing them January 20, 1981. The "nun" as she was known to the West for the signature chador covering her from head to foot, Ebtekar went on to become the most powerful woman in the Islamic Republic as one of four Vice Presidents of Iran. Dr Ebtekar and members of the government-associated women's group that initiated the visit spoke of the important role that women played in the economic and sociopolitical life of Iran. As one of them said to me: "We are everywhere." That was true then. From the tarmac off Mehrabad International airport to the malls and offices dotting Tehran's tree-lined boulevards, women were everywhere. Mostly in black and bustling around, or working behind counters and desks they, were indeed everywhere.

In 2012, Dr Ebtekar's and several other women wrote for a book that sought to provide contemporary insights on women in Iran since the 1979 revolution. Titled "Women, Power and Politics in

21st Century Iran," a review of the volume noted its effort: "Written by women, the majority of whom live and work in the country, this anthology endeavours to counter mainstream Western representations of Iranian women as oppressed and subordinated, and instead to depict the modes of resistance and negotiation they have adopted. The editors frame this narrative in terms of the women's struggle against orientalism and imperialism, and against traditional Iranian patriarchy." As the review pointed out, a key term was "indigenous," to describe the post-1979 revolution of women "in contrast to the arguably less authentic movement that had been associated with the Shah's projects of Westernisation and modernisation." Yet, the review authors presciently pointed out: "While we acknowledge the efforts of these women, we should also note that they have been given a voice by the State because they share a common politico-religious frame of reference with it. This tends to undercut the editors' description of the post-1979 Iranian women's movement as 'diverse'; it seems that certain forms of femininity and sexuality have been favoured by the Islamic State at the expense of others." In essence, a sarkari form of feminism was taking root, while the march continued toward more ex-

clusion, segregation and increased tyranny as newer controls on women have taken shape, slowly but surely.

An example of this is Iran's Parliament, the Islamic Consultative Committee approving a law segregating healthcare given to men and women. Since there were not enough women doctors, this put 30 million women at risk. While gender segregation has not been so successful beyond schools, where it is enforced, the implementation of the Same Sex Health Care Delivery system, a religion-based separation of women from men in a medical environment brought new ways of enforcing the gender separation. In 2012, over five university hospitals started gender exclusion policies, dividing the sexes in health care treatment and using female physicians only in the care of women.

Newer harsh laws against women since 1979 have pushed women to the back of public transport buses as gender segregation in public was approved. Others destroyed women's protection under family law, lowered the age of marriage from 18 to 13, and removed women from certain fields of employment and study. Changes in family law articulated male guardianship in a specific way. Under the new regime this meant that though regarded as financially independent, the wife now required the husband's permission to leave the house. Today, if they want to, men can determine what work is appropriate for their wives and can demand that she leave her job. Men can divorce while retaining custodial rights over children while women are responsible for child bearing and rearing but lack custodial rights.

The horrible tales of crack-downs and beating back protests that are emerging from Iran today are testimony to the fact that sarkari feminism has failed and a point of no return has been reached. Many efforts have been made to shape the narrative on women, but ultimately what was sought to be sold to the world has not been bought by the ordinary women of Iran.

**The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press.**  
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## SPECTRUM MULTILATERALISM

# Health solidarity is health security



Ifeanyi M. Nsofor

**SOLIDARITY IS ESSENTIAL TO SOLVING MANY OF HUMANITY'S MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES**

Kicking off the United Nations' second annual Sustainable Development Goals Moment last month, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Priyanka Chopra Jonas emphasised the role of solidarity as a driver of change. "Global solidarity is more important than ever," she said. "Together, we have an extraordinary opportunity to change the world we live in."

While Chopra Jonas was referring to the fight against climate change, that sentiment could apply to many other global issues. Solidarity is essential to solving many of humanity's most pressing challenges. But it is crucial for achieving health security.

And after two and a half years of COVID-19, the world's health systems are coming apart at the seams. While the end of the pandemic may be in sight, the virus is still raging. Moreover, monkeypox has been officially declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, and cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus have been documented in over 30 countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom. At a time when infectious diseases can spread around the world within hours, global solidarity matters more than ever.

What this means is straightforward. People living along the path of an approaching wildfire must work together to extinguish it. The same goes for global health security. In 1966 - at the height of the Cold War - the US teamed up with the Soviet Union to end smallpox and measles. This collaboration, in turn, encouraged the WHO to lead the eradication programme.

There are important lessons to be learned from this history. For starters, global health solidarity may lead to unexpected alliances. The US and the Soviet Union were rival superpowers, yet they bracketed the Cold War to eradicate a disease that had affected humanity for over 3,000 years. Moreover, putting the WHO in charge ensured that the smallpox vaccine was freely available to every country, without richer countries hoarding doses. The last case of smallpox was identified in Somalia in 1977, ten years after the programme began, and the WHO declared the disease eradicated three years later. The entire effort cost \$300 million, but it is estimated to have saved over \$1 billion per year.

Polio is another disease that is close to eradication thanks to a coordinated global effort. Rotary International - which has 1.4 mil-

lion members worldwide - launched a campaign to immunise children around the world against polio in 1985. Three years later, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was established at the WHO's World Health Assembly. Many countries joined the initiative, contributed funds, and mobilised agencies and communities. In the 34 years since its founding, GPEI has reduced the global incidence of polio by more than 99%, prevented paralysis in more than ten million people, and immunised 2.5 billion children.

We seem to have forgotten these lessons. In contrast to the concerted global push to end smallpox and polio, the response to COVID-19 has been characterised by nationalist parochialism. The pandemic is a global calamity that has killed more than six million people, in addition to afflicting at least 100 million with so-called long COVID. But this time, instead of coordinating their responses, developed countries focused on mitigating its impact within their borders. Rich Western countries adopted a siege mentality, hoarding personal protective equipment, vaccines, and drugs, and leaving poorer countries to settle for crumbs. The response to monkeypox is an-

other example of how vaccine nationalism harms global health security. African countries have been battling monkeypox for decades, but the disease did not attract international attention until cases started appearing in the West. Nigeria's first case was reported in 1972, and cases have been detected there every year since 2017. Yet even as people are being vaccinated against the disease in developed countries, African countries are still waiting for their doses.

The chance to do better is right around the corner. Health authorities in Uganda have recently declared an Ebola outbreak after a case was confirmed in the country's Mubende district. Global solidarity is necessary to contain this outbreak. Higher-income countries must take the lead in developing detection and response mechanisms. And global institutions like the UN and the WHO must counter nationalism by promoting equity. Together, we can defeat disease outbreaks before they spiral. On our own, it is always much harder. As an Igbo proverb says, when your house is on fire, do not hunt for rats.

**The writer is a Senior New Voices Fellow at the Aspen Institute.**  
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## WISDOM CORNER

- Freedom is the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.**  
GEORGE ORWELL
- Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
- A man, as a general rule, owes very little to what he is born with - a man is what he makes of himself.**  
ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

## WORDSWORTH

### Chiliastic

This word comes to us through Latin from the Greek khilia "a thousand years", from khilioi "a thousand". It appeared in the English language in the seventeenth century to refer to the belief of some Christian sects that there will come a time when Christ will reign in person on earth for a thousand years, either before or after the Second Coming. So it's just a more highbrow and less common equivalent of millenarian. But it doesn't seem to have quite the same figurative sense of belief in a future golden age of prosperity, peace and justice. It's sometimes employed at the moment to refer to the impending millennium in the purely calendrical sense, without any reference to Christian belief, a weakening of meaning that's similar to the way that millennium itself is so frequently employed. Malcolm Bradbury recently used it in a review in the Independent on Sunday of Salman Rushdie's The Ground Beneath Her Feet: "It's also rich on eschatology, joining all those big-theme novels that have taken the millennial shaking of the world, the sense of historical transition, the collapse of old orders, the signs of apocalypse, the tug of the underworld, as the stuff of timely chiliastic fiction."

## Captain's delight

Sir, Bowlers hold the key in the ongoing T20 World Cup because of the Australian conditions. Therefore, Bhuvneshwar Kumar is a vital cog in the Indian scheme of things. His performance, thus far, has been excellent. Not known to bowl very fast, with an average speed of 135 km per hour, Bhuvu can beautifully swing the ball both ways - his inswingers are more potent than the outswinging ones. Generally Bhuvneshwar has an admirable control over his line and length. One shouldn't forget that T20 is a batsman's game in the latter half of the innings. The other day, while answering a media question, Bhuvneshwar was quoted as saying merely because Jasprit Bumrah was out of action it cannot be assumed that the rest of the bowlers would try to do something different in the World Cup. He is right because every bowler is unique and has earned his right to represent the nation by sheer talent and merit. Predominantly a white ball cricketer, he will remain the captain's go-to bowler because of his skills, temperament, hard work and, of course, talent.

**Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

## Tough road ahead

Sir, Mallikarjun Kharge's ascent to the top job marks the beginning of a new era - an era that holds the official promise of being free of any interference. As the Congress president, he has enormous challenges ahead. The party will have to focus on reclaiming its support base. It is currently in power in just two states and federally controlled territories. It has been beset by high-profile exits and defections, as well as intense intra-party rivalry among various factions. The challenge for Kharge now will be to unite and reenergise the party, as well as to come up with a vision that he can present to voters as a credible alternative to that offered by BJP. Nearly a dozen states will be going to the polls in the 18 months before the general elections. The Congress is a strong contender to win elections in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan. If there is something that the party needs to do is to focus on winning elections. It must not shun its secular ideological ethos. The president will have to deftly navigate the Gandhis' hold over the party while shaking off the lethargy that had crept in within the party organisation.

**Bhagaban Nayak, BERTHAMPUR**

# 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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23 YEARS OF SUPER CYCLONE

# 'Strengthening infra must to withstand future calamities'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Oct 29:** 23 years back in 1999, the Super Cyclone had struck the coastal districts but the devastating memories it left behind can never be wiped away from the people's psyche.

It was the most intense tropical cyclone ever recorded in northern Indian Ocean and among the most destructive in the region.

However, neither the state government nor the district administration has taken steps to strengthen or build up any infrastructure that could withstand future calamities. Locals are of the opinion that construction of high coastal embankments and creation of more mangrove forests could stop the cyclones and storm surges from striking the human habitats hard.

Social activist Sunil Kumar Gantayat of Mahakalapara said that the cyclonic storm taught us many lessons. The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) identified 1.5 km land from the coastlines as tsunami-prone. As many as 60 villages including 46 in Rajnagar block and 18 in Mahakalapara block here were identified as prone to tsunami.

Meanwhile, 17 years have passed after the identification of the village but the coastal embankments are yet to be heightened while creation of more mangrove forests remains only in pen and paper. People get into a tizzy on hearing about any impending storm, he said.

Another social activist Pratap Kumar Padhi of Pattamundai said that over 744-km length of coastal embankments in Aul block have become vulnerable to nature's fury. The high tides cross the embankments and inundate the farmlands and even some villages during storm surges due to cyclonic storms.

He lamented that a proposal to raise the height of the embankments to at least six metre is



FILE PHOTO

**REVISITING RAVAGES** THE SUPER CYCLONE WITH A WIND SPEED OF ALMOST 300 MPH HAD STRUCK THE STATE KILLING MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE INCLUDING 397 IN KENDRAPARA DISTRICT MAKING IT THE WORST CYCLONIC DISASTER EVER RECORDED IN THE LAST CENTURY

**38 PEOPLE WHO WENT MISSING DURING THE CALAMITY COULD NOT BE TRACED. AS MANY AS 1,803 PEOPLE WERE INJURED, 48,906 LIVESTOCK KILLED, OVER 3,000 FISHING BOATS AND 2,97,814 HOUSES DESTROYED DURING THE CALAMITY IN THE DISTRICT**

yet to be implemented. In August, this year, the state government sanctioned only ₹20,562.49 for maintenance and repairing of 32 long embankments which is just a drop in ocean.

Nihar Ranjan Pradhan of Derabish area said that Kendrapara district is geographically prone to calamities like cyclone, floods and tsunami. Evacuation and safe rehabilitation of people have become a regular affair during the calamities. The district administration has constructed 317 multi-purpose cyclone and flood shelters to rehabilitate the people during such calamities.

However, these shelters are in battered conditions due to lack of maintenance and observation. The district administration after the construction is not keeping a tab of these shelters making those a safe haven of criminals and anti-socials. Moreover, lack of drinking water facilities and separate toilets for women are

always a concern for the cyclone affected people. Similarly, many shelters lack generators and life jacket facilities.

Educationist-cum-environmentalist Kshitish Kumar Singh said that there is an urgent need to create more mangrove forest as only these can protect the human habitats from the fury of storm.

They play a very significant role in protecting the hinterland against the cyclonic storms and the ingress of sea water during tidal surge. They also stabilize coastal land mass against sea erosion. They are known to withstand the ravages of the sea as seen during the Super Cyclone-1999.

The sea water could not enter a majority area of the district due to presence of thick mangrove cover. He said that the geosynthetic wall constructed near Pentha beach has failed to stop the high tides from crossing it. Hence, creation of more mangrove forest could serve the purpose, he added.

## Minister's escort vehicle hits bike; 2 youths critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuapada, Oct 29:** Two college students sustained critical injuries after one of the escort vehicles of state Planning and Coordination Minister Rajendra Dholakia hit their bike on National Highway-353 near Gotma area under Jonk police limits in the district, Saturday.

The two injured students were identified as Jogesh Podha and Rudra Das alias Jitu, both first year students of National College at Silda and residents of PhDpada in Khariar Road town under Jonk police limits. They were admitted to the district headquarters hospital in critical condition and later shifted to a hospital in Raipur after their conditions worsened.

The accident took place at around 10am when the two boys were on their way to college on a bike. The escort vehicle was on the way to the residence of the minister at Khariar Road.

However, the escort vehicle allegedly did not stop to rescue the injured students and instead left the spot. Later a police vehicle and locals rescued the injured students and admitted them to the district headquarters hospital. Hospital sources said both the victims had fractured their legs.

# 100-ft breach on Pattamundai canal bank

TRADERS DEMAND DAMAGES AS 2-STOREY BUILDING HOUSING 6 SHOPS WASHED AWAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mahanga, Oct 29:** A two-storey building housing six shops caved in and submerged in Birupa river after a 100-feet long breach occurred on Pattamundai canal embankment at Trivenishwar market on Kuanpal-Gopinathpur road here in Cuttack district, late Friday night.

The two-storey building adjoining the embankment came crashing down and six shops were washed away as the canal water came gushing following the breach. All communications between Trivenishwar and Pattamundai came to a halt following the breach. The loss of properties is stated to be worth several lakhs.

On being informed, Water Resources department officials of Nrutang section and Jagatpur North Division rushed to the spot and undertook repairing of the



Communication between Trivenishwar and Pattamundai came to a halt following the breach

embankment on a war footing.

Superintending Engineer Sanjiv Kumar Behera, assistant chief engineer Purna Chandra Rath, SDO Shakti Prasad Das, junior engineer Baikunthanath Bhoi of Nrutanga section were present at the spot monitoring the repair works on the canal embankment.

The affected traders opposed the repair works demanding compensation. They relented after Mahanga block chairperson Deepa Mallick, vice chairman Satyanarayan Das,

former block chairman Rajkishore Jena, ZP member Susmita Das, BDO Nihar Ranjan Mallick and tehsildar Umakanta Biswal held talks with them.

Sources said that several persons in the area had constructed buildings adjoining the embankment and had put them on rent to various persons. A grocery shop, stationery shop and a Jan Seva Kendra were among the six shops running from the two storied building which was washed away.

The canal was flowing to its brim when the incident occurred late Friday night. After reports surfaced, thousands of people thronged the area to get a glimpse of the breach.

On the other hand, Congress workers led by Sk Masud Ali, the son of former minister late Sk Matlub Ali and Debendra Kumar Sahu reached the spot and demanded a high level probe into the incident and government compensation to the affected persons.



SELECTION CAMP: Girls participate in a race at a two-day selection camp of National Cadet Corps (NCC) that concluded Saturday at Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Mahavidyalaya in Bhanjanagar

# Ganjam youth killed in cracker explosion

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khallikote, Oct 29:** A youth was killed while making firecrackers atop his house near a school here in Ganjam district Saturday morning.

The deceased was identified as Jeetendra Kumar Pradhan, 32, of the locality. He was illegally making crackers on the second floor of his house when the explosion took place. Sources said that the youth was running an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit at his residence.

The incident occurred at 8am today when he was making firecrackers atop the house. The crackers suddenly exploded killing him on the spot. The intensity of the blast was so severe that one of his hands was severed from his body and his flesh was ripped off and found stuck on the walls.

The roof of the house also developed cracks. Some students living on the first floor of the house on rent had a close shave as they had gone outside to attend their coaching classes when the blast took place. Locals alleged that the deceased had been making crackers for last few years. However, police never tried to take any action against him.

On being informed, Khallikote police reached the site and launched



## Elderly man dies in wild boar attack

**Bargaon:** An elderly man was killed in an attack by a wild boar at Chhamunda village under this police limit in Sundargarh district, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Bisheshwar Nayak, 65, of the village. Family members rescued him in critical condition and rushed him to Bargaon hospital and then shifted him to Sundargarh district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. The incident occurred when he had gone to attend nature's call. He heard some unusual sound near the farmland and when he went near it, the animal attacked and rendered him critical. Some villagers said that he was opening a snare when the animal attacked him. Forest officials reached the spot and started an investigation.

# Minors held for raping girl, making video viral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jajpur, Oct 29:** Three minor boys were arrested on the charge of raping a 12-year-old girl and uploading a video they made of the act on social media platforms in Jajpur district, police said Saturday.

The accused boys were in the age group of 14-17 and the victim is from the same village under Jenapur police station limits. The arrests were made Friday, after the girl's father lodged a complaint with the police. The police said that the boys allegedly raped her and video-recorded the act on a mobile

a few days ago. They then threatened her that they would post the video on social media if she disclosed the matter to anyone. Soon afterwards, the accused started blackmailing the girl using the video clip and threatened to make it public if she did not pay them ₹20,000. When the victim refused, they posted the video on social media platforms which went viral, said Umakanta Nayak, IIC of Jenapur police station. A relative of the victim saw the video and informed her father about it. When the father started questioning his daughter, she told them what they had done.

# Maoist dump seized during combing op



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 29:** Security forces found a huge cache of firearms, ammunitions and Maoists articles during a combing operation in a forest near Kusumput village under Jodaambo police limits under Chittrakonda block in this district, Friday evening.

The security forces comprising jawans of state police and Border Security Force (BSF) launched a combing operation after intelligence inputs alerted about the presence of a Maoist camp in the jungle. The jawans conducted a combing operation when they stumbled upon the arms, ammunition and Maoists articles in the camp.

Among the seized articles were two 303 rifles, two gas guns, four

country made guns, two tiffin bombs, 20 detonators, one HE grenade, camera flash, printer, laptop battery, solar panel, umbrella and water jar each, electric wires, 100 metre of codex wires, 970 gelatin sticks, six pieces of coloured clothes, a pair of Maoist fatigue and a pair of slippers.

This was stated here by BSF IG DK Sharma to mediapersons at a press meet, Saturday. He said that the rebels have been neutralised in majority of the district but they have not been completely wiped out as they sometimes make their presence felt by raising their hoods through violence. The BSF and state police are conducting combing operations in those areas but it cannot be said that they have completely been wiped out, he added.

## 'Seed Ball Making' programme by AM/NS India

**Paradeep:** The CSR team of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has organised employee volunteering programme with an aim to engage the employees in certain activities where they can play exemplary role in creating green belts in the industrial area. A 'Seed Ball Making' training programme was organised where more than 100 employees participated and made hundreds of seed balls. Deployment of seed balls is an easy and handy solution of creating green belts and saving the environment. These balls will be dispersed in and around the plant locations to bring down carbon footprint and increase the green cover. Dr Vikas Yadvendu, Head-CSR, AM/NS India said, "AM/NS India continues its commitment to sustainability ethos through various initiatives."

# 115 Gaja Sathis trained to curb jumbo menace

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 29:** With man-animal conflicts occurring frequently in forested parts of Keonjhar district, the Forest department has started imparting training to already recruited Gaja Sathis who will keep track of the elephants, other wild animals and ensure their safety in forests and human habitations in the sadar range.

As per reports, a training programme and a meeting of the Vana Surakhya Forum were held at Sanskruti Bhawan here recently.

As many as 115 Gaja Sathis, presidents of 23 Vana Surakhya Samitis (VSS) and animators working in the Sadar range took part in the training programme. All the trained Gaja Sathis will be deployed in various sec-



tions of this range, sources said.

There are 23 Vana Surakhya Samitis working in these areas under this range which are fre-

quented by jumbos.

Forest officials said that all Gaja Sathis will volunteer to work under the supervision of the

Forest department.

Their job is honorary and they will be provided torch lights, uniforms and other gears to drive away elephants. They are supposed to make people understand how to take precautionary measures in elephant-frequented areas and what steps to take in case of elephants' entry into any village. They will also advise people against going near elephants.

Role of Gaja Sathis also assumes much importance on the backdrop of elephants facing life threat from various factors like electric shock and poaching.

After the training programme, Forest officials including deputy ranger Sulochana Sahu, member of State Wildlife Board Mansingh Durgaprasad, Town forester Pradip Barik, Janghira forester Sarat

Pattnaik, Naranpur forester Srimant Behera, Palaspanga forester Jyotsnarani Behera and Ama Jungle Yojana VSS coordinator Nirmal Chandra Sahu exuded hope that the Gaja Sathis will render their valuable service in containing man-elephant conflicts in these areas, ensuring safety of both sides in most cases and lessening the damage of crops, valuables including flora and fauna.

They said that apart from keeping vigil on the elephant herds, Gaja Sathis will assist Forest officials in their work and make people aware of the need for preventing man-animal conflicts whenever the animals stray into human habitations.

Notably, 90 Gaja Sathis have been deployed in Betanoti range of Mayurbhanj district.

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL BOUDHGARH**  
"e" Procurement Notice  
Tender Call Notice No: 7476/NAC/5/2022-23  
No. C-1479: dtd. 28.10.2022

- Name of work :- Civil works as mentioned in website.
- No. of works: 6No. of Civil works.
- Bid value :- Rs 4.63 lakhs to Rs. 17.81 Lakhs.
- Date and time of availability, received of the bid documents in the portal: From 10.00AM of Dt. 11.10.2022 to Dt. 11.10.2022 upto 5.00 PM only.
- Bids received online shall be opened On: Dt 11.11.2022 at 11.00AM
- Submission of original documents: On or before 10.30AM of Dt. 11.11.2022.
- Name & Address of the Officer inviting Bid :- EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BOUDHGARH NAC

For further details can be seen from the Procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.  
Sd./- Executive Officer, Boudhgarh NAC  
OIPR-13155/11/0028/2223

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-1184:**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JAJPUR**  
'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. Tender Online 12 JPT of 2022-23

- Name of work :- Road Works & Building Work.
- Total No. of Work :- 14 Nos. Road Work & 1 no. Building Work
- Estimated Cost (Approx.) :- 0.28 to 23.37 Lakhs
- Period of Completion :- 15 Days & 2 Months
- Class of contractors :- B, C & D

**Other details as follows:**

- Procurement officer :- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jajpur
- Availability of tender online :- 31.10.2022 at 11.00 AM to & submission of bid :- 10.11.2022 upto 5.00 PM
- Last date & time of seeking :- 09.11.2022 upto 1.00 PM of tender clarification
- Opening of Tender :- 11.11.2022 at 11.30 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jajpur  
OIPR-25047/11/0018/2223





# Guj govt to form panel for Uniform Civil Code

**EARLIER, BJP GOVERNMENTS IN UTTARAKHAND AND HIMACHAL PRADESH HAD ANNOUNCED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIFORM CIVIL CODE IN THEIR STATES**

AGENCIES

**Ahmedabad, Oct 29:** The Gujarat government has decided to form a committee to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), it said Saturday.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting which could be the last meeting under the present BJP government as Assembly elections are expected to be announced in the state by the next week.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi and Union minister Parshottam Rupala informed the reporters about the decision.

"The committee will be headed by a retired High Court judge and have three to four members. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has been given powers by the cabinet to select members of the committee," Rupala said.

The committee will be formed before the model code of conduct for elections comes into force, he added.

Sanghavi said the decision was taken as per the provisions of Article 44 of Part 4 of the Constitution which expects the state government to apply common law for all citizens.

"This is a historic decision by



**The committee will evaluate various aspects related to the Uniform Civil Code and submit its report, based on which the state government will take a final decision about its implementation**

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Our government has honoured the wish of common people as well as BJP workers to have such a code," Sanghavi said.

Rupala asserted that the proposed UCC will not violate the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

The Hindu Marriage Act and Muslim personal laws will be covered under the UCC as these laws are not part of the Constitution, the Union minister added.

"We do not intend to override the fundamental rights of the people. UCC is about resolving discrepancies which arise in civil disputes, such as wife or daughter's claim on husband or father's property. We had received many representations from people about such issues," said Rupala.

The decision had nothing to do with the coming Assembly polls, he claimed, and dismissed the criticism by the opposition that the ruling BJP was trying to polarize Hindu votes by promising UCC.

The committee will evaluate various aspects related to the UCC and submit its report, based on which the state government will take a final decision about its implementation, Rupala said.

No deadline has been set for the committee to submit its report as of now, he said.

Earlier, BJP governments in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh had announced the implementation of the UCC in their states.

# Massive modernisation plan for UP cops

*The state's department of home has approved a budget of ₹650 crore for making the police hi-tech and armed with modern policing gears and tools*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Oct 29:** The Uttar Pradesh Police is looking towards a massive modernisation plan and its personnel will soon be armed with body worn cameras and full body protectors.

The state's department of home has approved a budget of Rs 650 crore for making the police hi-tech and armed with modern policing



gears and tools.

Of this, an amount of Rs 48 crore have been set aside for purchase of 1,200 body worn cameras and 1,650 full body protectors, while Rs 2.84 crore for 30,000 post-mortem kits.

A department official said: "In addition, hi-tech social media monitoring cells and law and order quick response teams will be established

in ten districts of the state."

Apart from this, a dedicated forensic science lab (FSL) will be set up at a cost of Rs 6.75 crore for helping in investigations of agencies like SIT, EOW, CB-CID and ACO.

A dedicated mini technical lab is also being developed in Kannauj. Crime scene videography app developed by NCRB has been im-

plemented in the state starting with Muzaffarnagar, Barabanki and Aligarh in the first phase.

The official said that an action plan has been prepared to implement it in other districts of the state and a technical committee has been constituted for the entire process at the Technical Services Headquarters.

Forensic labs have been set up in Kannauj, Aligarh, Gonda and Bareilly. Temporary field units are also being set up in other 66 districts.

Cyber help desks have been set up in all 1,531 police stations of the state and training has been imparted to the appointed employees.

"Action is being taken regarding construction of administrative buildings for cyber police stations in 18 police ranges. The executive body has been designated for seven regional cyber police stations, namely Varanasi, Jhansi, Basti, Aligarh, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur and Banda," the official said.

# Implement insurance policy like Raj: Gehlot to Guj govt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Vadodra, Oct 29:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who is the Congress observer for Gujarat Assembly polls scheduled later this year, has challenged the BJP government in Gujarat to implement insurance policy for the state's people like the Rajasthan government has done.

Attacking the Gujarat government, Gehlot said that the ruling party is not concerned about people's well-being, adding that had it been concerned, it would have implemented Rajasthan-like insurance policy in the state post the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dismissing the Gujarat government's relief package for farmers, Gehlot said it is politically motivated and questioned why did it take so long to compensate the farmers who suffered crop damage during monsoon. "The package has been announced just before the elections to gain political mileage. But the farmers have re-

alised how the BJP is fooling them, so it will have little impact on voting. The farmers have decided to vote for the Congress," Gehlot said.

The veteran leader also said that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) poses no competition to the Congress.

Without naming Arvind Kejriwal, Gehlot said, "Delhiwalas are friends of (Narendra) Modi. Everyone is aware what is going on in Punjab, so AAP has lost the moral right to seek votes. The BJP is known for seeking votes in the name of religion, now AAP is also following the same tactic."

The Congress campaign will focus on inflation, unemployment and farmers' issues, among others, which are troubling the common man in Gujarat, Gehlot said.

He also said that people can't be fooled anymore by dedicating and inaugurating projects in the run-up to the elections.

If the BJP has really developed the state, why there are no smart villages or smart cities in Gujarat, Gehlot asked.



# 'EC DIDN'T FOLLOW RULES REGARDING VOTERS' LIST'

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, Oct 29:** Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has alleged that the Election Commission did not follow rules while preparing the voters' list in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls earlier this year.

He alleged that there is a 'conspiracy' by the BJP government to suppress the voice of the opposition.

"Had the Election Commission followed rules regarding electoral roll in 2022 Assembly elections, thousands of voters would not have been deprived of voting," Yadav said during a meeting held to discuss preparations for the civic body polls here, according to a press statement issued Friday.

He said it is the constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission to conduct elections in a free, fair and transparent manner.

"It is also the responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure that voting is held without any pressure or fear of the administrative machinery," he added.

The SP chief asked why the Election Commission "has not taken cognisance of all complaints and memorandums related to the 2022 Assembly elections."

Yadav claimed rigging had taken place in the polls and his party had raised objections.

"During the elections, Lucknow DIG Laxmi Singh was not transferred despite repeated complaints while her husband was a BJP can-



**Had the Election Commission followed rules regarding electoral roll in 2022 Assembly elections, thousands of voters would not have been deprived of voting**

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

didate in the Sarojini Nagar area of Lucknow," he said.

"Many such officers, who are posted in one place for years, were also not removed. In many places both husband and wife were officers and were handling the charge but they were also allowed to stay there," alleged the SP chief.

Yadav asked, "Why thousands of polling stations were changed in the last assembly elections? This kept many voters astray. The names of many voters were left out of the list. Voting was delayed by the administration, machinery and polling was conducted arbitrarily."

"There was a difference between the list of the presiding officer and the final list at many places. (Even though) the final voter list has not been yet prepared, the process of voting has not even been announced, then how can BJP leaders claim to winning all the 17 places in the municipal corporation election," he asked.

"The returning officer should take cognisance of whether this

# Gujarat's political rivals use Sardar Patel as vote magnet, but AAP doesn't

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Gandhinagar, Oct 29:** There is not a single political meeting in which the state or national leaders do not use Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's name. Mostly his name is used to target political opponents, with the one point agenda to woo voters.

October 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was addressing a rally at Anand. He remembered Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and said, "Following in the footsteps of Sardar Patel, I have addressed the Kashmir issue, that is the true tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel."

In the same address, he also

said, "Have you ever heard that Sardar Patel had taken permission from the British for a protest or any agitation. Completely contrary to Sardar's philosophy during BJP rule one has to take permission of the government for protest. Were he alive today, he would not have tolerated this rule and he would have dethroned BJP from power."

Sardar Patel and Mahatma Gandhi were congress leaders, but now BJP has snatched away these two iconic leaders and has established that only BJP respects them and their values. This is pure political gimmicks, none of the political leaders have ever understood these



taunted the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel made one India by unification of different states ruled by dynasty, whereas one person took the Kashmir issue to a different level." He was referring to Nehru's stand of UN intervention to resolve the Kashmir issue.

While taking credit for completing the Narmada project, Modi said, "It was the dream of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which I completed after facing lots of hardships, political and legal challenges."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi too is not far behind in using Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's name to woo voters in Gujarat. September 5, while addressing the party's Parivartan Sankalp Rally in Ahmedabad, he attacked the BJP and said, "If the BJP was seriously believing in Sardar Patel's ideology and values, it would have never introduced the anti-farmers agriculture laws." Taunting the BJP, Gandhi had

two leaders or can walk in their footsteps, observed Dhanji Patidar, former convener of AAP-Unjha.

His reading is that it seems that there is clarity between BJP and AAP, that AAP will not touch Mahatma and Sardar, whereas AAP will coin on Bhagat Singh and BR Ambedkar. He has come to this conclusion, because during AAP national leaders' visit to Gujarat, they never talk or ask to vote on these leaders' names.

"If they really believed and respected Sardar Patel, they would have not changed Motera Stadium name. The stadium was named after Sardar Patel after construction in 1980's paying him a respect. In 2021, after renovation it is renamed as Narendra Modi stadium. This itself explains, how much they respect Sardar Patel, and in fact are only using names during elections for political benefit," says Mithilesh Patel, president of Sardar Saman Sankalp Samiti president.

# For greener future, CRPF personnel plant 75,000 saplings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi (UP), Oct 29:** In an effort for a greener tomorrow, Central Reserve Police Force personnel deployed in the security of the Kashi Vishwanath temple and Gyanvapi mosque here have planted about 75,000 saplings since the launch of the drive in 2019. Anil Kumar Briksh, Commandant of the 95th Battalion of the CRPF, said the jawans planted the saplings in collaboration with social organisations and government departments at parks, monasteries and educational institutions.

So far about 75,000 saplings have been planted in the district, he said, adding that CRPF personnel also take an oath to protect the environment. "It is paramount to make youngsters and children of the country aware about environment protection. We have to inculcate the habit of protecting the environment in the children of the country, only then will the future generations will understand their responsibilities," the officer said.

He stressed that apart from planting saplings, it is equally important to protect them. "It is our en-



deavour to save at least 50 per cent of the saplings that are being planted," he said.

The officer said after planting the saplings, they administer an oath to people and children to protect the



## of the day quote

Arvind Kejriwal who used to oppose (construction of a grand) Ram temple is a symbol of anarchy. He does fake talking. He does new propaganda to divert attention of the people from his fakeness

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

It is the Centre's firm commitment to ensure every part of Jammu and Kashmir gets durable road network for its rapid growth

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL

After independence, during the 67 years of various Prime Ministers' rule, the country borrowed ₹55.87 crore. After coming to power in 2014, the borrowings by (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) Modi alone in these eight years was ₹80 lakh crore

KT RAMA RAO | TRS WORKING PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### 25 injured in massive fire

**Aurangabad (Bihar):** At least 25 people, including five police personnel, were injured when a fire broke out in a congested alley in south Bihar's Aurangabad district in the early hours of Saturday, an official said. The incident happened in Shahganj locality of Aurangabad town where an LPG cylinder exploded inside a house as preparation of "prasad" for Chhath Puja was underway, sub-inspector in-charge of Town police station Vinay Kumar Singh said. He said that according to the owner of the house, Anil Goswami, gas had begun to leak from the cylinder and it went up in flames before the occupants could clear off.

### Teen stabbed to death by juveniles

**New Delhi:** A 17-year-old teenager has been stabbed to death by two juveniles near his house here in Patel Nagar area, the police said Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Manoj Kumar Negi, a police officer said, adding the two accused have been apprehended. The gruesome episode was captured in a CCTV camera installed in the area.

### Vande Bharat train hits cattle

**Mumbai:** The Mumbai-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Superfast Express ramed into cattle near Atul railway station in Gujarat Saturday morning which damaged its front panel, an official said. This was the third such incident since the Vande Bharat train service started on this route from September 30. The train halted for 15 minutes after hitting a bull that had strayed on the track around 8.20 am but all the passengers were safe, said Sumit Thakur, chief public relations officer of Western Railway.

### 9 booked in UP

**Meerut (UP):** An FIR was lodged against nine people and a probe ordered following allegations of religious conversion, police here said Saturday. Senior Superintendent of Police, Rohit Singh Sajwan said a complaint was received regarding religious conversions and Brahmपुरi police station had been asked to investigate the matter. "On the basis of the preliminary investigation report, a case was registered against nine people, including three women, on Friday. The investigation is going on," the officer said.



Lakhs of youths have become overage for recruitment in the Uttar Pradesh Police after waiting for it for four years  
VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

# Arrest Shah: Sisodia on MLA poaching in T'gana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Saturday released an audio clip of an alleged BJP man purportedly discussing the party's bid to poach AAP MLAs in the capital and demanded Home Minister Amit Shah's arrest and ouster if he was involved in the matter.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP or Shah. The senior AAP leader played the audio tape at a press conference and claimed the BJP "dawal" (broker) heard in the clip was one of the three people arrested in Telangana over an alleged bid to poach that state's ruling party Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) MLAs.

Ramachandra Bharati aka Satish Sharma, Nanda Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy were arrested by Telangana Police earlier this week for allegedly trying to coax four TRS legislators into defecting to the BJP. He also showed their pictures with a senior RSS leader and two Union ministers and said their connection with the BJP rank and file was evident.

"In this audio, the BJP's dalal (broker) can be heard luring a (TRS) MLA to the BJP, saying they were also trying to poach 43 Delhi MLAs and that money had been kept aside for this purpose. He is also saying that he has spoken with Shah and B L Santhosh," Sisodia said.

"If it is Home Minister Amit Shah the BJP dalal is referring to, he should immediately be arrested and questioned," the Delhi deputy



The senior AAP leader played the audio tape at a press conference and claimed the BJP 'dawal' (broker) heard in the clip was one of the three people arrested in Telangana over an alleged bid to poach that state's ruling party Telangana Rashtra Samithi MLAs

Sisodia said the audio tape was a "proof" of the BJP's failed attempt to poach AAP MLAs in Delhi and Punjab and demanded a probe by the Enforcement Directorate into the matter

chief minister said. He also demanded that Shah be sacked as the home minister if he was involved in the conspiracy under "Operation Lotus".

Sisodia said the audio tape was a "proof" of the BJP's failed attempt to poach AAP MLAs in Delhi and Punjab and demanded a probe by the Enforcement Directorate into the matter.

"It is very dangerous for a country if its home minister is involved in such a conspiracy," he said. When asked how the clip substantiated the involvement of the two senior BJP leaders, he said, "If the ED and the CBI find some time, they will come to know who those being referred to as B L Santhosh and Shah in the conversation are."

"Everybody knows B L Santhosh. The BJP's broker has named Amit Shah ji, the country's home minister, as the number two in the recorded conversation," he added. Sisodia also demanded a probe into the source of the money used by the BJP for "Operation Lotus".

In a separate press conference, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh demanded that the Election Commission immediately de-recognise the BJP as a political party. "The BJP has become a kidnapping gang. It is no more a political party as it poaches other party MLAs to topple their government. It has become a group which murders democracy. I demand that the Election Commission immediately de-recognise the BJP," he said.

## SpiceJet passenger injured due to turbulence dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 29:** Akbar Ansari, a passenger who was injured due to turbulence in a SpiceJet flight in early May, passed away last month.

Family members of Ansari, who was 48 years old, said he was on ventilator support for more than a month before succumbing to injuries on September 26. On May 1, SpiceJet's Mumbai-Durgapur flight encountered severe turbulence during its descent phase, injuring 14 passengers and three cabin crew members.

The family members alleged that Ansari did not receive proper treatment. According to the death certificate issued by the Mission Hospital at Durgapur on September 29, Akbar Ansari, age 48, died of "sepsis in shock" caused by poly-trauma with Spinal injury." SpiceJet on Saturday said that "a passenger who was injured during the severe turbulence encountered by SpiceJet flight on May 1, 2022 sadly passed away last month." The company "extended" all possible assistance including taking care of the passenger's medical and hospital expenses, it stated in the statement and added that "the Compensation is being paid as per norms."

Two of the injured passengers - one with a head injury and another with a spinal injury - were admitted to the ICU ward of a hospital in Durgapur (West Bengal), aviation safety regulator DGCA said in a statement in May.

## Cong seeks judicial probe into 'cash gifts'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Bangalore, Oct 29:** The Congress Saturday alleged that Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai tried to bribe journalists by sending ₹1 lakh cash gifts to them on Diwali and demanded the registration of a graft case as well as his resignation.

Attacking the BJP, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, "Before the election - neither will I indulge in corruption, nor will I let others indulge in it. After the election - will take '40 per cent commission' and then send bribes to Karnataka media in sweet boxes on Diwali." "BJP government of PayCM and PayPM, corruption of 'double engine' across the country," Rahul Gandhi said.

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee demanded a judicial inquiry into what it called

"Chief Minister's Office (CMO) 'sweet box bribe' to journalists". According to sources in the CMO, Bommai has said he was unaware that "cash" was given to journalists.

Addressing the media in Delhi, senior Congress leader Randeep Surjewala said, "The Bommai government's bribe-gate is now out in the open and this time the responsibility lies at the doorstep of

The Bommai government's bribe-gate is now out in the open and this time the responsibility lies at the doorstep of the Chief Minister himself  
RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS LEADER

the chief minister himself."

"This time, Mr Bommai has surreptitiously, overtly and in a conspiratorial fashion tried to bribe the entire journalistic fraternity by sending ₹1 lakh cash to every journalist in Karnataka. Hats off to our journalist friends who openly exposed the bribe-gate," said Surjewala, who has been looking after the party's affairs in the state.

This is not the first time that the "40 per cent corrupt Bommai government" has attempted to do so, he alleged.

The BJP government in Karnataka has become infamous for the "PayCM" campaign that the people of Karnataka have launched, Surjewala claimed.

## TEST SUCCESSFUL

The flight acceptance hot test of CE-20 engine has been successfully carried out in the High Altitude Test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu for a duration of 25 seconds



## 'Scope, structure of appellate panels to be announced soon'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** IT Minister Rajeve Chandrasekhar Saturday said the modalities defining the structure and scope of Grievance Appellate Committees will be worked out soon, and hoped that their formation will, in fact, discourage social media platforms from continuing with their "casual" and "tokenism" approach to address user grievances.

The government Friday tightened IT rules, paving the way for the setting up of grievance appellate panels, which will settle issues that users may have against the way social media platforms initially addressed their complaints regarding content and other matters.

The government says that the "broken" grievance redressal mechanism currently being offered by intermediaries (read social media platforms) and lakhs of messages flagging users' concerns around



unresolved complaints had forced its hand. "Grievance Appellate Committee will be an important institution in the coming days for internet and intermediaries. We will make an announcement about its structure, constitution, scope, and terms of reference," Chandrasekhar told reporters at a briefing. The details will be released soon, he promised.

"It is our fond hope that intermediaries will do a better job of dealing with grievances at their level, so overflow on appellate process will be minimised," he said.

## Delhi's air nears 'severe' zone; GRAP 3 kicks in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** Amid worsening pollution levels in Delhi, the Centre's air quality panel Saturday directed authorities in the National Capital Region to implement curbs such as a ban on construction and demolition activities under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) stage III.

The restrictions will not be applicable on essential projects concerning national security, defence, railways and metro rail among others. Mining activities will also not be allowed in the region.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) further said states might impose restrictions on the plying of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers in the NCR considering the worsening air quality. This direction is non-binding on authorities.

The ban on construction activities is likely to affect housing projects in Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and other areas. Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index stood at 397 at 4 pm, the worst since January. It was 354 on Thursday, 271 on Wednesday, 302 on Tuesday and 312 on Monday (Diwali).

GRAP is a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation. It classifies the air quality in the Delhi-NCR under four different stages: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300);

Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI >450).

At an emergency meeting on Saturday evening, the sub-committee of the commission noted that due to unfavourable meteorological conditions and a sudden spike in incidents of farm fire, "it is considered necessary to implement Stage III of GRAP with immediate effect in the entire NCR."

Under stage III, the authorities have been asked to enforce a strict ban on construction and demolition activities in the NCR, except for essential projects and non-polluting activities such as plumbing, carpentry, interior decoration and electrical works.

The ban on construction and demolition activities covers earthwork for excavation, boring and drilling; fabrication and welding operations; loading and unloading of construction material; transfer of raw material, including fly ash, either manually or through conveyor belts and vehicular movement on unpaved roads.

It also bans the operation of batching plants; laying of sewer lines, waterline, drainage work and electric cabling through open trench system; cutting and fixing of tiles, stones and other flooring materials; grinding activities; piling work; water proofing work; road construction and repair works, including paving of sidewalks, pathways and central verges among others.



Disaster management personnel carry out a mock drill for rescuing people during accidents at Lalgah Railway Station in Bikaner

# Social media now toolkits of terror groups: Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** India Saturday cautioned the world about the possible implications of misuse of new technologies such as encrypted messaging and crypto-currency by "non-state actors" in absence of adequate regulatory mechanism with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar seeking united global efforts to deal with the challenge.

In an address at a special meeting of the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Jaishankar said the social media platforms have turned into potent instruments in the "toolkit" of terror networks and that the terror groups, their "ideological fellow-travellers" and "lone wolf" at-

tackers have significantly enhanced capabilities by gaining access to new technologies.

Reaffirming India's commitment to combat terrorism, he also announced that New Delhi would make a voluntary contribution of half a million dollars in the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism this year.

The external affairs minister also said the counter-terror sanction regime of the United Nations has been effective to put countries on notice that turned terrorism into a "state-funded enterprise", seen as an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Representatives from all 15 member nations of the UN Security Council attended the second and



final day's meeting in Delhi on Saturday, a day after the first day's events in Mumbai. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in message to the meet, called for con-

new and emerging technologies to spread disinformation, foment discord, recruit and radicalise (people), mobilise resources and execute attacks," he said in his message that was read out at the meeting. British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said the international community must work together to "starve" terrorists of the finance and emerging technologies".

In his remarks, Jaishankar said the technological innovations of the past two decades have been transformative in the way the world functions and the new and emerging technologies - from virtual private networks, and encrypted messaging services to blockchain and virtual curren-

cies - are offering a very promising future in the economic and social sectors. However, he said there is a flip side to it, especially where terrorism is concerned.

"These very technologies have also thrown up new challenges for the governments and regulatory bodies due to their potential vulnerability for misuse by non-state actors, given the very nature of some of these technologies and the nascent regulatory environment," Jaishankar said.

"In recent years, terrorist groups, their ideological fellow-travellers, particularly in open and liberal societies and 'lone wolf' attackers have significantly enhanced their capabilities by gaining access to these technologies," he added.



# international

## of the day quote

New and emerging technologies have unmatched potential to improve the human conditions everywhere, regrettably they have been also been misused by many including malicious actors

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

I am not like the absconder Nawaz Sharif that I will run away to London and then spew venom against the army

IMRAN KHAN | OPPOSITION LEADER, PAKISTAN

Wording aside, we are committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We do not accept North Korea with that status. But we are interested in having a conversation with the North Koreans

ALEXANDRA BELL | STATE DEPARTMENT, US

## SHORT TAKES

### Sunak may further freeze foreign fund

London: New British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is considering freezing the country's foreign aid budget for an additional two years, the Telegraph reported on Friday, citing sources. Britain's spending on foreign aid is set at 0.5% of national income. The government had cut its foreign aid spending two years ago as the country faced a huge hit to public finances due to the coronavirus pandemic. "All spending decisions will be considered in the round by the Prime Minister and Chancellor at the Autumn Statement," a UK Treasury spokesperson said.

### Poland's 1st N-plant to be made by US

Warsaw: US firm Westinghouse Electric Co will build Poland's first nuclear power plant, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Friday, confirming a long-awaited decision aiming to reduce the country's carbon emissions and phase out coal. With Russia waging war in neighbouring Ukraine, Poland's choice of a partner from the United States underlines the emphasis Warsaw places on relations with Washington at a time when its security is in the spotlight.

### HK customs seize record meth haul

Hong Kong: Hong Kong customs seized 1.8 metric tonne of liquid methamphetamine in the city's biggest-ever meth bust, authorities said Saturday. The drugs, which were seized October 23, had been concealed in bottles labelled as coconut water in a cargo shipment that arrived in Hong Kong by sea, according to a government statement. The haul is estimated to be worth 1.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$140 million). Authorities found that 1,800 bottles out of the total 7,700 bottles contained liquid meth. The bust is the largest on record among meth cases in terms of the amount and market value.

### Anne Frank's friend Hannah dies

The Hague: Hannah Pick-Goslar, one of Jewish diarist Anne Frank's best friends, has died at age 93, the foundation that runs the Anne Frank House museum said. The Anne Frank Foundation paid tribute to Pick-Goslar, who is mentioned in Anne's world-famous diary about her life in hiding from the Netherlands' Nazi occupiers, for helping to keep Anne's memory alive with stories about their youth.



It is very important for us, of course, that Finland and Sweden would join NATO hand in hand  
SANNA MARIN | PM, FINLAND

## FIRST EVER 'PUMPKIN HAired' LANGUR

A heartwarming video of an adorable newborn langur with a pumpkin colour hair has surfaced on the internet and is going viral now. The lovely video, which Saint Louis Zoo posted on their official Facebook page, shows the little langur with its parents



# UK NAVY MEN KEPT 'RAPE LIST' ON SUBMARINES

Allegations of bullying, misogyny and sexual harassment against women within the Submarine Service have prompted the Royal Navy to launch an urgent investigation into the matter

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, Oct 29: The head of the British Royal Navy has announced

a probe after several whistle-blowers made allegations of widespread sexual harassment of female staff on submarines.

The Daily Mail Saturday published a story based on an interview with Sophie Brook, a former naval lieutenant, who described a "constant campaign of sexual bullying" including male crew members putting the names of female colleagues on a "rape list" and ranked women to decide the order in which they'll be raped in a catastrophic event. The article also quoted two unnamed whistle-blowers who backed her account.

First Sea Lord Ben Key, the professional head of the navy, said in a statement to the newspaper that he had called for an investigation to be carried out by his senior team and was "deeply disturbed" by the "abhorrent" allegations.



Brook, 30, had been tipped to become a submarine commander but became suicidal and self-harmed as a result of the culture on board and was ultimately dismissed by the navy.

Sexual assault and harassment has no place in the Royal Navy and will not be tolerated. Anyone found culpable would be held accountable regardless of rank  
BEN KEY | HEAD, UK NAVY

The Royal Navy's submarine service only began admitting women in 2011. Male superiors would routinely address her using a sexual obscenity and put their penises in her pocket, Brook said. She learnt she was number six on a list of which female crew members would be raped first in the event of a catastrophe.

A married colleague exposed himself to her and another climbed into her bed when she was asleep and started kissing her, she said.

One woman who formally complained about naked pictures of women on display in a working area was "frozen out" and unable to advance, Brook said. She began self-harming at 21, two years after joining the navy.

After needing stitches for one injury, the doctor asked for her to be taken off duties, but she was put on watch immediately afterwards with "total responsibility" for the nuclear submarine, she said.

Emma Norton, director of the Centre for Military Justice, a charity that gives legal aid to victims of harassment, told Sky News that only around 10 percent of women who experience serious bullying and harassment in the service make a formal complaint because "they have no faith that they'll get any kind of justice or a fair hearing".

## NEW BOMBS IN EUROPE

# US lowering N-threshold: Russia

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered the gravest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis when the two Cold War superpowers came closest to nuclear war

REUTERS



Russia cautions US over new B61s  
Russia says NATO boosting nuclear plans  
'Newer bombs are of strategic significance'

The United States is modernizing them, increasing their accuracy and reducing the power of the nuclear charge, that is, they turn these weapons into battlefield weapons, thereby reducing the nuclear threshold

ALEXANDER GRUSHKO | DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

London, Oct 29: Russia said Saturday that the accelerated deployment of modernised US B61 tactical nuclear weapons at NATO bases in Europe would lower the "nuclear threshold" and that Russia would take the move into account in its military planning.

Russia has around 2,000 working tactical nuclear weapons while the United States has around 200 such weapons, half of which are at bases in Italy, Germany, Turkey, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Politico reported October 26 that the United States told a closed NATO meeting this month that it would accelerate the deployment of a modernised version of the B61, the B61-12, with the new weapons arriving at European bases in December; several months earlier than planned.

"We cannot ignore the plans to modernize nuclear weapons, those free-fall bombs that are in Europe," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko told state RIA news agency. The 12-ft B61-12 gravity bomb carries a lower yield nuclear warhead than many earlier versions but is more accurate and can penetrate below ground, according to research by the Federation of American Scientists published in 2014.

Amid the Ukraine crisis, President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly said that Russia will defend its territory with all available means, including nuclear weapons, if attacked. The comments raised particular concern in the West after Moscow declared last month it had annexed four Ukrainian regions that its forces control parts of. Putin says the West has engaged in nuclear blackmail against Russia.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
The US B61 nuclear bomb was first tested in Nevada shortly after the Cuban Missile Crisis. Under Barack Obama, US president from 2009 to 2017, the development of a new version of the bomb, the B61-12, was approved.

Russia's Grushko said that Moscow would also have to take account of the Lockheed Martin F-35 which would drop such a bomb. NATO, he said, had already strengthened the nuclear parts of its military planning.

NATO "has already made decisions to strengthen the nuclear component in the alliance's military plans," Grushko said.

Russia's ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Antonov, said Saturday on Telegram that the new B61 bombs had a "strategic significance" as Russia's tactical nuclear weapons were in storage, yet these US bombs would be just a short flight from Russia's borders.

The United States, according to the US 2022 Nuclear Posture Review published Thursday, will bolster nuclear deterrence with

## 'UK behind Nord Stream explosion'

Russia's defence ministry said Saturday that British navy personnel blew up the Nord Stream gas pipelines last month, a claim that London said was false and designed to distract from Russian military failures in Ukraine. The Russian ministry said that "British specialists" from the same unit directed Ukrainian drone attacks on ships of Russian Black Sea fleet in Crimea earlier Saturday that it said were largely repelled by Russian forces, with minor damage to a Russian minesweeper. "According to available information, representatives of this unit of the British Navy took part in the planning, provision and implementation of a terrorist attack in the Baltic Sea September 26 this year - blowing up the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines," the ministry said. Russia did not give evidence for its claim that a leading NATO member had sabotaged critical Russian infrastructure amid the worst crisis in relations between the West and Russia since the depths of the Cold War.

the F-35, the B61-12 bombs and a nuclear-armed air-launched cruise missile.

## 'TODAY IS LAST DAY OF RIOTS'

# Iran's Guards head warns protesters

REUTERS

Tehran, Oct 29: The head of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards warned protesters that Saturday would be their last day of taking to the streets, in a sign that security forces may intensify their crackdown on unrest sweeping the country.

Iran has been gripped by protests since the death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini in the custody of the morality police last month, posing one of the boldest challenges to the clerical leadership since the 1979 revolution.

"Do not come to the streets! Today is the last day of the riots," Guards commander Hossein Salami said in some of the toughest language used in the crisis, which Iran's clerical leadership blames on its foreign enemies including Israel and the United States.

"This sinister plan, is a plan hatched ... in the White House and the Zionist regime," Salami said.

The widely feared Revolutionary Guards, who report directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have not been deployed since demonstrations began September 16. They are an elite force with a track record of crushing dissent.

Rights groups have said at least 250 protesters have been killed and



Elite force commander issues one of toughest warnings yet  
Revolutionary Guards not deployed since protests began  
At least 250 protesters have been killed and thousands held

thousands arrested across Iran in the protests, which have turned into a popular revolt by furious Iranians from all layers of society.

On Friday, video footage on social media showed protesters calling for the death of Khamenei and the Basij militia, which has played a major role in efforts to defuse demonstrations.

The Intelligence Ministry and the intelligence arm of the Revolutionary Guards have accused spy agencies from the United States, Britain, Israel and Saudi Arabia of having orchestrated the unrest to destabilise the Islamic Republic. "Don't sell your honour to America and don't slap the security forces who are defending you in the face," he said.

## Namesake gathering in Tokyo smashes world record

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tokyo, Oct 29: Remembering names at a party is never easy, except at a gathering in Tokyo Saturday where all 178 guests were called Hirokazu Tanaka -- breaking a record previously held by 164 Martha Stewarts.

Hirokazu Tanakas from all walks of life came together for the record attempt, including a three-year-old toddler, an 80-year-old and even one who flew in from Hanoi.

Wearing identical T-shirts emblazoned with their name, they sat still in a packed theatre for five minutes, as per the Guinness rules, before an official from the organisation declared a new record.

"Congratulations on your achievement!" the judge said, a declaration met by roaring cheers.

It was a dream come true for 53-year-old Hirokazu Tanaka, the man who brought his namesakes together after years of strenuous efforts and two failed attempts.

"I never expected we would achieve such a ridiculous record," he said with a chuckle, adding that the Tanakas had "set an example of silliness".

The Guinness World Record for the "largest gathering of people with the same first and last name" previously belonged to 164 people called Martha Stewart who filled the set of a TV show in New York in 2005. Tanaka's quest for the feat dates back to 1994, when he stumbled upon news about a baseball prodigy also called Hirokazu Tanaka -- and felt "thunderous joy" at a name he had previously considered mundane.

## Bolsonaro, Lula trade blows before polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, Oct 29: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva faced off in a final debate before their runoff election Sunday, focusing mainly on economic hardships.

It is an issue that could sway some of the few undecided voters in the tight race between the far-right incumbent and the leftist challenger who clashed Friday night in a broadcast on the nation's biggest TV network.

Da Silva, who leads in opinion polls as he seeks to return to the job he held from 2003 to 2010, once more pledged to boost spending on the poor, though he did not out-



line a clear plan on how he would achieve that.

He also highlighted that Bolsonaro's government hasn't yet provided an increase to the minimum wage above inflation.

"This man governed for four years and there was not 1% of a real increase," da Silva said at the TV

Globo debate in Rio de Janeiro, which lasted 2½ hours. He said the minimum wage is now worth less than when Bolsonaro was inaugurated.

Bolsonaro quickly promised to lift the minimum wage from \$229 a month to \$265 next year, though that wasn't included in his 2023 budget proposal sent to Congress. He said the economic downturn that accompanied the Covid-19 pandemic prevented a minimum wage boost, but pointed to firming economic activity. "We did better than you would have done," the president said to da Silva. "We are ready to take off. We have one of the world's best economies now."

Bolsonaro said at one point that "the whole system is against me."

# Crowds gather in SA for new Zulu king's coronation

The crowning -- the first South Africa has witnessed in more than half a century -- comes after a year of bitter feuding over the royal succession that has spilled into the courts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Durban, Oct 29: Tens of thousands of people in colourful regalia gathered at a huge soccer stadium in the coastal city of Durban Saturday to celebrate the official coronation of South Africa's Zulu king.

President Cyril Ramaphosa was to hand over the certificate to formally recognise the 48-year-old



new ruler of the country's richest and most influential traditional monarchy.

Misuzulu Zulu ascended the throne once held by his late father, Goodwill Zwelithini, who died in March 2021

after a diabetes-related illness.

The crowning -- the first South Africa has witnessed in more than half a century -- comes after a year of bitter feuding over the royal succession that has spilled

into the courts. Although the title of king does not bestow executive power, the monarchs wield great moral influence over more than 11 million Zulus, who make up nearly a fifth of South Africa's population.

Amabutho, royal regiments, clad in traditional skirts, faux leopard skin tops, and carrying shields and sticks sang songs of praise for their king. Women wore brightly coloured broad-brimmed Zulu hats and traditional wraps, while young girls in pleated skirts and beads danced on the terraces in the 85,000-seater Moses Mabhida Stadium -- which was built for the FIFA 2010 World Cup tournament.

Among the delegates were King Mswati III of Africa's last absolute monarchy, Eswatini, who is also

uncle to the new Zulu king. Zulu kings are descendants of King Shaka, the 19th-century leader still revered for having united a large swathe of the country as the Zulu nation, which fought bloody battles against the British colonisers.

King Zwelithini, who died after more than 50 years in charge, left six wives and at least 28 children.

Misuzulu is the first son of Zwelithini's third wife, who he designated as regent in his will. But the queen died suddenly a month after Zwelithini, leaving a will naming Misuzulu as the next king -- a development that did not go down well with other family members. The new monarch's first name means "strengthening the Zulus" but his path to the crown has not been smooth.



## of the day quote

While social media norms require platforms to remove illegal content within 72 hours of being flagged, but the timelines are too long and they should takedown such content as fast as possible

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR** | IT MINISTER

The relationship between India & Sweden is stronger than ever and innovation partnership has really become a cornerstone of our bilateral collaboration

**EBBA BUSCH** | DEPUTY PM, SWEDEN

We registered record disbursements in the first half of over ₹1,700 crore driven by continued growth in tier II and III towns and the strong appetite for home ownership

**LAKSHMINARAYANAN DURAISWAMY** | MD, SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE

## SHORT TAKES

### Byju's staff allege forceful resignations

**Bangalore:** Bangalore-based Edtech giant Byju's, after making news for massive layoffs in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram, is now facing similar allegations in this city of Karnataka. According to sources, the employees are being asked to immediately resign or face terminations which would affect their career prospectus. Karnataka State IT/ITES Employees Union (KITU) has stated that Byju's is laying off employees in its Bangalore headquarters. KITU Secretary Sooraj Nidiyanga told the media that employees at Byju's are reluctant to resign but are being forced. The HR department is indulging in getting resignations forcefully from employees. He also stated that there is no written communication regarding layoffs from the company. For the past one week, the HR department has been calling employees and asking them to submit their resignations voluntarily.

### NTPC net profit drops over 7%

**New Delhi:** State-run power giant NTPC Saturday reported an over 7 per cent dip in its consolidated net profit at ₹3,417.67 crore for the September quarter, mainly due to higher expenses. The consolidated net profit of the company stood at ₹3,690.95 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2021, it said in a BSE filing. Total income rose to ₹44,681.50 crore in the quarter from ₹33,095.67 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses jumped to ₹40,000.99 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal from ₹28,949.53 crore earlier. Average power tariff of the company during April to September this year was at ₹4.77 per unit, compared to ₹3.86 per unit in the same period in 2021.

### Evergrande delivers first electric vehicles

**Beijing:** China Evergrande New Energy Vehicle Group Ltd has started deliveries of its Hengchi 5 electric vehicle, with the first 100 customers getting their cars Saturday, it said on its official Wechat account. The company, a unit of heavily indebted property developer China Evergrande Group, launched production of the vehicle at a plant in the northern city of Tianjin last month. Evergrande is aiming to shift the group's primary business from real estate to the automobile venture over the next decade, with plans to make 1 million vehicles by 2025.

# Govt extends sugar export curbs

**INDIA HAS BEEN THE HIGHEST PRODUCER AND THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF SUGAR IN THE WORLD IN THE CURRENT YEAR**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** The government has extended restrictions on sugar exports till October 31 next year, a move aimed at increasing availability of the commodity in the domestic market.

Earlier, the restrictions were imposed till October 31 this year. "Restriction on export of sugar (raw, refined, and white sugar) is extended beyond October 31, 2022 till October 31, 2023, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Other conditions will remain unchanged," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated October 28.

However, it said these restrictions will not be applicable on sugar being exported to the EU and the US under CXL and TRQ duty concession quotas. A specified



Sugar export restrictions extended till Oct 31, 2023, which were supposed to end Oct 31, 2022

The production is projected to be 36.5 million tonne in the 2022-23, an increase of 2% YoY

Sugar industry body expects export to be around 9 million tonne this marketing season

amount of sugar is exported to these regions under CXL and TRQ (tariff rate quota).

India has been the highest producer and the second largest exporter of sugar in the world in the current year.

An exporter would require a licence or permission from the government to export sugar, which is under the restricted category.

The country's sugar production is projected to be 36.5 million tonne in the 2022-23 marketing season, an increase of 2 per cent compared

to the year-ago period, industry body ISMA has said. The production in India stood at 35.8 million tonnes during the 2021-22 marketing season. The season is from October-September.

With an estimated increase in production despite higher diversion for ethanol, ISMA expects export to be around 9 million tonnes this season.

Releasing the first estimate, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said "after accounting for the reduction of 45 lakh tonne in

## BIZ BUZZ

### Bol on-boards 100 customers in digital mode at DBU branch

**Bhubaneswar:** Bank of India, Digital Banking Unit, Khurda, is one of the 75 DBUs dedicated to the public by the Prime Minister of India October 16. While inaugurating DBUs he had urged banks to bring as many people as possible into digital banking fold and every DBU should look for bringing at least 100 customers in their region. In line with PM appeal, Bank of India organised a customer function October 29 for digital on-boarding of 100 new customers at its Digital Banking Unit (DBU), Khurda, Bhubaneswar. AK Das, MD & CEO of Bank of India, Head Office, Mumbai participated in the event along with the senior officials of the bank. Bank of India is the first bank to enrol at least 100 new customers into digital banking. Das in his keynote address highlighted the need for adoption of digital banking by all segments of customers. More and more usage of DBUs by customers for their banking transactions will go in a long way to achieve the vision of paperless banking. The bank will always remain as a front-runner and committed to bringing new products and facilities for esteemed customers in the field of digital banking. He welcomed the 100 new customers and presented the digital kits containing ATM card, QR code and FI products to the customers. The bank also presented and explained various digital products and account opening journey through web mode for customer awareness.



### LOWEST Q3 LEVEL SINCE 2014

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** The global smartphone market declined by 12 per cent (year-on-year) even as it grew by 2 per cent (on-quarter) to reach 301 million units in Q3, its lowest Q3 level since 2014.

According to Counterpoint Research, the smartphone market remained under pressure given deteriorating economic conditions.

Ongoing international political tensions resulting in economic uncertainty hit the smartphone market, even though it reversed its slide below the 300-million-mark last quarter thanks to a slight quarterly recovery in Apple and Samsung shipments, according to the report.

"Russia's escalating war in Ukraine, ongoing China-US political distrust and tensions, growing inflationary pressures across

# GLOBAL SMARTPHONE MKT SINKS

APPLE WAS THE ONLY BRAND AMONG THE TOP-FIVE PLAYERS TO GROW 2% YOY, INCREASING ITS MARKET SHARE TO 16%



regions, a growing fear of recession, and weakening national currencies all caused a further dent in consumer sentiment, hitting already weakened demand," explained senior analyst Harmeet Singh Walia.

Apple was the only brand among

the top-five players to grow 2 per cent YoY, increasing its market share by two percentage points to 16 per cent.

Samsung's shipments declined by 8 per cent YoY but grew 5 per cent QoQ to reach 64 million, thanks to record pre-sales of its

### Global tablet mkt down 16%

Despite the global tablet market declining by 16 per cent (year-on-year) in the third quarter this year, Apple marinated the lead with 39 per cent market share and shipped 14.7 million units. According to Strategy Analytics, Apple shipments fell by 14 per cent (on-year) but still gained market share as its higher tier portfolio benefits from wealthier customers shrugging off inflation. While the overall market fell, Samsung (19 per cent market share) and Amazon (10 per cent market share) led top vendors with low single-digit declines credited to their unique strategies in the market.

premium fold and flip smart-

phones, compared with the same quarter last year.

Xiaomi, OPPO and vivo, recovered slightly after receiving heavy beatings due to lockdowns in China in Q2, and as they captured more of the market ceded by Apple and Samsung's exit from Russia.

"With the full force of the latest iPhone launch being felt in Q4, we expect further quarterly improvement in the coming quarter, although central banks' attempts to control inflation will further reduce consumer demand," said associate director Jan Stryjak.

However, shipments are unlikely to reach last year's levels, let alone pre-pandemic Q4 levels of over 400 million units.

"Looking further ahead into 2023, we expect sluggish demand with lengthening replacement rates, especially in the first half of the year," Stryjak added.

# After Elon Musk takeover, Twitter users test free speech limits

Musk, who is known for being a self-assigned "free speech absolutist", has previously claimed that he is "against censorship that goes far beyond the law. If people want less free speech, they will ask the government to pass laws to that effect"

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Los Angeles, Oct 29:** Twitter users wasted no time Friday testing the limits of free speech on the platform under new owner Elon Musk, with posts questioning transgender iden-

tity and masks.

Hours after Musk took total ownership of the platform, conservative voices celebrated what they said was their newly-reclaimed right to free speech.

Podcaster Buck Sexton (@BuckSexton) jumped straight in, tweeting: "BTW turns out men \*CANT\* get pregnant, Bring it, libs."

The tweet sparked both support and derision, with those apparently in agreement replying with tweets like "Truth," and "This is gonna be a great day."

Others opted to mock the familiar attempt to "own" liberal opponents. "Turns out you CANT get laid," tweeted @sawthrexit. The mercurial Tesla chief tweeted, "let the good times roll,"



his latest lighthearted gesture signaling his tumultuous, \$44 billion bid to take Twitter private was finally done.

Musk has vowed to dial back con-

tent moderation, which conservatives say unfairly targets their views. But detractors warn that without standards, the world's "digital town square" is at risk of becoming a

### Twitter to form 'content moderation council'

Twitter's new owner billionaire Elon Musk has said the social media company will form a "content moderation council" and any major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen after such a body has convened. Musk's comments came a day after he completed the \$44 billion acquisition of the social media giant. "Twitter will be forming a content moderation council with widely diverse viewpoints. No major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen before that council convenes," Musk, 51, tweeted Friday. "To be super clear, we have not yet made any changes to Twitter's content moderation policies," he added. Musk has not yet offered details about how his content moderation council will work.

free-for-all of misinformation, with possibly perilous consequences for democracy and public health.

In true Twitter fashion, the conservative-led effort to test boundaries Friday generated a few tongue-in-cheek efforts.

"Since this platform is allowing

free-speech again I would just like to say that cool ranch Doritos are better than nacho cheese," tweeted @KFILIE. While @Alyssafarah looked to set the cat amongst the pigeons with an old saw that never fails to prove incendiary: "The Rolling Stones > the Beatles".

## BACARDI ENTERS LOCAL WHISKY SPACE

Bacardi, the Mexican liquor major known for its eponymous white-rum brand, is entering the domestic whisky market with Legacy, being bottled from its Nasik plant and priced in the mid-premium range. The 158-year-old brand based in Santiago de Cuba, is better known as the white rum brand in the country and has been the market leader here since its entry a few decades back



## LOW CRUDE COST

# IOC reports first-ever quarterly loss in a row

Oil firms who are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily in line with the cost, haven't changed rates for over six-and-half-months now - the longest freeze in rates since fuel pricing was deregulated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Saturday reported a net loss of ₹272.35 crore for July-September despite booking over ₹10,800 crore of LPG subsidy it received from the government after the quarter ended.

The net loss of ₹272.35 crore compares to a profit of ₹6,360.05 crore in July-September 2021, according to a company's filing with the stock exchanges.

The decline comes on the back of a ₹1,992.53 crore loss incurred in the previous April-June quarter. This is the first time that IOC has booked losses in two straight quarters - all because it sold petrol, diesel and cooking gas (LPG) at rates below cost.

The loss in the second quarter of the current fiscal was despite accounting for ₹10,801 crore of one-time grant that the government had announced October 12.

The government October 12 extended a one-time grant of ₹22,000 crore to three state-owned fuel retailers to cover the losses they incurred on selling domestic cooking gas LPG below cost in two years starting June 2020.

An official explained that though the subsidy was provided by the government after the quarter had ended but it was for the period up to September 2022 and so it was considered following the principle of 'accrual-based' accounting.

"The company had suffered under-recoveries from the sale of domestic LPG in the financial year 2021-22 and in six months ended on September 20, 2022. To compensate for under-recoveries, the Government of India has recently approved a one-time grant of ₹10,801.00 crore. This grant has been recorded under revenue from operations in financial results for the period April-September 2022," IOC said in the filing.



IOC, as well as other state-owned fuel retailers, had booked heavy losses in the first quarter of the current fiscal and did not revise petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG prices in line with the cost to help the government contain runaway inflation.

In April-June (the first quarter of 2022-23 fiscal), IOC booked a net loss of ₹1,992.53 crore. For the first half of the current fiscal, the company has now accumulated a ₹2,264.88 crore net loss against a profit of ₹12,301.42 crore in the year-ago period.

This was despite a record refining margin of \$25.49 per barrel during April-September compared to \$6.57 a barrel in the same period last year.

Revenue from operations soared to ₹2.28 lakh crore in July-September from ₹1.69 lakh crore a year back, the filing showed.

IOC sold more petroleum products domestically in Q2 (21.56 million tonne versus 18.93 million tonne last year) and refined more crude oil (16.09 million tonne as opposed to 15.27 million tonne in Q2 of FY22).

However, exports were down to 0.86 million tonne in July-September from 1.24 million tonne in the same period last year. This is possibly because the government slapped a windfall profit tax on the export of petrol, diesel and ATF beginning July 1.



# Stern SA test awaits India

# India win Sultan of Johar Cup



All eyes would be on Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav as well as the openers (inset) Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul when they take on South Africa, Sunday



Kagiso Rabada (L) and Anrich Nortje would be keen to take the field against India in a pitch that is expected to be pacer-friendly



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Johor Bahru (Malaysia), Oct 29:** Two-time champions India defeated Australia 5-4 in a nail-biting penalty shootout to reclaim the Sultan of Johor Cup crown, breaking their five-year-old title jinx here Saturday.

The teams were level at 1-1 after regulation time in the title encounter. In the shootout, both teams

ended with 3-3 scoreline, forcing the match into sudden-death.

Uttam Singh scored twice in the shootout, including in sudden death, while Vishnukant Singh, Ankit Pal, Sudeep Chirmako also sounded the board for India. For Australia, Burns Cooper, Foster Brodee, Brooks Joshua and Hart Liam entered their names on the scoresheet.

It was Sudeep, who drew the first blood when he scored a field goal

in the 13th minute but Jack Holland produced the equaliser in the 28th minute as the two teams finished the regulation time at 1-1.

The Indians have won the age group tournament twice - 2013 and 2014 - and finished second best four times in 2012, 2015, 2018 and the last edition of the event in 2019. The tournament was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Spain scrape past Black Sticks

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** Spain had a tough outing during their FIH Pro League match against New Zealand at the Kalinga Stadium here as they secure a narrow 3-2 victory in a nail-biting contest, Saturday.

It was Spain who were relentless in their attacking game from the word 'go' winning as many as four penalty corners, with Pau Cunill converting one of them.

It was a busy day for New Zealand custodian George Enersen. Spain's Enrique Gonzalez was superb for the Spaniards showing his class. He dodged the Black Sticks' defenders with ease and made a few dangerous circle penetrations.

Second quarter proved to be a game changer for the Black Sticks as they came back in the game with two goals in as many minutes, scored by Hayden Phillips (26th minute) and Simon Child (27th).

It was a tough 12 minutes for the Spaniards till Marc Reyne made a classical finish inside the circle to level the score in the 39th minute.

New Zealand couldn't hold on to the possession and the Spanish



Spain players celebrate a goal against New Zealand, Saturday. PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

forwards took advantage of their mistakes. Pere Amat's circle penetration proved to be extremely costly for NZ as he hit the ball straight past George Enersen in the 47th minute of the game.

The Black Sticks got a penalty corner in the last minute of the game but failed to convert it with the scoreline remaining intact 3-2 in favour of Spain.

"Our defense was really good. We knew New Zealand is a very good team and we had come prepared. Extremely happy that we got three points in the first match of the season. We were a goal down in the half-time but we came back

stronger. We have our next match against India and we would plan accordingly after knowing the mistakes we did in this match" said Spain's Enrique Gonzalez, who was adjudged the Player of the Match.

NZL Captain Nic Woods was all smiles during the post-match presentation as he felt their defense wasn't their great as they conceded eight penalty corners: "We repeated the same mistakes that we did last night. There was room for improvement but we again lost ball possession in the second half. We will try to get back in shape before our next match and would come back stronger."

# Messi, Neymar shine as PSG battle past Troyes



AGENCIES

as Rony Lopes stabbed the ball back for Mama Balde to lash a fine volley into the net past PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

The hosts hit back midway through the first half, as Neymar's clipped pass found the run of Carlos Soler and the midfielder slotted in to level. The visitors stunned the home crowd again early in the second period, with Guinea-Bissau forward Balde netting his second with a low strike on the turn.

Any thoughts of PSG suffering their first defeat of the season were quickly put to bed in the space of seven Messi-inspired minutes. The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner hammered home his 12th goal of the campaign with a wonderful strike from 25 yards out which arched into the corner.

PSG took the lead for the first time in the game just after the hour mark, as Messi threaded a perfect pass through the Troyes defence for Neymar to fire past Gallon.

Mbappe got himself on the scoresheet with 14 minutes left, drilling a penalty high into the net. Ante Palaversa pulled one back for the away team late on, but PSG held on.

Troyes forged ahead with a shock opening goal inside three minutes,

# India look to continue momentum vs Spain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** An upbeat Indian men's hockey team will aim for a disciplined effort and avoid unnecessary cards when they take on Spain in the FIH Pro League here Sunday.

The Indians produced a great fightback in the opener against New Zealand Friday, rallying from 1-3 deficit to eke out a close 4-3 win at the Kalinga Stadium. The hosts will be eager to carry forward the momentum.

But it won't be easy against Spain as in the previous season, India lost 3-5 to the same opponents in the second match of the double-leg tie after registering a 5-4 victory in the opening game.

The Indians will have to be little disciplined at the back and avoid conceding penalty corners and foul inside the circle, resulting in cards - the way Sumit received Friday - forcing the hosts to play the last seven minutes of the match with 10 men.

India's chief coach Graham Reid knows the potential of the Spanish players and said his team can't afford a drop in momentum in the entire 60 minutes of the match. "Spain is a strong side and has



the ability to bounce back from any situation. It's important for us to keep up the tempo in all quarters and not drop the momentum at any point in the match," Reid said.

"I like how we finished the game (against New Zealand) and the team's self-belief coming to the fore. It's never easy to bounce back from a situation that we were in against New Zealand but it shows

the team's fighting spirit. But it's important we play all four quarters with that same intensity," he added.

For Spain it will be back-to-back matches as they play New Zealand in their first Pro League game here Saturday. Spain's Argentine coach Max Caldas is aware of the threat India pose but said the visitors are motivated to do well.

"India is a very good side,

they have done well in the recent past, including a medal at the Olympic Games. They display good skill and speed. Having said that, we are a motivated side," Caldas said.

"We have prepared well and our focus will be the processes we have in place and executing them well. Every match in the Pro League is important for us," he added.

# KDB's free-kick gives Man City win over Foxes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Leicester, Oct 29:** Kevin de Bruyne's (KDB) perfectly-struck free kick was enough to overcome the absence of Erling Haaland as Manchester City went top of the Premier League with a 1-0 win at Leicester Saturday.

De Bruyne curled in a set piece from 25 yards that went over the Leicester wall and in via the post in the 49th minute to secure a victory that lifted City one point above Arsenal ahead of the Gunners' game against Nottingham Forest.

City had dominated the first half but lacked a clear focal point in attack after Haaland was ruled out with an ankle problem, the first time the Norway striker has missed a game this season.



In other matches, Tottenham Hotspur came from two goals down to beat Bournemouth 3-2 in their away fixture, while Graham Potter's return to Brighton created the closest thing to a crisis he has experienced in his fledgling Chelsea reign. A brace from Kieffer Moore (22nd & 49th minutes) put the hosts in a strong position, before Ryan Sessegnon (57th) and Ben Davies (73rd) brought Spurs on level terms. However, Rodrigo Bentancur ensured the visitors of returning with full points with a goal in the stoppage time.

At Brighton, Leandro Trossard (fifth) and Pascal Gross (90+2 minutes) were on target for the hosts, while own goals by Ruben Loftus-Cheek (14th) and Trevoh Chalobah (42nd) extended Brighton's scoresheet. Kai Havertz's 48th minute strike was the only consolation for the visitors.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sankar enters title clash

**SANTANDER (SPAIN):** India's Sankar Muthusamy Saturday booked his place in the men's U-19 singles final with a clinical straight-game win over Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratkul at the BWF World Junior Championships here. Seeded fourth in the tournament, Muthusamy outwitted Teeraratkul 21-13, 21-15. He will take on the winner of the other semifinal between Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin and Korea's Byung Jae Kim in the summit clash Sunday. In the tournament history, India has so far won a gold, 3 silver and five bronze medals with Lakshya Sen bagging the last medal, a bronze, in 2018. Saina Nehwal is the only Indian to win the junior World Championship title in 2008. She had settled for silver in 2006. Siril Verma had also won silver in 2015, while Aparna Popat (1996) is another Indian to reach the world junior finals in the past.

### Satwik-Chirag in final

**PARIS:** Commonwealth Games champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty progressed to the men's doubles final of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament with a commanding straight-game win over Korean pair of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho, here Saturday. The World No.8 Indian pair dished out an attacking game and also controlled the net well to outwit the Korean combination, ranked 18th, 21-18 21-14 in the semifinals that lasted 45 minutes. The Indian pair, seeded seventh, thus reached its second final of a BWF world tour event in 2022, having won the India Open Super 500 tournament in January earlier this year. Satwik and Chirag, who had won a bronze medal at the World Championships in August, will play the winner of the other semifinal between England's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy and Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han.

### Phillips, Boult lift NZ

**SYDNEY:** Glenn Phillips (104, 64b, 10x4, 4x6) rode his luck to smash a special hundred as New Zealand put their poor start behind to register a crucial 65-run win over Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup, here Saturday. New Zealand found themselves tottering at 15/3 inside the powerplay before Phillips shared an 84-run stand with Daryl Mitchell (22) to stabilise the innings. The 25-year-old, who was dropped twice including early on in his innings, played some sensational strokes en route to his second T20 hundred. Sri Lanka too lost early wickets but, unlike New Zealand, could not recover from there to end at 102 all out in 19.2 overs. Trent Boult caused the maximum damage with the new ball and ended up with career-best figures of 4/13. It was New Zealand's second win in three games.

### Dilip, Kulkarni elected

**NEW DELHI:** Former India captains Dilip Vengsarkar and Shubhangi Kulkarni were Saturday elected to represent Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) on the BCCI Apex Council. While Kulkarni was elected unopposed as the female ICA representative on the BCCI Apex Council, Vengsarkar defeated outgoing ICA president and former India cricketer Ashok Malhotra. In e-voting held over three days, Vengsarkar received 402 votes compared to Malhotra's 230. Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy were the first ever ICA representatives in the BCCI with their tenure lasting from October 2019 to October 2022. The Lodha reforms led to the inclusion of ICA representatives on the BCCI Apex Council. Former India spinner Pragnan Ojha retained his place on the IPL Governing Council. He beat Vijay Mohan Raj by 396 to 234 votes.

### Pragnanandhaa shines

**NEW DELHI:** Top-seed R Pragnanandhaa moved into joint lead with five others after his third consecutive win in the Open section of the Asian Continental Chess Championship here Saturday. The 17-year-old Chennai player defeated compatriot Pranav Anand to join fellow teenager Leon Luke Mendonca, Koustav Chatterjee, Karthikeyan Murali, Harsha Bharathakoti and Turkmenistan's Maksat Atabayev at the top spot with 3.5 points after the fourth round. Chatterjee defeated Rinat Jumabayev (Kazakhstan), Karthikeyan, on the other hand, won against Indian Aditya Mittal while Harsha downed Sandeepan Chanda in an all-Indian contest. In the women's event, young Indian WGM Priyanka Nuttaki shocked top-seed Tania Sachdev to move into joint lead with compatriot Soumya Swaminathan, PV Nandhidhaa and Thi Kim Phung Vo (Vietnam). Little-known Saina Salonika continued her good form by beating the experienced Bhakti Kulkarni in fourth round.