

DSPL-256



Government of Odisha



Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik

Launching of

## Flight services for 'JEYPORE'



Inauguration by

### Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 10.30 am

Biju Patnaik International Airport  
Bhubaneswar



The Jeypore Airport has been licensed for scheduled commercial flight operations with collaborated effort of the State Government, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India and Airports Authority of India under UDAN scheme. The IndiaOne Air shall operate scheduled flights between Bhubaneswar and Jeypore. This reduces the travel time between the state capital and Jeypore Town to 1.5 hr.



✈ ଜୟପୁର ବିମାନବନ୍ଦର(କୋରାପୁଟ) | जयपुर हवाई अड्डा(कोरापुट) | JEYPORE AIRPORT(KORAPUT)



Commerce & Transport Department

OIPR-38001/13/0006/2223



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

### ARIES

You will try to find the right balance between home and work, because the sullen countenance of your kids has touched you. Ganesh says in the evening, after the busy hours at work, get your Monopoly game out and teach your little ones a few things about money.

### TAURUS

This day you will have your hands full. The day will keep you busy handling routine issues, says Ganesh. You will have no inclination to do anything more than you need to. You could be sharing warm and intimate moments with your kids. Stomach problems are, however, strongly indicated. Be very careful about what you eat and drink.

### GEMINI

You will realise that to stay strong and focused, you need the aid of all your loved ones and close relatives. You need to take time out and nurture these special relationships. Your emotions towards these people will become more concrete and strong.

### CANCER

You will show more interest in spirituality and philosophy. An ordinary day on the career and business front. It means there will be no major incidents. You will get support from subordinates. Keep an eye on rivals and foes in the afternoon and their actions, so that you can thwart their moves.

### LEO

You will be in the mood to dig up old happenings and problems. You need to let go of the past and concentrate on your future. Academic pursuits will increase and love is likely to bloom. You need to bring a measure of understanding into your personal relationships, says Ganesh.

### VIRGO

Ganesh warns that you will find yourself in troubled waters as far as your love life is concerned. You will have to exercise great care and caution in everything you do today, more so in the afternoon. If you are betting on money matters, bet wisely. Ganesh says hold your head high and be your own charming self.

### LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will be full of joy and enthusiasm today to fulfill all your ambitions. You will be able to plan trips and excursions with friends or family members. Ganesh says that it is a good idea to plan the trip and go forth with it as soon as possible. Towards evening you will be able to visit a lovely place. You day today will go well and with no stress at all.

### SCORPIO

You may call it an 'awesome' day, while Ganesh may call it just perfect. Unexpected financial gains on cards today. Academically and professionally, you may push your limits higher, proving your expertise. You may be on an emotional high, express yourself freely.

### SAGITTARIUS

Stress, tension, pressure are miles away from you today. Peace and harmony are likely to join you today. You have a wavering mind today. But, no issues as you have nothing serious to decide. You take up most of the things in good humour, says Ganesh. Keep smiling!

### CAPRICORN

In the fast paced life of today, rarely anyone gets time to spend with their old friends. Today, you're one of those rare people. Also, you will have a blissful love life, blesses Ganesh. You will develop a better level of understanding with your partner.

### AQUARIUS

You will now deal with issues which you have brushed under the carpet for some reasons. Keep your affairs neat and tidy so that can avoid further complications, advises Ganesh. If you are seeking a job, you will pass the day scanning through job advertisements and applying for interviews.

### PISCES

The day will start on an energetic and enthusiastic note, says Ganesh. Your day will be enjoyable up to afternoon but there will be some unexpected reasons that will make you fidget in your seat after that. Make sure to take a deep breath and do not let small problems overwhelm you. Avoid over thinking and it will lead to unnecessary mental stress.



## TOM HANKS MAKES SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT SNL EPISODE

Hollywood star Tom Hanks made a surprise appearance on the recent episode of *Saturday Night Live (SNL)* in a sketch with host Jack Harlow. "Hi. I'm Tom H. I'm here to research a role and I may be an alcoholic," Hanks said, as quoted by *Variety*.

## PUGH TO STAR IN SKARSGARD'S PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

*Midsommar* star Florence Pugh is all set to headline the psychological thriller *The Pack* with Swedish actor-director Alexander Skarsgard of *Big Little Lies* fame directing and co-starring in the film. It is being billed as one of the hottest packages at next week's American Film Market.



Mumbai:

Actress Parineeti Chopra had back-to-back three film releases in 2021 with *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar*, *Saina* and *The Girl On The Train*. She was most recently seen in *Code Name: Tiranga* where she played the role of a spy. During the promotion of the movie, the actress, with a newsportal, discussed various topics.

Asked about the secret behind her decision-making process, Parineeti Chopra said, "My mindset. I think I am pretty proud of my mindset and the way I think is different from most people that I know. I am a bit of a Sufi soul but I balance my life a lot. I live sort of distant life from the film industry

## I'm bit of a Sufi soul: Parineeti

so I am able to be objective all the time."

On the work front, Parineeti Chopra will next star in Sooraj Barjatya's *Uunchai*. Produced by Rajshri Productions in association with Mahaveer Jain Films and Boundless Media, *Uunchai* is a film that promises to celebrate emotion, relationships and age. The film is headlined by Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Sarika, Neena Gupta and Parineeti Chopra, with special performances by Danny Denzongpa and Nafisa Ali Sodhi. It is slated to be released November 11, 2022.

AGENCIES



## Guru Debaprasad Award festival concludes

Eminent Odissi dance exponent Sonal Mansingh was conferred with Guru Debaprasad Lifetime Achievement at the event



The award winners with the dignitaries at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Bhubaneswar: The three-day 16th Guru Debaprasad Award festival, organised by dance institute Tridhara, came to an end here at Rabindra Mandap, Sunday.

The event began with the ritual of lighting of the lamp in the presence of eminent sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo, Odissi dance exponent Sonal Mansingh (both Padma Vibhushan awardees), Rajya Sabha MP Prasanta Nanda, educationist Preeti Roy Chand, Odissi dance Guru Durga Charan Ranvir, Tridhara's working president Simanchala Panda and president Guru Gajendra Kumar Panda.

Soon after Odissi dance maestro Mansingh was conferred with Guru Debaprasad Lifetime Achievement. Then Bidushi Deepika Reddy (Kuchipudi) and Bidushi Prerana Shrimali (Kathak) were presented with Guru Debaprasad Award while Tan Mei Mei (Odissi) of Malaysia (Odissi)

and Guru Radhasyam Tarai (SakhiNata/ GhudukiNata) received Guru Debaprasad Prativa Award. Similarly, Guru Debaprasad Sishu Prativa Award was presented to Aishwaryaa Lakshmi Errisson of Malaysia and Suhana Mishra of Puri (Odissi) by the dignitaries.

After the award ceremony, internationally acclaimed Kathak danseuse Prerana Shrimali presented solo Kathak dance. Her first item was *Guru Pranam* followed by traditional *Thumri Padmakar*. The items was com-

posed and choreographed by Prerana Shrimali. Her every movement of the body and each gesture of limb are analyzed with basic emotional steps, pattern of rhythm and foot movement to make the dance form more elegant, attractive and meaningful.

The next item was Group Odissi dance presented by Sutra Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Their first presentation was *Mangala Charan Pulandi* followed by *Sthai*. Next item was *Lalita Lavanga* and their concluding item was *Bageshri*

*Pallavi*. The compositions were made by Guru Gajendra Kumar Panda.

The event was sponsored and supported by the Union Ministry of Culture, State Tourism Department Dept. of Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Govt. of Odisha, ONGC, Vedanta, Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., MGM Minerals, SN Kanunga Infrastructure and Ajanta Advertisers. The programme was anchored by well known host Srinivas Ghatuari.

PNN

Mumbai: Ananya Panday celebrated her 24th birthday Sunday. The actress made her debut in the Hindi film industry in the 2019 film *Student Of The Year (SOTY)* alongside Tiger Shroff and Tara Sutaria. She was most recently seen in *Liger* with Vijay Deverakonda.

## Ananya shares her birthday resolution

When asked if she's a birthday person, Ananya shared, "I'm a big, big birthday person and I've always been. I start by celebrating the birthday month and then the birthday week and of course on my birthday. But the older I'm getting, my birthday is becoming more about gratitude and growth rather than just celebration and I'm enjoying that transformation."

Ananya had a rather significant year starting with *Gehraiyaan*, also revealed her birthday resolution and said, "To keep challenging myself, to be the hardest working person in the room, and to give back whenever possible." The *SOTY 2* actor signed off by sharing about her most memorable birthday. She said, "Any birthday as a child was always memorable because it was always filled with pure joy, innocence and love and those are the feelings I hope to go forward with every year."

On the work front, Ananya Panday will be next seen in Excel Entertainment's *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan* and *Dream Girl 2* along with Ayushmann Khurana.

AGENCIES

## Janhvi spills beans on Mili

Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor-starrer *Mili* is just five days away from release and she is feeling quite anxious about it. Talking about the movie the *Roohi* actress says, "It's a very challenging role. Before she (*Mili*, played by her) gets trapped in a freezer too, the film is very emotional. It's about a girl who has lost her mother and is looking after her father's health."

*Mili* has a tagline- *Dying to Survive*. In tandem with the tagline, maybe coincidentally, Janhvi has pushed boundaries to get her part right. She counters, "Well, if I don't push myself then someone else will- and I will regret it."

And, it is my age to push myself. To be honest, I want much more than I have achieved. I know I have a lot more to offer."

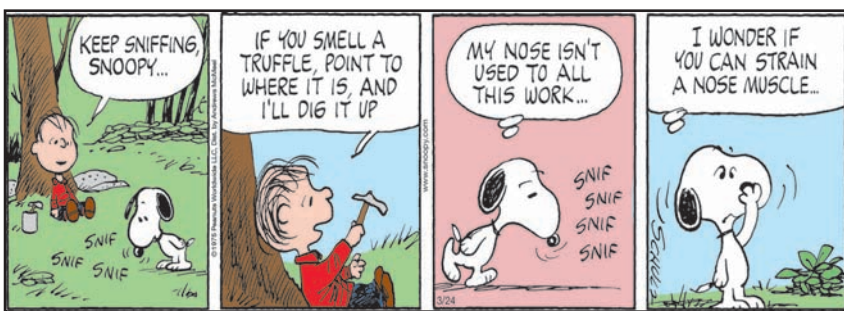
Enormous responsibility on her young shoulders as *Mili* is her father's (Boney Kapoor) production. She admits, "I am feeling more anxiety, no doubt. Like *Good Luck Jerry* didn't display numbers as it was on OTT, so yeah there is certain."

AGENCIES

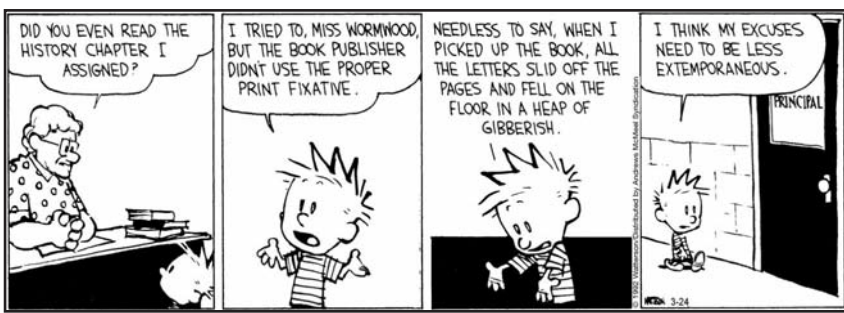


## FUN post

### PEANUTS



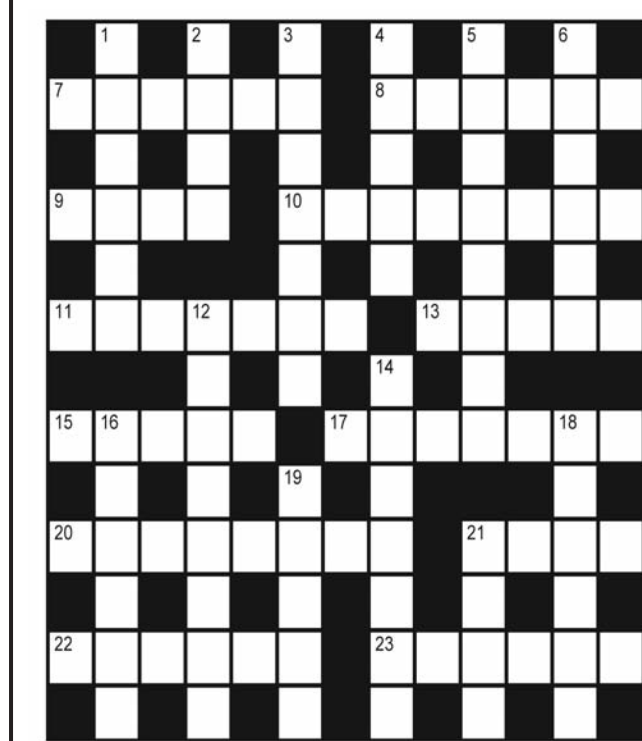
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### CROSSWORD

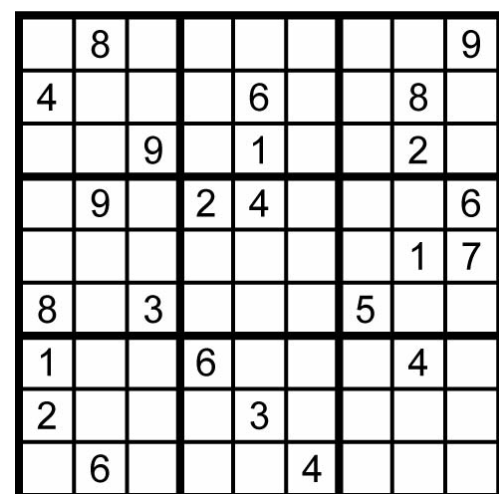


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- Across**
- 7 Bawl out
  - 8 Baseball stat
  - 9 Molokai meal
  - 10 Breed of dairy cattle
  - 11 Snake in the grass?
  - 13 Living quarters
  - 15 Kind of board
  - 17 Riptide
  - 20 Type of engagement
  - 21 Lopes
  - 22 Showy
  - 23 Assemble
  - 5 Cowpuncher
  - 6 Clergyman
  - 12 Agra's
  - 14 Mausoleum
  - 18 Redcap's charge
  - 16 Some false teeth
  - 18 Prospector's wish
  - 19 Female fox
  - 21 Burlap fibre

### SUDOKU

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

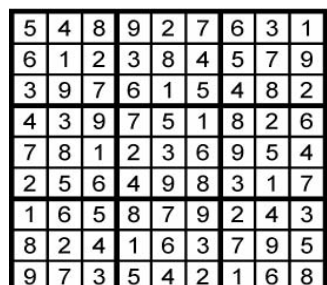


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





**TOXIC FROTH:** Fishermen cast their net as toxic foam floats on the surface of polluted Yamuna river, in New Delhi, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

**POACHING OF MLAs**

## Telangana withdraws general consent to CBI

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Oct 30:** Telangana government has withdrawn the general consent to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases in the state.

The move is seen as an attempt by the KCR-led government to prevent any intervention by the Centre in MLAs poaching case.

The development came amid the political heat generated by the arrest of three alleged agents of BJP while trying to bribe four MLAs of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to make them defect to the BJP.

The BJP has been demanding that the investigation be handed over to the CBI in the 'MLAs poaching' case.

Though the Government Order (GO) was issued August 30, it was kept confidential. It was made public Saturday when the state government informed the Telangana High Court about the withdrawal of general consent to the CBI during hearing on a petition filed by the BJP seeking direction to transfer the investigation to the Central agency.

The High Court Saturday stayed investigation in the case till further

As per rules, the investigating agency has complete jurisdiction over Delhi. But it can also enter the other states with the general consent of that state's government

In the absence of the permission, the CBI now cannot interfere with any case that takes place within the limits of Telangana

orders and directed the state government to file its counter by November 4. "Government of Telangana hereby withdraws all previous consents issued by the state government under section-6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 to all the members of Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise the powers and jurisdiction under the said Act in the State of Telangana," reads the GO issued by Ravi Gupta, Principal Secretary of Home Department.

"Consequent to the withdrawal of all previous general consents issued earlier, prior consent of Government of Telangana shall be required to be taken on a case-to-case basis for the investigation of any offence or class of offences," it added.

Contd...4

**IN BRIEF**

### 4 members of one family found dead

**Bargarh:** Four decomposed bodies were found at a house in Bargarh district Sunday evening, police said. The bodies, suspected to be of four members of a family, were found in the house in Jandol village in Bheden police station area, they said. None of the members of the Meher family, which owns the house, were seen for the last two days in the area, police said. The door of the house was found locked from the inside, sub-divisional police officer Amrit Kumar Panda said. The bodies will be shifted from the house for post-mortem Monday morning in the presence of forensic experts and an executive magistrate, he said. The bodies were first found by the villagers after they noticed a foul smell near the house. **More P5**

### Apex court to hear 232 CAA pleas today

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear around 232 PILs, including a large batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Monday when it would reopen after a nine-day Diwali vacation. A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi has listed for hearing as many as 232 petitions, mostly PILs, October 31 on the issue of CAA alone. Earlier, the bench headed by CJ Lalit, who is scheduled to demit office November 8, had said that the pleas challenging the CAA will be referred to a three-judge bench.

# Gujarat bridge collapse kills 77



The suspension bridge, which reopened just 4 days back after 7 months of repair work, had not received any 'fitness certificate'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Morbi (Gujarat), Oct 30:** At least 77 people, including women and children, were killed and scores were missing as the hanging bridge over the Machhu dam in Gujarat's Morbi district collapsed Sunday evening, officials said. Many bodies had been fished out from the Machhu river and sent for post-mortem examinations at the Morbi government hospital while Morbi MLA and Minister of State for Panchayat Brajesh Merja confirmed the number of deaths. No break-up of the deceased was available yet. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel,

who cancelled all his programmes and rushed to Morbi to personally monitor rescue and medical services, announced ₹4 lakh compensation to the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 financial help to those injured in the accident. Patel is likely to camp in Morbi till the rescue operations continue.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who took cognisance of the accident, announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh to the next of the kin of the dead from the PM's Relief Fund, and ₹50,000 for the injured. According to a tweet by the Prime Minister's office, "PM @narendramodi spoke to Gujarat CM @Bhupendrabjp and other officials regarding the mishap in Morbi. He has sought urgent mobilisation of teams for rescue ops. He has asked that the situation be closely and continuously monitored, and extend all possible help to those affected".

Meanwhile, the Morbi Municipal Committee's Chief Executive

Officer SV Zala, in a shocking revelation, said that the bridge was opened for the public after renovation without a fitness certificate from the civic body.

On the state government's request, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has deployed one NDRF team from Rajkot, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has instructed the Army rescue teams to rush to Morbi.

The rescue operation is likely to be carried out the entire night, as locals fear that children's bodies have been swept away due to the water flow in the Machhu river.

Local authorities' apprehension is that the bridge has collapsed right in the middle of the river, where the water level is 15 to 20 feet deep, and due to this the death toll is likely to rise.

A total of seven fire brigade teams were pressed into rescue services, and one SDRF team, and two NDRF teams from Gandhinagar rushed to the spot.

## PRE-INDEPENDENCE ERA BRIDGE CAVES IN; 5 HURT

All communications between Bhawanipatna and Thuamul-Rampur was disrupted following the collapse



town was travelling with his wife and another kin to the tourist site.

On being informed by locals, police and Fire personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the five injured occupants of the two cars and admitted them to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Bhawanipatna.

The bridge is on SH-44 connecting Bhawanipatna with Thuamul-Rampur in Kalahandi district. As a result, all communications between Bhawanipatna and Thuamul-Rampur was disrupted.

Witnesses said, as usual, vehicles were passing over the bridge Sunday. All of a sudden a part of the bridge sunk several feet down.

Contd...4

**BHAWANIPATNA:** Two moving cars crashed down leaving five people injured after part of a pre-independence era bridge caved in Sunday near Bhagirathi Park on State Highway-44 about 4 km from Bhawanipatna town of Kalahandi district.

The incident occurred when the two cars were crossing the bridge on Badjor nullah near Bhagirathi Park at around 3pm.

One of the cars that crashed down with the broken bridge belongs to a scribe of a television channel Ajit Nayak from Nabarangpur district. His daughter Pratyasha received head injuries and broke her legs while his son Pratyush sustained injuries on head and other body parts.

The family members after having lunch at a hotel in Bhawanipatna were on their way to Phurlijharan tourist site for a visit. In another car, Ganesh Prasad Padhi from Bhawanipatna

## TENSION AFTER BMC GARBAGE TRUCK MOWS DOWN CYCLIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Tension flared up following the death of a person after a garbage truck of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) ran over him near Daruthenga on the outskirts of the city, Sunday.

Notably, a hotel owner's son had also died in a similar road accident involving a garbage truck of the BMC which was en route to the Bhuasuni dumping yard a few months back.

The deceased was identified as Rama Gagra, 45, of Baranga area in Cuttack. Gagra was going to meet his son who is studying at a residential school in city.

Gagra suddenly fell to the ground after the BMC garbage truck hit his cycle. The speeding vehicle ran over Gagra killing him on the spot. Chandaka police has started investigation into the death by registering a case (256/22) in this regard.



The villagers later staged a road blockade by keeping the body of Gagra on Cuttack-Khurda road at Daruthenga. Holding the BMC authorities responsible, the agitators alleged that the death was not an accident but murder. They claimed that the vehicles carrying garbage have no fitness and the drivers engaged by the BMC are also completely inexperienced.

The agitating villagers also demanded that the authorities need to take sincere steps to stop road mishaps due to BMC vehicles.

Senior Congress leader Suresh Routray also joined the protesters demanding permanent solutions to the problems being faced by the local residents. Upon informed, BMC mayor Sulochana Das and Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange reached the spot immediately. The locals withdrew the protest after Das announced that the BMC would provide contractual job to one of the family members of the deceased and ₹5 lakh as compensation to the next-of-kin.

The Mayor also announced about the temporary suspension of dumping garbage in Bhuasuni dumping yard.

Contd...4

# Qatar ousts migrant workers as FIFA World Cup nears

THE HOST COUNTRY HAS FACED INTENSE SCRUTINY OVER THE TREATMENT OF FOREIGN LABOURERS WHO BUILT MOST OF THE SHINY NEW STADIUMS AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE WORLD CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Doha, Oct 30:** Qatari authorities have evicted hundreds of migrant workers from buildings in central Doha, casting a new shadow over the countdown to the World Cup, residents and workers said Saturday.

Municipal workers and security guards moved into about 12 buildings late Wednesday to clear and lock them, according to local residents, ahead of the tournament that kicks off November 20.

The government said the buildings were uninhabitable, proper notice was given, and that alternative safe and appropriate accommodation had been found for all evictees.

The affected area, largely around Al-Mansoura, has been massively

redeveloped in recent years and some World Cup fans will stay in apartments in the district, where dozens of mechanical diggers are parked in the streets.

In the early hours of Saturday, Yunus, a Bangladeshi driver, slept on the back of his flat-bed truck on a street in Al Mansoura, three nights after being forced out of one block.

The first night it was chaos and there was not enough room for everyone to go to other places, he said.

"In any case, this truck is my life and I will not leave it until I have somewhere where I can park it near the new accommodation," he added. Yunus said it was the third time he had been forced to move in three years. Migrants - dominated by an influx from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, the



Philippines and African nations including Kenya and Uganda - make up more than 80 percent of Qatar's 2.8 million population.

Qatar has faced intense scrutiny over the treatment of foreign labourers who built most of the shiny new stadiums and transport infrastruc-

ture for the World Cup. The energy-rich state has been criticised over deaths, injuries and unpaid wages.

International unions say there has been a drastic improvement in conditions in recent years and Qatar has highlighted its reforms,

but rights groups say more must be done.

### 'Timing all wrong'

The South Asian manager of a 24-hour store in Al Mansoura, who told AFP he saw evictions from two buildings, said most of the workers paid no rent and had no leases.

They are basically squatters, he said, on condition of anonymity. They stay a few months in one building and then are forced to find another. They were good clients. I had brought in extra rice because they buy so much, now I am left with it, the manager added.

In this case, it is the timing so close to the World Cup that is all wrong. Qatar's World Cup organisers, who have reserved some apartment buildings, referred queries to the government. **Contd...4**

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.2°C	31.0°C	
MIN	18.4°C	18.5°C	
Humidity	70%	86%	
Rainfall	0.0mm	0.0mm	
Forecast		Dry weather likely	





**KARTIKA PURNIMA AHEAD:** An artisan folds paper boats in Choudhury Bazar area of Cuttack, Sunday, as the state gears up for Kartika Purnima OP PHOTO

# BJD accuses Tudu of violating MCC

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** The BJD Sunday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission alleging that Union Minister Bisheswar Tudu had violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) while campaigning for the BJD candidate in the Dhamnagar assembly bypoll. The bypoll is scheduled to be held November 3.

A Biju Janata Dal (BJD) delegation led by Lenin Mohanty Sunday submitted a memorandum to the Odisha Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), accusing Tudu, the Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, of violating the MCC during the by-election campaigning.

The BJD delegation also submitted a video to the CEO, alleging that Tudu had given assurance to the people of Dhamnagar that his ministry would undertake works to protect Dhamnagar from flood fury.

The ruling party said that MCC guidelines prohibit any form of promise and assurance about undertaking government works by



## Union MoS for Jal Shakti Bisheswar Tudu was not immediately available for comment

a public representative while the poll code is in force.

"The union minister has violated the MCC. He has promised that he would hold discussion with them and send a Central Water Commission team to Dhamnagar," BJD leader and former MP Pradeep Majhi told reporters.

"If action is not taken against Tudu, it will set a very bad precedence for the voters of Dhamnagar and for democracy," the BJD memorandum said.

Tudu was not immediately available for comment.

The Dhamnagar assembly constituency has been witnessing high-voltage campaigning by leaders of the BJD, Congress, BJP and Independent candidates.

A number of Odisha ministers and MLAs were engaged in campaigning for BJD candidate Abanti Das.

**Continued from P1**

### Qatar ousts...

Qatar's government said authorities acted under a 2010 law against informal and unplanned housing arrangements.

Residents found to be living in uninhabitable accommodations with no formal contracts are given the opportunity to move elsewhere in a reasonable time-frame, a Qatari government official told AFP.

Officials always ensure individuals are rehoused in safe and appropriate accommodation.

Residents said most of the evicted men would move to Doha's huge industrial zone or towns further from the capital. Most of those evicted do not work for the major companies that provide accommodation and food for labourers. Many work for a daily rate or for small companies. They live in these blocks to avoid paying rent. The wages are low so every cent counts, said one migrant living next to a building that was emptied.

### Telangana withdraws...

As per rules under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946, in accordance with which the CBI was formed, the investigating agency has complete jurisdiction over Delhi. But it can also enter the other states with the general consent of that state's government.

In the absence of the permission, the CBI now cannot interfere with any case that takes place within the limits of Telangana.

Cyberabad police October 26 arrested three alleged agents of BJP including two godmen from a farmhouse at Moainabad near Hyderabad when they were trying to lure four TRS MLAs with offers of huge sums of money.

Ramachandra Bharathi alias Satish Sharma, Kore Nanda Kumar alias Nandu and Simhayaji were arrested during the raid conducted on a tip-off by one MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy.

He alleged that the accused of ferred Rs 100 crore to him and Rs 50 crore each to three others.

### Pre-independence...

Two cars on that portion went down. Five people were in the two cars. The bridge of British era was in an endangered condition due to lack of proper maintenance.

The bridge was built in 1925 by the engineering department of the erstwhile princely state of Kalahandi.

Locals had lodged complaints in this regard with the administration several times but their pleas were never addressed, they lamented.

The local Works department was in charge of maintenance of the bridge but it never spared a thought towards its maintenance following which the bridge finally caved in, Sunday, locals alleged.

# Super Cyclone horrors still haunt survivors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Khokan Paramnik can vividly recall what he had seen as a child 23 years ago - huge tidal waves lashing his village, people including his parents and brothers getting swept away by the turbulent sea and houses being destroyed by a wall of water.

The lives of Pramanik and thousands of other people living in villages and towns near the coast of Odisha changed on that day, October 29 of 1999.

They lost near and dear ones and were rendered homeless as a Super Cyclone barreled through the state causing insuperable damage.

"When the tidal surge entered our village, my grandmother and I climbed a banyan tree nearby. My father helped us because I was a child and my grandmother an elderly person," said Pramanik, now a 29-year-old man.

A resident of Kankana village under Erasama block in Jagatsinghpur district, he said, "We were saved. But the next morning, we found my father, mother and brother dead."

The Super Cyclone made landfall near Paradip with the highest wind speed of 260 kmph.

It was the most intense tropical cyclone that crossed the Indian coast after satellites started monitoring storms.

Torrential rain, tidal waves as high as 6-7 metres and flood wreaked havoc across the Odisha coast killing 9,843 people officially, mostly in Jagatsinghpur district.

Torrential rain, tidal waves as high as 6-7 metres and flood wreaked havoc across the state coast killing 9,843 people officially, mostly in Jagatsinghpur district

her father told her mother to keep one daughter with her. "She kept me. I lost everyone else including my grandparents," said Das, who is now 27.

Not just coastal villages, the capital city of Bhubaneswar was also severely affected by the Super Cyclone of 1999.

Electricity connection and telephone lines were dead for days as poles were uprooted while the city lost much of its green cover.

However, during these 23 years, Odisha has witnessed a sea change and the state is now recognised as one of the best in the country to handle such natural calamities.

Odisha has encountered 10 major cyclones in the past 23 years including three storms in 2021.

Rescuers had found carcasses of cattle and bodies of human beings lying side by side in many places.

"I even saw human bodies stuck on trees after tidal water receded. Volunteers of Anandmarg fished out bodies from accumulated water and undertook mass cremation by pouring kerosene oil," said Biswadas Mohanty, a Physics professor who visited Japa village under Erasama block.

There was no vulture to eat corpses as the big birds flew away due to high-velocity wind, Mohanty said.

"How can I forget the scene of people being swept away in the tidal surge during the cyclone?" said Madhuri Das of Sunadiha village of worst-hit Jagatsinghpur, who was a four-year-old girl then.

She had a sister, and her father told her mother to keep one daughter with her. "She kept me. I lost everyone else including my grandparents," said Das, who is now 27.

# Mahua in full bloom, but women flower collectors in a state of gloom

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kandhamal, Oct 30:** It is 3:45am and Srimati Mailik (49) is up and about. In less than an hour, she finishes her household chores - cleaning the house, washing clothes and preparing lunch - and sets out along with 15 other women and their children into the lush green forest surrounding her village.

Fear of snakes, insect bites and wild animals looms large all throughout the journey along the uneven path, with thick bushes engulfing both sides. For the next seven to eight hours, they will collect mahua flowers, locally called mahuli. This is what a routine day looks like for these women through the peak summer months. "There is no fixed time when we return - at times by noon, or later. In summers, mahua collection can fetch us good revenue if the flowers are sold at good rates," Srimati says.

However, women of Mardigocha village in Odisha's Kandhamal district have been gathering mahuli

without any sale for the last four months. The entire collection of 21 quintals of dried flowers lies in a closed room, tightly packed in gunny sacks.

This year, they claim to have witnessed a bumper harvest. The huge supply has brought prices down by half. In the absence of a proper procurement system, they could not find genuine buyers. From last year's Rs 40 to 50 a quintal, the prices crashed to Rs 20.

A time-sensitive produce Mahua flowers are eaten as cooked vegetables, or dried and used in bread, made into jam, mixed raw in cattle fodder, and extracted as liquor. It contributes nearly a third of the annual income of these tribal and other traditional forest-dwelling communities.

The women sell mahua flowers in the nearest market in Khajuripada town, six km from the village. "To reach there, we walk with the produce mounted on our heads for nearly three hours. There is no road to the town. We

## VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will administer integrity pledge to government officials, Self-Help Group (SHG) members and students during a special programme at Lok Seva Bhawan on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week, Monday, an official said Sunday.

The Vigilance Awareness Week will be observed throughout the country from October 31 to

# CM to administer integrity pledge

November 6, 2022. The week-long drive will be based on the theme "Corruption Free India for a Developed Nation."

As many as the 70 lakh SHG members, students and field functionaries of government will take the pledge Monday during the programme to be held in virtual mode.

Electronics and IT department will connect all collectorates and block offices of the state through Video conferencing for the pur-



pose. The Chief Secretary will be the guest of honour on the occasion.



**SOAKED IN DEVOTION:** Women from Bihari community perform Chhath Puja at Kuakhai in Bhubaneswar, Sunday OP PHOTO

## Gandhi Shilpa Bazaar a huge crowd puller

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Minister of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Rita Sahu inaugurated a national level handicraft exhibition "Gandhi Shilpa Bazaar 2022," organised by the Odisha State Co-operative Handicrafts Corporation Limited, also known as Utkalika and the Directorate of Handicrafts, government of Odisha at Etkamra Haat, here Sunday.

The exhibition is being sponsored by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), ministry of Textiles, government of India. Handicraft artisans from Odisha, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, Manipur, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir are participating in the exhibition to display and sell their exclusive products. The major attractions of the bazaar are wood carving, Pattachitra, tarsar painting, silver filigree, applique, terracotta, dhokra casting, golden grass and Kashmir shawl among others.

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IRREGULARITIES IN SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

# Dead beneficiaries receive pension money for months



- ▶ In a social audit report, it was stated that panchayat executive officers (PEOs) in some panchayats and the block social security officer are responsible for such irregularities
- ▶ ADM Rudranarayan Mohanty has directed the Morada BDO Sagar Pal to take action in this regard
- ▶ The BDO said that an investigation into the scam is on and action will be taken after the probe report is available

**Morada, Oct 30:** Large-scale irregularities are allegedly scuttling the purpose of social security scheme in Morada block of tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district, as many people who died months ago were found to have received pension money. This was exposed in a social audit report.

The report said, one of the beneficiaries who died eight months ago, was paid pension. Moreover, many other dead people have been shown as alive in official records and their pension money is being misappropriated for months together.

At a recent public hearing camp, block social auditor Mita Bentakar and district social auditor Pradip Chakraborty presented the audit report in which such irregularities

were glaringly pointed out.

Ram Marandi, a resident of Nuajhalia panchayat, was a beneficiary of old age pension. He died July 30, 2021, but surprisingly his pension money for six months has been embezzled. However, officials who have misappropriated the money are yet face the action.

In the same panchayat, another beneficiary died June 4, 2021, but his pension money up to November, 2021, has been misappropriated.

Similarly, pension money of three other dead people in the same panchayat has been misappropriated.

In Sanamundabani panchayat, a beneficiary died in December 2021, but his pension money for January was misappropriated.

In Barkand panchayat, pension money of a beneficiary who died months back has been embezzled

## Seven officials face DM action for dereliction of duty

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Oct 30:** District election officer and Collector Siddeshwar Baliram Bondar Saturday took action against six officials on charges of dereliction of duty for election to the Dhamnagar Assembly segment and against one official for violation of model code of conduct.

The district Collector suspended Khageswar Das, a junior assistant at the district fisheries office for remaining absent during duty hours at the election control room opened at the district Collectorate and

### DHAMNAGAR BY-POLL

Nrusingha Charan Nandi, a clerk at Maa Sarada Devi College at Kothar for violating model code of conduct following his alleged involvement with a political party.

Pratibha Senapati, an assistant teacher at Barikpur Nodal School and Sasmita Mohanty, headmistress of Nalang UGME School were issued show-cause notices for remaining absent during the election training programme.

Similarly, Ishwar Panda, the team leader of in the Zilla Parishad office, Jyoti Bikash Sahu, senior assistant of Bhadrak tehsil office and Bibhudatt Barik, senior assistant of the deputy registrar of office were also issued show-cause notices for arriving one and a half hours late at the election control room opened in the district Collectorate.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL

### VISHWAGURU CONCLAVE 2022

RENOWNED SPEAKERS



## SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

# Project suffers due to lack of utilisation certificates

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nabarangpur, Oct 30:** The government is spending huge amounts under the Centrally-sponsored Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to promote sports in high, upper and primary schools. Money is also being used to develop and restore playgrounds.

However, the objective of the scheme has suffered due to lack of sports and physical education teachers in a large number of schools in Nabarangpur district, sources said. No efforts are being made to fill up the vacant posts of physical education teachers.

Another problem plaguing the scheme is the absence of utilisation certificates for funds provided in 2021-22 and 2022-23. These have not been furnished to the concerned authorities.

Sources said that there are 188 high government-run and aided schools in Nabarangpur district. Among them 109 have playgrounds while 79 don't. However, they have applied for land at their respective tehsil offices. Sources informed that in 2021, there were 163 posts



sanctioned for physical education teachers. Out of them, 125 have been filled up while the remaining posts are still vacant.

In 2021-22 and 2022-23, funds have been sanctioned under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for providing sports kits to schools. However, the block officials have still not provided utilisation certificates to their district-level counterparts

for the 2021-22 fiscal.

In 2021-22, 1,618 primary schools were provided ₹10,000 each; 185 high schools ₹15,000 each. A total of over ₹1.53 crore was provided to 1,800 schools in the district to buy sports kits. The same amount has been sanctioned for the 2022-23 fiscal. However, utilisation certificates have not been received by the district administration yet.



**IMMERSION CEREMONY:** Two persons played traditional 'Bannati' during the immersion procession for the idol of Goddess Kali in Hemsurpada of Angul district, Sunday

## 4 of weaver's family found dead inside house in Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, Oct 30:** In a shocking incident, four members of a weaver's family were found dead inside their house under mysterious circumstances at Jandol (Kandhapada) village under Bheden police limits of Bargarh district, Sunday. Police recovered their bodies.

The deceased were identified as Sheshadev Meher, 65, a weaver by profession, his wife Khireswari, 60, son Arabinda, 30, and daughter Shibani, 22, in the village. The bodies of Sheshadev, Khireswari and Shibani were found on the first floor of the house while that of Arabinda on the ground floor. The cause of the deaths is yet to be ascertained as it is unclear whether they were murdered or committed suicide.

Mystery shrouds the incident as the house was found locked up from outside. Police reached the spot and launched an investigation into the matter.

Reports said, the weavers' family comprising his wife, son and daughter were staying in their two-storied building in the village. His son was also running a tailoring shop. It is suspected that the death occurred two to three days ago as foul smell was coming from their locked house Sunday evening. Later, their neighbours informed the police. Bargarh SDPO Amrut Sagar Panda, Bheden IIC Sangeeta Mohapatra and Rushuda OIC Arun Kumar Barei rushed to the spot and opened the door of the locked house in the presence of a tehsildar.

## Keonjhar woman draws PM's praise for making solar energy medium of employment



AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday praised Odia woman Kunni Deori who has made solar energy a medium of employment for herself and others in Keonjhar district.

In his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, Modi also hailed the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar, for developing a battery-operated portable ventilator for newborn babies that can be used in remote areas.

While talking about innovation and research, the Prime Minister gave the example of Deori, a resident of Karadapal village in Keonjhar district.

"Kunni Deori, a daughter from Odisha, is making solar energy a medium of employment for her as well as for other women. Kunni lives in Kardapal village of Keonjhar district of Odisha. She trains tribal women to spin silk

on a solar-powered reeling machine," Modi said.

As the machine is solar-powered, these tribal women do not have to bear the burden of electricity bills, and they are earning money, he said.

"This is the very boon of Sun God's solar energy. The more the boon and the blessings spread, the better it is. Therefore, I urge you to



"This is the very boon of Sun God's solar energy. The more the boon and the blessings spread, the better it is..." said the PM

join this and add others too," the PM said.

Modi also praised the IIT Bhubaneswar as it has developed a portable ventilator for newborn babies.

"It runs on battery and can be used easily in remote areas. This can prove to be very helpful in saving the lives of babies who are born prematurely.

"Many of our students are engaged in developing new technology, be it electric mobility, drone technology or 5G. Several IITs are also working together on a multi-lingual project that makes learning local languages easier," the Prime Minister observed.

## TOUTS FLEECE FARMHANDS IN NAYAGARH DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Oct 30:** Workers and helpers of the farm sector in Nayagarh district are allegedly being fleeced by middlemen of their hard-earned money in exchange for registration of their names at the district labour office. Each of these workers has to pay anything between ₹700 to ₹1,200 to the touts for registration of their names. They also have to spend another ₹10 to ₹20 to buy the registration form, despite the state government proclaiming that those are available free of cost.

In spite of shelling out such hefty amounts, the farmhands have to wait for months to see their names registered in the portal and lose out on benefits.

As a result, the registration in the number of farm labourers has failed to see a rise in Nayagarh district. This apart, many farm labourers have also failed to register their names due to lack of awareness. As per reports, only 1,385 farm workers in this district have been able to register their names till July 31, 2022. Notably, Odisha's agri workers are among the lowest wage earners in India

Reports said that Nayagarh is predominantly an agriculture dominated district. However, natural calamities like floods and cyclones have acted as a huge hindrance to farmers in cultivation of agricultural produces. The financial assistance they receive from the government is also very minimal in comparison to the costs and labour involved. As a result many are seeking their livelihood elsewhere.

Realising their difficulties, the Odisha government has accorded them the status of labourers in the unorganised sector and made arrangements for registration of their names in the designated portal. But they are facing obstructions in the form of touts.

Sources said that so far 1,18,659 farm labourers have registered

### MESS IN REGISTRATION



their names in Odisha in the designated portal. Kendrapara has the highest registration of 25,099 labourers while Bolangir district has none.

Similarly, seven in Jharsuguda, 549 in Sundargarh, 569 in Sambalpur, 636 in Mayurbhanj, 731 in Khurda, 834 in Deogarh, 1,439 in Angul, 3,938 in Balasore, 4,151 in Bhadrak, 2,478 in Bargarh, 10,223 in Boudh, 2,613 in Chhatrapur, 4,061 in Cuttack, 1,092 in Dhenkanal, 1,546 in Gajapati, 4,998 in Ganjam, 2,475 in Jagatsinghpur, 2,971 in Jajpur, 1,335 in Kalahandi, 2,027 in Kandhamal, 2,717 in Keonjhar, 4,927 in Koraput, 7,371 in Malkangiri, 10,940 in Nabarangpur, 8,187 in Nuapada, 1,837 in Puri, 3,827 in Rayagada, 2,588 in Subarnapur and 1,108 labourers in Talcher have registered with the portal.

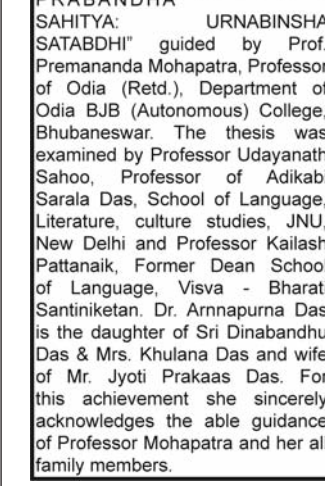
Ramamani Mallick of Nuagaon said that no awareness drive is being undertaken to sensitise these gullible labourers. Bhamu Sahu of Daspalla said that a labourer has to spend anything between ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 and even then the registration is not done on the same day.

Ullash Patra of Odagaon area informed that women of his community work as farmhands but they are not aware that such a scheme exists for them. Budha Swain of Ranpur demanded stern action against the middlemen indulging in such wrongdoings.

When contacted, DLO Shiba Narayan Sahu said he had joined recently and he will make every effort in increasing the number of registration by farmhands in Nayagarh district.

### Ph.D in Odia Prabandha Sahitya

Mrs. Arnapurna Das got Ph.D Degree in Odia under Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha. Her thesis name is 'ODIA PRABANDHA SAHITYA: URNABINSHA SATABDHI' guided by Prof. Premananda Mohapatra, Professor of Odia (Retd.), Department of Odia BJB (Autonomous) College, Bhubaneswar. The thesis was examined by Professor Udayanath Sahoo, Professor of Adikabi Sarala Das, School of Language, Literature, culture studies, JNU, New Delhi and Professor Kailash Pattanai, Former Dean School of Language, Visva - Bharati Santiniketan Dr. Arnapurna Das is the daughter of Sri Dinabandhu Das & Mrs. Kshulana Das and wife of Mr. Jyoti Prakaas Das. For this achievement she sincerely acknowledges the able guidance of Professor Mohapatra and her all family members.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, Harihar Rout, S/o. Ananta Charan Rout, Resident of Danipali, Po-Budharaja, Ps- Ainthapali, Dist. Sambalpur, posted as Area Manager, LIC HFL, Sambalpur has sworn an affidavit on dt. 15.10.2022 and has reported to OIC, Ainthapali, Sambalpur on dt. 15.10.2022 regarding loss of original Regd. Sale Deed No. 11121302449 dt. 26.03.2013 of Registering Officer, Jatni. All concerned therefore, requested to inform the signed below if they find the said document Regd. Sale Deed No. 11121302449 dt. 26.03.2013 of Registering Officer, Jatni, the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication.

(Harihar Rout), Area Manager, LIC Housing Finance Ltd, At/Po-Budharaja, Sambalpur, Odisha, Mobile No. 7328072316. Dt.30.10.2022 Sambalpur



FOCUS SOCIETY

# PITFALLS OF UNIFORMITY



The idea of achieving a common Indian identity is undesirable because Indian identity is plural and a synthesis of differing views

tegrity as a rationale for UCC along with its conflation with women's rights is unacceptable because of its implicit homogenising thrust. She strongly advocates reforms in personal laws which are patently unjust, as in the case of Muslim women. These conflicting perspectives clearly bring home the inherent dangers of cultural homogenisation, given the plurality of Indian society.

Rajiv Gandhi did not implement the Shah Bano judgement because the politics of Muslim vote bank trumped the consideration of social justice for Muslim women. There is a clear need to reform obscurantist personal laws like triple talaq which has been declared unconstitutional by the SC in 2018. The Sarla Mudgal judgement made a sobering observation: "UCC can be concentrated only when the social climate is properly built by elites of the society and statesmen and awaken the masses to accept the change."

It would be interesting to recall the pioneering contribution made by Hamid Dalwai who formed the Muslim Satyasodhak Mandal in 1970 to usher in equality among Hindus and Muslims and promote Hindu-Muslim brotherhood by doing away with obnoxious practices like triple talaq and polygamy. He strove towards a UCC. Sadly both liberal Muslims like Saman Khurshed and hawks like Owaisi are on the same page in opposing UCC as the intent of Modi government is perceived as majoritarian bullying to force cultural homogenisation in India. This is part of the grand policy design to have One Nation, One Tax, One Country, One Nation. Sadly, such beneficial economic initiatives are being mixed up with cultural uniformity to shun diversity, mix federalism, and roll fraternity which is part of our Constitution's Preamble. Instead of building a social climate and promoting dialogue, the majoritarian party is using elections to harvest Hindu votes.

The writer teaches Constitutional Law. Views are personal

The government of Gujarat has decided to constitute a committee under a retired HC judge to suggest changes to introduce a Uniform Civil Code. With an election on the anvil, PM Modi hopes it could be a potent surgical strike! The courts have also been on an overdrive in asking the states to fulfill the mandate of securing the citizens a Uniform Civil Code through the territory of India, as suggested in Article 44 of the Constitution. Justice Prathiba M Singh of Delhi High Court while hearing an estranged couple's plea for divorce has observed that a common code to all its citizens as expressed in Article 44 "ought not to remain a hope, but become a reality" She was referring to the landmark Shah Bano verdict given by the Supreme Court in 1985 where the court had observed a common civil code would help the cause of national integration by removing disparate loyalties to laws having conflicting ideologies. The SC had observed that Article 44 has remained a dead letter and there is no evidence of any official activity for framing a civil code for the country.

The Shah Bano verdict was the first challenge to Muslim Personal Law (1937) which denied maintenance to indigent divorced Muslim women. CJI YV Chandrachud observed that the right to equality and absence of discrimination against women in Articles 14 & 15 equally apply to Muslim women. Section 125 of CrPC, which provides for maintenance to divorced women, would override archaic and patriarchal Muslim Personal Law which denies maintenance to Muslim women.

The court has been assiduously following this line of argument in the subsequent judgments like Sarla Mudgal judgment, 1995 where Justice Kuldip Singh had observed "when 80% of the citizens have already been brought under the codified personal law, there is no justification to keep in abeyance introduction of UCC." In Lily Thomas Case, 2000 desirability of UCC particularly in regard to succession was

reiterated. In ADC vs. NCT (2015), the SC lamented the absence of the UCC with regard to the guardianship of a Christian child.

Bringing in a UCC has been one of the major election manifestoes of the BJP. A bill was brought in by Narayan Lal Panagariya in November 2019 which was withdrawn. Interestingly the Law Commission in its report in August 2018 stated that UCC is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage. Secularism cannot contradict the plurality prevalent in the country. UCC owes its origin to the concept of a common national identity. K. Munshi, an important member of the Constituent Assembly, had observed, "We are not merely a nation because we say so but also in effect by the way we live, by our personal law so that we are a strong and consolidated nation."

Against this backdrop, it would be useful to look at the larger picture of conflicting provisions in the Constitution and the contrarian viewpoint of academia and activists who are opposed to the introduction of UCC. The Constitution has clearly provided in Articles 25 and 26 the right to profess practice and propagate religion to all and the freedom to manage religious affairs to minority religious denominations. On the other hand, Article 44 is an invocation to the state to endeavour the introduction of UCC. Therefore, the introduction of a UCC would be a clear negation of

fundamental rights in religious freedom given to religious minorities. In fact, in the triple talaq judgment, the CJI had observed that the practice of talaq is protected by Article 25. Further, recognising the need for respecting religious practices and customs, the Constitution in Articles 371(A) and 371(G) has forbidden the Parliament to make any law contrary to the religious or social practices in states like Nagaland and Mizoram.

There is also an opinion that since Hindus constitute the major component of Indian society and UCC would be based on the Hindu code, there are serious doubts regarding the neutral behaviour of state institutions. The idea of achieving a common Indian identity is undesirable because Indian identity is plural and a synthesis of differing views. Detractors believe that instead of a UCC, the state should attempt to bring in substantive equality at all levels and promote socio-economic justice for all. Prof. Werner is of the view that the idea of uniformity of law as a prerequisite to modernity is a questionable proposition.

Flavia Agnes, a well-known women's rights activist, believes that uniformity has not worked well for women in India. Rather than uniformity, women need an accessible and affordable justice delivery system and inclusive model of development. Prof. Nivedita Menon believes that national in-



Satya Narayan Misra

BRINGING IN A UNIFORM CIVIL CODE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAJOR ELECTION MANIFESTOES OF THE BJP



The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our own being.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Bird Freed

The takeover of one of the world's biggest social network sites - Twitter - by Elon Musk has triggered fears about the return of hate campaigns with impunity. There are also misgivings about reinstatement of former US President Donald Trump's account after the account of Kanye West aka Ye was activated again, just a day after Musk took over. It may be noted that West's account had been blocked after his anti-Semitic rants on the platform. Shockwaves were sent through the company after Musk laid off scores of employees on his very first day, including top executives Parag Agrawal and Vijaya Gadde, giving rise to fears of more drastic layoffs in the company employing over 7,000 people. The message that Musk sought to convey after taking charge as owner October 28 does not appear to be reassuring to votaries of democracy, though he insisted he would not allow the social network platform to be used as a "free-for-all" and pledged that the app would remain "warm and welcoming to all." However, after Musk's takeover, trolls were emboldened and spewed racist slurs and Nazi memes onto Twitter, fuelling fears of a new wave of online hate.

Within hours of the takeover the network's Chief Executive Parag Agrawal, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal and head of Legal Policy, Trust, and Safety Vijaya Gadde, were reportedly shunted out along with the company's general counsel Sean Edgett. The top executives were hastily escorted out of the company's San Francisco headquarters. This seemed to have encouraged a wide range of anonymous Twitter accounts to act as if it was a signal that old rules against bigotry no longer applied. One account, created this month, included a Nazi swastika as its profile picture and retweeted quotes from Musk alongside anti-Semitic memes. Another tweet, showing a video montage glorifying Nazi Germany with the comment, "I hear that there have been some changes around here," was liked more than 400 times. The Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI), a group that analyses hundreds of millions of messages across social media, said use of the word Nazi on the app has increased nearly 500 per cent over the 12 hours after Musk's deal was finalised. By October 28 afternoon misogynistic and anti-LGBTQ messages had become increasingly prominent, including from accounts calling for the harassment and misnaming of transgender people or the use of terms, like "groomer" to insinuate that they sexually recruit children.

At the moment, it appears Donald Trump's Twitter account may not be immediately restored. Trump hailed the takeover and said it is now "in sane hands". Musk himself tweeted that he would make "no major content decisions or account reinstatements" until a new moderation council is formed. He promised that the council would have widely diverse viewpoints but did not elaborate on crucial details.

It is sad that the changeover takes place at a time when a hate campaigner brutally attacked Paul Pelosi, the 82-year-old husband of the US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, after sneaking into their residence. A check on his social network activities by investigators has revealed his racist inclination and hatred for the House Speaker. He is believed to be a blind follower of the ideology propagated by Donald Trump.

The attack could be a coincidence, but the climate of hatred created by Trump and his posturing is such that Twitter's ownership by Musk may pose a big threat to liberal ideals the world over. The remarks made by Musk after taking charge that the bird is freed, referring to Twitter's logo, may turn out to be a mockery of free thinking.

### WISDOM CORNER

You have to forget about what other people say, when you're supposed to die, or when you're supposed to be loving. You have to forget about all these things.

JIMI HENDRIX

What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do.

BOB DYLAN

Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man; but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity.

ELVIS PRESLEY

### WORDSWORTH

#### Chock-a-block

Chock-a-block is actually a fairly widely known North American term, though there's a faint air of being slightly out of date about it. In Britain, it's now common to hear the abbreviated forms chocka (or chocker), which are both from World War Two services' slang, and in Australia the closely related chockers. Chock here is the same word as in chock-full, jam-packed full or filled to overflowing. One meaning of chock in the nineteenth century was of two things pressed so tightly against each other that they can't move. This led to the nautical term that's the direct origin of the phrase. Block refers to the pulley blocks of the tackle used for various hauling jobs on board ship. These worked in pairs, with the ropes threaded between them. When the men hauling tackle ropes had hoisted the load as far as it would go, the two pulley blocks touched and could move no further. They were then said to be chock-a-block, or crammed together. The origin of chock is complicated and not altogether understood. It's clear that there has been some cross-fertilisation between it and chock in the sense of a lump of wood used as a wedge to stop something moving. That's closely enough related to our sense to make it seem as though it might be the same word. But the experts think that chock in chock-a-block actually came from chock-full. That has been around at least since 1400. It comes from a different source, the verb chokken, as in the Middle English phrase chokken together, crammed together. This in turn may be from an Old French verb choquer, to collide or thrust. One of the problems of working out the origin has been that chock-full has appeared in several different spellings - including chock-full and choke-full - reflecting users' uncertainty about where it comes from.

#### Chrestomathy

This word means a selection or anthology as mentioned in A Mencken Chrestomathy, a selection of the choicest writings of the American journalist and writer on language, the late HL Mencken. Other than that, one may have to search a bit before finding another example, since it is a word of singular shyness, venturing out only rarely from inside our dictionaries to slip itself on to the cover of a work here or there. It was formed and first used in Greek, from the words khrestos, useful, and mathein, to know, hence useful learning. Its most frequent sense these days is that of a selection of passages designed to help in learning a language, so you may find titles such as Chrestomathy of modern literary Uzbek or A Chrestomathy of Pre-Angkorian Khmer. When HL Mencken used it he claimed he did so in part to wrest it back from the linguists. To critics who argued that the word would not be understood he replied in splendid arrogance: "Thousands of excellent nouns, verbs and adjectives that have stood in every decent dictionary for years are still unfamiliar to such ignoramuses, and I do not solicit their patronage. Let them continue to recreate themselves with whodunits, and leave my vocabulary and me to my own customers, who have all been to school".

### LOL

#### A juggler

A juggler, driving to his next performance, was stopped by the police. "What are those knives doing in your car?" asked the officer. "I juggle them in my act."



"Oh yeah?" says the cop. "Let's see you do it." A guy driving by sees this and says, "Wow, am I glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're making you do now!"

### SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Preventing weaponisation of resources



Morten Svendstorp

THE WEAPONISATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES UNDERSCORES THE NEED FOR A NEW KIND OF ALLIANCE AMONG THE WORLD'S DEMOCRACIES

The old line that "history does not repeat itself, but often rhymes," is an apt description of the evolving relationship between the West and its rivals. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union was a global superpower, owing to its military prowess. Today, Russia's armed forces appear to be in a dismal state, but the country has become an energy superpower that can use its vast natural-gas reserves as a weapon. Similarly, today's standoff between the West and Russia over Ukraine echoes the Cold War confrontation between authoritarianism and democracy.

With winter looming, the Kremlin's shutdown of gas flows to the EU could have severe consequences, triggering the biggest energy crisis in 50 years. Though increasing deliveries of gas from the US, the UK, and Norway will help mitigate the EU's dependence on Russian supplies in the short run, it is not a long-term solution.

The weaponisation of energy resources underscores the need for a new kind of alliance among the world's democracies. At the Baltic Sea Energy Security Summit in Denmark two months ago, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, and the European Commission offered a preliminary blueprint for what closer energy

coordination might look like. All the countries in attendance signed a declaration committing them to increase their combined offshore wind-energy capacity by almost sevenfold over the next eight years. The summit was a historic political step, demonstrating that the geopolitics of energy is on the cusp of a major shift. Over the last decade, the costs of wind and solar energy have fallen below that of fossil fuels in most countries. The rapid growth of renewable energy will have two profound consequences. First, fuel-exporting countries' ability to wield energy resources as a weapon will be weakened. Second, as the geopolitical importance of fuel resources diminishes, the importance of critical raw materials such as rare-earth elements, minerals, and metals will increase.

Over the last two decades, China has secured global dominance over the extraction and refining of minerals and metals. Today, China mines 58% and processes 85% of global rare-earth elements, giving it control over key parts of the supply chains needed to build wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles. To put this position in perspective, Saudi Arabia's share of global oil production stands at a mere 11%.

China's dominance is a concern in and of itself, but to make matters

worse, it has a track record of weaponising its resources. In 2010, after a Chinese trawler collided with a Japanese coastguard vessel in the waters around the disputed Senkaku Islands, China halted its exports of rare-earth elements to Japan. In response, Japan took steps to reduce its dependence on China, including by working with mining companies to find new sources of the same materials, and by building its domestic refining capacity.

Europe, the US, and other democracies should heed the lessons of the 2010 Senkaku Islands incident and begin forging a new alliance to secure the supply of energy and critical raw materials. We already know that such mission-oriented alliances work: NATO has been an effective bulwark of democracy, free trade, and security for many decades; and the International Energy Agency - created by OECD members following the 1973 oil shock - has offered a potent defense against OPEC's weaponisation of oil.

A new energy and raw materials alliance could start by including Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and those Latin American democracies that support a rules-based global order. Following the IEA model, it would develop a joint analytical capacity to produce regular forecasts of critical raw-mate-

rial supplies and demand for them. And just as IEA members hold emergency oil reserves equivalent to at least 90 days of net oil imports, members of the new alliance would keep stockpiles of strategically important raw materials.

Members of the alliance would insist on a market-based international trading system for critical raw materials through the G7, the G20, and at the WTO. They would coordinate and promote research aimed at diversifying demand for minerals. And they would create new public-private partnerships to build a pipeline of forthcoming extraction and refining projects.

In addition to powering the green transition, critical raw materials and energy resources could become a source of peace, cooperation, and stability. By building on the lessons from the 1973 oil shock, we can ensure that history doesn't repeat itself. That outcome would be another tragedy not a farce, as Karl Marx believed. Avoiding it is possible only if the world's democracies come together to do what is needed to prevent further weaponization of essential economic goods.

The writer is a visiting scholar at George Washington University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## 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)

Orissa POST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Terror conspiracy

Sir, The Tamil Nadu government's decision recommending a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the Coimbatore car blast case is indeed welcome. The NIA has already started investigation and what comes into revelation are shocking information linked to the blast. The one deceased in the blast and those arrested according to police sources have hardcore terror links and what might have resulted in a major serial blast was thwarted due to timely intervention of the police and intelligence personnel. The explosion in a car killing its driver some days ago in the Ukkadam area of the city had spread fear and panic among the people as they reminisced the horrendous serial bomb blast that rocked Tamil Nadu's second largest metropolis in 1998 killing many people and injuring hundreds. The blasts then were conspired and triggered by a fundamentalist group and were a consequence of communal clashes and killings that occurred in the city in 1997. The blast occurred on a day when the then BJP supremo LK Advani was to visit the city for an election campaign. A delay in his flight averted a major mishap then but a serial bomb blast killed so many. The recent car blast has raised curiosity and a number of questions linking the same to terror and fundamentalist activities which have national and international connection. The WhatsApp status of the deceased, the finding of explosives and bomb making materials, the arrest of the accomplices of the deceased and their connection with hardcore terror outfits including ISIS, the documents including details of vital public spots and places of worship in the city show that undoubtedly a conspiracy was being hatched for a terrible terror attack.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

#### Welcome move

Sir, The decision by BCCI to pay both sexes the same international match fee was a watershed moment for the empowerment of sportswomen. This will encourage a lot more women to pursue professional cricket with the support of their parents. The BCCI's action is expected to encourage the grooming of numerous additional young females who have aspirations of donning the national jersey. The competitive spirit so fostered should increase the talent pool and produce stronger dream teams that compete for international accolades. This could therefore pave the way for top female players to reap rewards in the shape of better endorsements and sponsorships for cricket competitions of all kinds.

Vijay Kumar HK, RAICHUR





The BJP government should remember that there is no place for enmity in politics. The ruling party and the opposition have an equal role in a democracy

**AKHILESH YADAV** | SP CHIEF

## BIKE SALE DECLINES IN ANDHRA

The Andhra Pradesh government is in a quandary with sale of motorbikes plummeting by 6.52 per cent in the first half of the 2022-23 financial year in the state when the national average recorded positive growth during the same period



## of the day quote

The BJP government in Haryana has failed on all fronts and the countdown to its defeat will start from the Adampur assembly by-election with the victory of the Congress

**BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA** | FORMER HARYANA CM

Deeply shocked at the loss of so many young lives due to the stampede in Seoul. Our condolences to the families of those who lost their dear ones

**S JAISHANKAR** | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Modi Govt has the lowest spending on R&D in the world and now they plan to scrap nearly 300 science awards. These awards are not only for recognition but also help in funding the scientific community. Why is the BJP Govt so averse to groom(ing) scientific temperament?

**MALLIKARJUN KHARGE** | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## Chirag to root for BJP in by-polls

**Patna, Oct 30:** In a shot in the arm for the BJP in Bihar, Chirag Paswan Sunday cast aside his ambivalence and announced that he will campaign for the saffron party in by-polls to two assembly segments in the state.

Paswan, who heads a splinter group of the Lok Janshakti Party founded by his late father Ram Vilas Paswan, was talking to reporters at the airport here upon his arrival from Delhi.



The 39-year-old MP from Jamui went into a huddle with party colleagues soon after landing before telling journalists 'Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will campaign for the BJP in the by-elections to Mokama and Gopalganj. The decision has been taken after a long meeting Saturday night with Union Home Minister Amit Shah with whom I have been in touch for quite some time'.

Paswan ducked queries as to whether he had given up the insistence on expulsion from NDA of his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, whose rebellion last year had caused a split in the party founded by his father.

"I am right now speaking only about the by-elections for Mokama and Gopalganj. It took a long time for us to arrive at a decision. Only two days are left before the campaign comes to an end. Our party will do its best to ensure the victory of the BJP candidates", said Paswan.

There have been speculations that Paswan, whose father held a berth in the Union Council of Ministers till his death, may also be considered for the same in the next reshuffle in a bid to assuage the humiliation he felt upon Paras entering the cabinet after splitting LJP.

Paswan did not make any direct reference to any "reward" that may be waiting for him but dropped some hints saying "there were a number of points that I discussed with Shah."

## SHORT TAKES

### Weapons recovered

**Jammu:** Police have recovered a consignment of weapons dropped from a drone along the International Border (IB) in RS Pura Sector and arrested two people here, an official said Sunday. The consignment comprised four pistols, eight magazines and 47 rounds, he said. This is the fourth drone-dropped consignment seized by the Jammu Police this year. Based on technical surveillance and analysis, two suspects were detained. During questioning, one of them named Chander Bose admitted to have visited the spot during the drone movement to collect the consignment.

### Leopard captured

**Mumbai:** The forest department caught a male leopard from Aarey Colony in Mumbai early Sunday morning, the second feline to be captured in the last five days, an official said. The leopard walked into a cage trap set up in unit 15 of the Aarey Colony, a green belt in Mumbai's western suburb of Goregaon and located close to the sprawling Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), he said. It was later taken to a rescue centre at the SGNP, the official said. Earlier, a one-and-a-half-year-old girl was attacked and killed by a leopard in a forested area in unit number 15 of the Aarey Colony on Monday morning when the child followed her mother who was on way to a temple nearby.

### 4 Punjab officials suspended

**Chandigarh:** The Punjab government Sunday suspended four officials of the Agriculture Department as stubble burning continued unabated in the agrarian state with 1,761 fresh incidents. The development came as the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution rose to 26 per cent, the highest this year, with forecasters saying that slow wind speed and an increase in stubble burning, especially in Punjab, may make it worse.

### TN car explosion: NIA begins probe

**Coimbatore:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday officially commenced the probe into a cylinder explosion in car in which one person was killed in front of a temple in the city on October 23. Led by NIA SP, Srijit, a team of NIA officials went to the spot and inspected the area in the vicinity of the temple and to collect further evidence, police said.

# KCR attacks BJP over 'poaching'

**Hyderabad, Oct 30:** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao Sunday accused the BJP of 'trying to buy' 20 or 30 MLAs of the ruling TRS and topple his government and claimed that 'brokers' from Delhi offered the sitting legislators ₹100 crore each.

Addressing a poll rally at by-poll-bound Munugode segment, Rao said, however, the legislators, who are 'sons of the soil', rebuffed the offer. Hitting back, the BJP said the MLAs were not worth ₹100 crore and asserted it had no intention of toppling the TRS government.

Rao said, "You have seen yesterday. (BJP thinks) there is one KCR who is talking loudly. Let's see his (political) end. They have sent brokers to buy each MLA for ₹100 crore. They wanted to buy 20 or 30 MLAs and topple KCR's government and encroach Telangana so that they can implement privatisation as per their will."

His statement comes a day after three people who tried to "poach" four TRS legislators were arrested and remanded to judicial custody. The Chief Minister paraded all the



The Chief Minister paraded all the four legislators during the public meeting, praising them that such people were required in politics

Rao sought a reply from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on whether such things were good for society

four legislators during the public meeting, praising them that such people were required in politics.

Based on a complaint by P Rohith Reddy, one of the TRS legislators, cases under relevant sections - criminal conspiracy, offering bribe and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 - were filed against Ramachandra Bharati alias Satish Sharma, Nanda Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy - on October 26 night.

According to the FIR copy, Rohith

Reddy alleged that the accused offered him ₹100 crore and in return the legislator had to leave the TRS and contest as a BJP candidate in the upcoming Assembly elections.

"Four sons of soil (MLAs) came with me (today for the meeting). Day before yesterday some Delhi brokers came to buy our Telangana self-respect and offered ₹100 crore. But our sons of soil hit them with their left footwear saying they were not for sale," the CM said, adding they wanted to purchase the

# Border troops learning advanced martial arts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhanu (Panchkula), Oct 30:** The ITBP that guards the LAC with China is training its personnel in a new unarmed "offensive" combat technique to gain better skills in taking on the adversary in situations like the Galwan clash of 2020 where crude weapons were used to inflict fatal injuries on Indian troops by the Chinese PLA.

The training module comprises 15-20 different fight manoeuvres taken from various martial arts techniques like judo, karate and krav maga that involve moves like punching, kicking, throwing, joint lock and pinning down.

The about three-month long training is being imparted by seasoned ITBP trainers who hone new recruits at the basic training centre (BTC) here for battle inoculation



just before getting commissioned into the border force. The new unarmed combat technique involves both defensive and offensive moves. We brought in this module for our troops last year on the directions of our former director general Sanjay Arora. The combat skills will render the opponent immobile and can also incapacitate them," ITBP Inspector General Ishwar Singh Duhan said. Duhan heads the BTC

located in the Bhanu area here, about 25 km from Chandigarh. The Chinese soldiers used stones, iron rods and clubs in carrying out brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a surveillance post by China on the Indian side of the LAC at Galwan (Ladakh) in June, 2020 resulting in 20 casualties on the Indian side while China belatedly claimed only four of its troops were killed.

# MHA warns states against lending apps

The Home Ministry said these illegal lending apps that may not be Regulated Entities by the Reserve Bank of India are using bulk SMS, digital advertisement, chat messengers and mobile app stores on a massive scale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** The Union Home Ministry has sought urgent strict action by law enforcement agencies against predatory lending apps as harassment, blackmail and harsh recovery practices by such Chinese-controlled entities have led to multiple incidents of suicides.

In a communication to all states and Union territories, the home ministry said the issue has caused a serious impact on national security, economy and citizen safety. It said a large number of complaints have been reported across India related to illegal digital lending apps that provide short-term loans or micro-credits at exorbitant interest rates with processing or hidden charges, especially to vulnerable and low-income group people.

The lenders use the borrowers' confidential personal data like contacts, location, photos and videos for blackmail and harassment. "Harsh recovery practices followed by these illegal lending apps have claimed many lives across India." This issue has caused a serious impact on national security, economy and citizen safety," the communication said.

The home ministry said these illegal lending apps that may not be Regulated Entities (RE) by the Reserve Bank of India are using bulk SMS, digital advertisement,

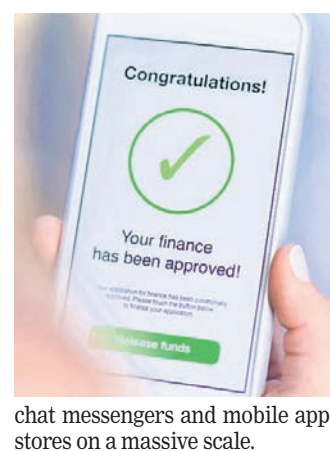
## Delhi forms 586 teams to combat air pollution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** Environment Minister Gopal Rai Sunday said the Delhi government has set up 586 teams to ensure strict implementation of the ban on construction and demolition activities in the capital in view of worsening air quality.

Rai also requested the Uttar Pradesh government to use CNG buses in the national capital region, saying diesel-run buses have a big role in high pollution levels at the Delhi-UP border. Addressing a press conference, Rai said experts have forecast that wind speed and direction will become unfavourable from November 1 which will push the air quality index into the 'severe' category.

Therefore, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has directed authorities in NCR to implement curbs, including a ban on construction and demolition activities, under stage three of the Graded Response Plan Action, he said.



chat messengers and mobile app stores on a massive scale.

The borrower has to provide mandatory access to contacts, location, and phone storage in order to avail loans. "This data is misused to harass and blackmail the citizens using morphed images and other abusive practices by recovery agents located in India as well as overseas violating RBI's Fair Practices Code," the states and UTs were told.

The home ministry said after investigation it has been found that this is an organised cyber-crime executed using disposable emails, virtual numbers, mule accounts, shell companies, payment aggregators, API services (account validation, document verification), cloud hosting, cryptocurrency, etc.

Hence, it is advised to involve domain experts during an investigation. The home ministry said law enforcement agencies can avail the services of the National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory (NCF), one of the verticals of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C), CIS Division for technical assistance on loan app analysis, malware analysis and crypto transaction tracing.

"All states and UTs are requested to take strict legal action in this regard. Further, all states and UTs are also requested to spread mass awareness in all districts against the risks of using such apps," it said.



A woman collects saffron flowers after picking them up from a field at Pampore in Pulwama district

PTI PHOTO

## NCRB DATA

# Every third crime against children relates to sexual offences

According to the NCRB, overall a total of 1,49,404 cases relating to crime against children were registered in 2021 against 1,28,531 cases in 2020, a rise of 16.2 per cent

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** The spurt in incidents of crime against children across India has raised serious concern with 53,874 cases registered in 2021 alone under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, according to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

According to the NCRB, overall a total of 1,49,404 cases relating to crime against children were registered in 2021 against 1,28,531 cases

in 2020, a rise of 16.2 per cent. If statistics of the NCRB are an indication, every third crime against a child was registered under the POCSO Act.

In 2021, a total of 33,348 incidents were registered under Sections 4 and 6 (punishment for penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the POCSO Act and in these cases 33,036 were girls while 312 were boys. However, cases of kidnapping of children were more with 67,245 registered, posing a



challenge for the police forces across the country.

Delhi topped the list among the Union Territories with 7,783 crimes

against children registered in 2021, while Nagaland registered the lowest number of crimes against children. The total crimes against chil-

dren rate went up from 28.9 per cent in 2020 to 33.6 per cent in 2021.

The NCRB data revealed a disturbing picture as 140 children were raped and murdered in 2021, while another 1,402 were also murdered. The maximum number of incidents of crime against children were reported in Uttar Pradesh, one of the largest states in India.

"There were 121 cases of feticide registered last year with the largest number of cases reported in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat (23 each) followed by Chhattisgarh (21) and Rajasthan (13). There were 359 cases of abetment to suicide of children also reported," according to the data. The data revealed that 49,535 children were abducted last

year from across the country. Maharashtra (9,415) topped the list followed by Madhya Pradesh (8,224), Odisha (5,135) and West Bengal (4,026). "As many as 29,364 children were declared missing and since deemed as kidnapped. Also, 1,046 children were trafficked last year. Almost 5,345 children were abducted in Delhi in 2021," it said.

According to the data, there were 982 cases registered under the Child Labour Act last year with the highest number of cases reported in states like Telangana (305) followed by Assam. It also stated that 1,062 cases were registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act last year with the top three states being Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Assam.



# LeT, JeM camps increase in PoK

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 30: Pakistan was recently removed from the Financial Action Task-Force's (FATF) grey list. The chances of increased cross border terrorist activities are once again looming.

Sources from intelligence agencies said that in the last few days, there has been a stir in the terrorist training camps and launch pads present in PoK. Terrorists involved with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) are hatching major infiltration plans in India.

According to sources, training camps of such organisations across the border have increased by 50 per cent. There has also been an increase in the number of terrorists and more than 200 are trying to infiltrate into the country before heavy snowfall.

According to the information, terrorist camps and launch pads have been shifted to many places in the vicinity of the border. Houses along the other side of the border are used as bases for operations.

Apart from this, terrorists are also searching for new routes to infiltrate Indian territory. The train-



- With Pakistan removed from the list, security forces on the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) have increased their vigilance
- Under the cover of dense fog and snowfall, security forces have been instructed to patrol the border with full alertness in anticipation of an increase in infiltration attempts
- Sources said that infiltration routes get closed after heavy snowfall, which is why new routes are being searched

J&K and their funding was also tightened. But now, Pakistan has again been trying to carry out its terror plans.

According to security agencies, in view of the intensified movement by the terrorists in the past one week, it is believed that there may be an increase in incidents like infiltration, terror funding and narco-terrorism.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently said that after the abrogation of Article 370, there has been a 34 per cent reduction in terrorist activities and 54 per cent drop in the deaths of security forces.

ing camps of LeT, JeM and Harkatul-Mujahideen (HuM) in Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Mansehra, Bimber etc. of PoK have started working actively. There are more than 20 launch pads in PoK, where there has been a sudden increase in the number of terrorists. Both Pakistan's army and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) are providing

help to them, sources said, adding that ISI is conspiring to infiltrate terrorists into India through PoK.

Within the last few days, more than 100 terrorists have reached the launch pads across the border in Machil, Keran and Gurez sectors of Jammu and Kashmir.

A huge decrease was recorded in infiltration of terrorists in

# Pakistan desperate to turn J&K youth into drug addicts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 30: Is Pakistan repeating its Punjab drug push strategy in Kashmir? It certainly appears so. Drug traffickers are out to destroy Kashmir's generation-next by selling poison to it at the behest of Pakistan, which wants to enslave the youngsters for fighting its proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir.

Not a single day passes without the J&K Police seizing narcotic drugs and arresting the peddlers, who are operating in every district of the Valley.

The drug trade in Kashmir is nothing new. It has been thriving for many years as the former political regimes didn't pay much attention towards curbing this menace. The substance abuse in Kashmir has turned into a monster which is out to devour the youngsters.

In the first nine months of 2022, the divisional administration in Kashmir issued 106 detention orders under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act, 1988,



The drug trafficking in Kashmir has emerged as one of the biggest challenges for the law enforcing agencies and the administration

(PIT-NDPS) and efforts are on to save youngsters from falling into the trap of drug peddlers and traffickers.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report on drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir released in September 2022 revealed an increase by 35 per cent in drug abuse cases in 2021 as compared to the cases registered in 2020.

The NCRB report stated that 1,222 cases under NDPS, 1985 act were registered in J&K in 2020, however, the number increased to 1,681 in 2021.

As per the figures, among the 1,222 cases registered in 2020, 289 cases were those where a convict was found to be in possession of

drugs for personal use or consumption while 933 cases were found to be in possession of drugs for trafficking.

In Kashmir, there has been a spate of unexplained, sudden deaths due to overdose of drugs but in most cases, the families don't believe it. Even hospitals certify these deaths as caused by cardiac arrest to save the deceased's kin from ostracism.

Soon after the abrogation of Article 370, a temporary provision in the Constitution of India, J&K Police Chief, Dilbag Singh in September 2019, had stated that majority of the drugs pumped into Jammu and Kashmir came from Pakistan to finance terror activities.

# J&K'S LONGEST FLYOVER READY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

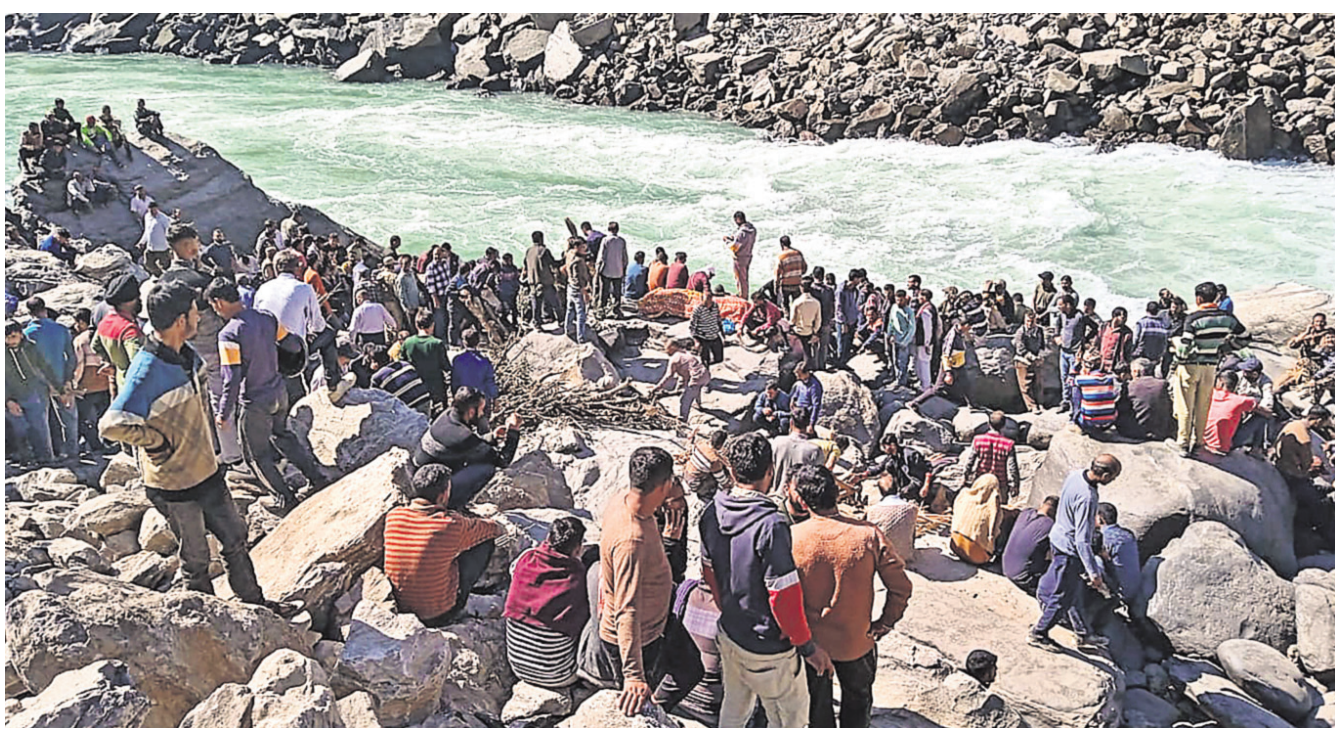
Jammu, Oct 30: The construction of the longest flyover in Jammu and Kashmir has been completed and is awaiting a formal inauguration.

This 4.6 km long flyover is built on the Jammu-Akhnoor road and connects Kanal Head to Ganesh Vihar Mithi near the Directorate of School Education Jammu.



Although it is complete, it has not been officially dedicated to the people. The construction agency is waiting for a dignitary from the Government of India to formally inaugurate it.

A company named Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited under the Union Ministry of Roads and Highways, is working on the road widening project which has a total cost of Rs 1,345 crore and has been divided into four packages. The flyover has been constructed under Package II, while under Package III 60 per cent of the work has been completed. General Manager of Project Monitoring Unit Jammu-Akhnoor S.P. Sangwan told the media that the 'Ganesh Vihar Mithi flyover, the longest canal head in Jammu and Kashmir, has been completed very quickly and there has not been a single accident on it.



Family members and relatives of a victim, who died after a landslide at Ratle Power Project site Saturday, perform his last rites, in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir. At least four people were killed and six others injured in the mishap, according to officials

# More than 50 animals rescued during Diwali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 30: Over 50 animals, birds and reptiles were rescued by the forest department during Diwali festivities in Mumbai and neighbouring Thane district, an official said.

The forest department in coordination with Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare (RAWW) rescued animals and birds after attending more than 110 distress calls over a period of five days, he said.



Fireworks during Diwali not only cause air, water and noise pollution, but they also have a negative impact on urban wildlife and community animals, said Pawan Sharma, president of RAWW and

the honorary wildlife warden with the state forest department. Monkeys, squirrels, bats, parakeets, kites, ibis cuckoos, owls, monitor lizards, snakes and turtles were rescued from different parts of the city and suburbs in coordination with the Mumbai and Thane forest department, he said.

"Many of the rescued animals had to undergo emergency surgeries due to the nature of their injuries. Surgeries were performed

on a monkey, owl and ibis that had sustained multiple injuries," Dr Rina Dev said.

In most cases, animals had suffered shock and trauma that led to severe dehydration and starvation, which could be due to displacement and distress because of fireworks, said Dr Priti Sathe, associate veterinarian with RAWW. The rescued animals are being released back to their natural habitat after recovery, it was stated.

# J&K: Indigenous games now being included in competitions



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 30: Buoyed by the excellent performance of sportspersons from Jammu and Kashmir at the national and international level, traditional and indigenous games are now being included in the different competitions organised by the UT administration in various districts of J&K.

Not only the young players are happy, the adults are also showing interest with the inclusion of traditional and indigenous games in various sporting competitions.

The competition was formally inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Vishesh Pal Mahajan at the sports stadium in Doda. It was organised under the management of Youth Services

and Sports Department, Doda, in which students from around 20 local schools participated.

"Holding such indigenous sports competition has not only provided an opportunity to showcase the talents of the players, but has also revived cultural memories," a participant told IANS, adding that he hopes similar events will be organised in the future as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahajan said that such indigenous sports competitions under the Jan Abhiyan programme will help students gain mental as well as physical fitness, besides providing them with an opportunity to get to know their past.

Participating in such sporting events will also keep the youth away from drugs and other social evils, he added.

# Same hours, less pay: The cost of being a woman farmhand in Maha

Female workers are paid only half of what men manage to get, but they are hesitant to ask for more fearing loss of employment.

Sweat trickles down her face as Anita (50) toils under the arid skies of Jadhavwadi village in Maharashtra's Satara district. She is not alone though. A group of 15 female farmhands has been assigned the task of harvesting onions, something that takes up their whole day.

"We all came around 10 am in a Tempo Traveller, and will be here until 5 to 6 pm. In between, we take a lunch break for an hour. At the end of the day, Rs 200 is paid to each of us," says Anita, readjusting the thin cotton scarf on her head.

Around 1 p.m., the women dressed in sarees and oversized cotton shirts gather in a circle with cloth bags dangling from their exhausted shoulders. They settle down in a clearing in the farm and take out lunch boxes containing bhakri, kanda and bhaji.

Soon, two others in the group join in carrying drinking water on their heads in huge steel pots (kalshi). The women take turns fetching water from the other end



of the farm. But male labourers do not do this task. Asked about it, Anita says, "We do it just as we take care of everyone at home."

**A deep dive into disparities**  
Jadhavwadi and Bijaudi are two relatively less populated villages in Phaltan block. The temperature here may not fall under the 'extremely hot' category, but it undoubtedly drains the energy of farm labourers. In addition, there are not many trees or man-made shelters for workers to take rest.

Unlike their male counterparts, female labourers are in demand here. According to Anita, they do not have to scramble for work. "The farm owners find us. So, we move from one farm to another with ease." Their popularity hinges on the

fact that they need to be paid only half of what men manage to get, despite doing the same work for the same amount of time. "At the end of the day, we also have to think about saving money," says Mamusheth, a farm owner.

In 2017, the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment raised the minimum daily wages of unskilled agricultural labourers from Rs 160 to Rs 300 per day for C-category towns. If states have higher minimum wages than the one declared by the Centre, then the former will prevail.

As per the revised minimum wages in Maharashtra, even unskilled labourers in zone 3 are entitled to Rs 420.54 per day. From plain observation, it is clear that



# Maha: 1.43L cattle affected by lumpy skin disease so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 30: The lumpy skin disease has affected 1,43,089 cattle in Maharashtra so far and 93,166 of them have recovered after treatment, a senior animal husbandry department official said.

The disease has till now spread to 3,030 villages in 32 out of the total 36 districts of the state, Animal Husbandry Commissioner Sachindra Pratap Singh said.

The lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral infection that affects cattle and can also lead to death. Its symptoms include fever, nodules on the skin, reduced milk production, loss of appetite, and watery eyes, as per experts.

"The affected cattle are being treated in the state and as on date, 140.97 lakh vaccines have been made available in various districts," Singh said. So far, 135.58 lakh cattle have been given free vaccination in the state, he said.





of the day quote

Isn't it true that Babasaheb Ambedkar said the Uniform Civil Code should be voluntary and not mandatory?...But the BJP only wants to move ahead with its Hindutva agenda and it has the habit of raising such issues before elections to get votes

ASADUDDIN OWAIISI | ALL INDIA MAJLIS-E-ITTEHADUL MUSLIMEEN PRESIDENT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has proved his leadership abilities through the Bharat Jodo Yatra

SHATRUGHAN SINHA | TMC MP

Kashmiri Muslims were silent spectators at the time of the exodus of Pandits because we were scared ourselves. Those relations have not been restored yet. When these will be restored, I don't know. We pray for the return of those days when we all lived without fear

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Drugs seized

Guwahati: Assam police seized narcotic substances worth 15 crores from Karbi Anglong district and arrested two drug peddlers on Saturday evening, officials said. Police received a tip-off about a consignment of drugs that was moving from Manipur towards the Karbi Anglong district and accordingly, a check post was installed in the Dilain Tinali area under the Bokajan Sub-division of the district.

4 dead, 18 injured

Aizawl: At least four people including a woman were killed and 18 are injured after an oil tanker exploded in Mizoram's Aizawl district, police said Sunday. Aizawl District Superintendent of Police C. Lalruaia said that a Champai-bound oil tanker carrying over 20,000 litres of petrol met with an accident on Saturday night near the Turial airfield and caught fire. Local people including the victims were trying to collect the petrol leaking from the oil tanker immediately after the accident.

Merchant Navy aspirant duped

Lucknow: A Merchant Navy aspirant was duped of Rs 4.5 lakhs by three men who promised him his dream job. The victim, Sumit Kumar Sonkar of Ashiana locality, was also made to stay in a five-star hotel in Mumbai and then taken for an interview in Delhi by the conmen. According to police reports, Sonkar was introduced to the prime accused Avani Singh of Gorakhpur through a common acquaintance when he was in the final years of his Merchant Navy course three years ago. Avani took Rs 50,000 from Sonkar as fee for processing his application for the job.

Property dealer shot dead

Gurugram: A 40-year-old property dealer was allegedly shot dead in Sector-22 of Gurugram in the wee hours of Sunday, the police said. The deceased was identified as Dharmesh Yadav, a resident of Gurugram. According to the police, the victim was asleep in his under-construction four-story house when some assailants reportedly came in a Swift car, shot him dead from point blank-range and fled the spot. Soon after the incident, a labourer who was sleeping next to the victim, also an eyewitness of the case, alerted the deceased family living in Sector-21 of Gurugram.



Army personnel perform during an ex-servicemen rally in Bikaner

INDIA BECOMING MAJOR MANUFACTURING HUB: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodra, Oct 30: India will now become a major producer of transport aircraft, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Sunday after laying the foundation stone of a manufacturing facility for European C-295 medium transport plane for the Indian Air Force.

The prime minister said India has become a major manufacturing hub and a new saga of economic reforms is being written in the country as his government's policies are "stable, predictable and futuristic".

"Today, India is working with a new mindset and new work culture," he said in his address at the ceremony in this city in Gujarat. The prime minister said India is going to become a major producer of transport aircraft and that he could see the day when big commercial planes would be made in the country.

He said India, with its 'Make-in-India' and 'Make-for-World' approach, is enhancing its strength further and that the country has emerged as a major manufacturing hub globally.

The prime minister said the manufacturing of C295 aircraft in Vadodra will not only give strength to the military but it will also create an aerospace ecosystem.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the occasion as a milestone in India's quest for becoming self-reliant in defence. The aircraft will be produced by a consortium of European aerospace major Airbus and the Tata Group.

It will be the first time in the Indian private sector that an aircraft will be manufactured in-country, from parts to final assembly. "It is a historic moment not only for the Tata Group but for the country, as it embraces the prime minister's vision of making India a truly 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) country," N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, said.

Airbus Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Faury said his company is honoured to play a role

in this "historic moment for aerospace in India." "Our Airbus teams are committed to supporting the modernisation of the Indian Air Force with the C-295 programme, which will also contribute to the development of the private defence manufacturing sector in the country," he said in his brief address.

The manufacturing unit will also cater for the export of the premier transport aircraft as well as for additional orders by the Indian Air Force.

In September last year, India sealed a Rs 21,935 crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C-295 aircraft to replace the IAF's ageing Avro-748 planes that entered service in the early 1960s.

Kejriwal targets Gujarat govt over UCC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhavnagar, Oct 30: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday questioned the intention of the Bharatiya Janata Party government in poll-bound Gujarat behind its move to constitute a committee to implement the Uniform Civil Code and said if the BJP wants to do so, it should do it across the country.

Kejriwal asked whether the BJP-led central government was waiting for the Lok Sabha elections to make a move in this direction. The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener was addressing a press



conference in Bhavnagar on the third day of his visit to Gujarat where the Assembly polls are due this year-end.

"The BJP had formed a similar committee before the Uttarakhand election. After winning the election, the committee went back home. Now, a few days before the Gujarat election, they have formed another committee. This committee (members) will also go back home after the election"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The Election Commission is likely to announce schedule for the Gujarat Assembly polls this week. The Gujarat government on

Mamata praises CJI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 30: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Sunday was all praise for the current Chief Justice of India, U.U. Lalit, and said that he has been able to restore the public confidence in the country's judicial system as evident during the last two months.

"I do not know whether this is the right platform to congratulate the current Chief Justice of India, U.U. Lalit. But I must say that the public confidence in the country's judicial system has been restored a lot during the last two months. The court is like a religious place. People knock on the legal doors hoping for justice. So, it is important that the confidence of the people on the judicial system prevails," the chief minister said, while addressing the 14th convocation of the West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences here on Sunday afternoon.

Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, Calcutta High Court's Chief Justice Prakash Srivastava and the Chief Justice of Bangladesh Hasan Foez



All the democratic powers are being killed by a section of people. If this goes on then it might move towards a presidential form of government. Where will democracy prevail then? So, please protect democracy, and that is my only request

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Siddique were present on the occasion.

Her speech had a latent apprehension about the threats faced by the federal system of democracy in India. "Social prestige is everything for us. We lose everything if we lose our social prestige. So, I will request all associated with the judicial system to ensure the federal system of democracy prevails," said the chief minister.

Without making direct reference to the Union government and BJP the chief minister said that unnecessary harassment of the people has increased manifold these days.

Saturday said it has decided to form a committee headed by a retired High Court judge to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Union minister Parshottam Rupala had said the committee will be formed before the model code of conduct for elections comes into force. Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi had 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.

To a question on the Gujarat government's decision, Kejriwal claimed "their intention is bad." "In

Article 44 of the Constitution, it is clearly written that it is the responsibility of the government to frame the Uniform Civil Code. So, the government should frame a Uniform Civil Code with the consent of all communities and by taking them together," he said.

Kejriwal said the BJP had formed a similar committee before the Uttarakhand election. "After winning the election, the committee went back home. Now, a few days before the Gujarat election, they have formed another committee. This committee (members) will also go back home after the election," he claimed.



Kharola in as ITPO chief

In a major upheaval, the government removed former commerce secretary BVR Subrahmanyam as chairman and MD of the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO). Within two months of his appointment, Subrahmanyam was removed and Pradeep Singh Kharola was appointed CMD of the ITPO. This is

something unusual as no reason for the removal of the 1988 batch IAS officer was given. Interestingly, after the abrogation of Article 370, Subrahmanyam was appointed chief secretary of J&K and he cracked the whip in the Valley. The state saw a communication blockade and the arrest of thousands of people including three former Chief Ministers. Subrahmanyam was seen as the most powerful person in J&K. However, he fell out with the J&K Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu who was also Modi's most trusted bureaucrat. Subrahmanyam was recalled from J&K and appointed Commerce Secretary and upon his retirement, he was given the ITPO prestigious post. Murmu was also recalled and made CAG. The Cabinet Committee of Appointment approved the appointment of retired IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola as CMD of ITPO for a period of two years.

Dwindling role of CBI

The CBI may be the country's premier investigation agency having all-India jurisdiction to fight corruption and crime. But over the years, its sheen has gone. The parties in power use the agency to achieve their political ends at the cost of its credibility. It was largely because of this very reason that the Supreme Court called the CBI a 'caged parrot' in 2013. In an unprecedented move more than nine states disallowed the CBI to operate without prior permission. This curtailed the CBI to operate across the country freely. The CBI's role is dwindling with each passing day. The government is relying more on the ED, the NIA, SFIO and Directorate of Investigation (Income Tax). Data shows that if the CBI has registered 747 cases in 2021, the ED registered the highest number of money laundering and foreign exchange violation cases (1,180 and 5,313 complaints

respectively) during 2021-22 financial year.

AAP's tactical retreat

If reports emanating from Shimla are any indication, AAP has slowed down its campaign for Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls. With many of AAP's senior leaders crossing over to the BJP in Himachal, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has been left high and dry. In addition, two of his ministers had to resign and the third minister is in the woods. Many of his MLAs in Delhi and Punjab are under the glare of many central agencies. Therefore, Kejriwal opted to focus on the Gujarat Assembly polls where the AAP is getting traction. Kejriwal is travelling to Gujarat every alternate day.

Labour codes may go for a toss

It is clearly emerging now that the four

labour codes may also go for a toss after the withdrawal of three farm laws under pressure from the farming community. The Modi government has been trying hard to bring in much awaited labour reforms and passed three bills in Parliament in September 2020. The bills were aimed at providing greater flexibility to employers to hire and fire while ensuring social security for workers. But the Labour ministry has not been able to finalize four labour codes during the past two years due to stiff opposition by the 10 trade unions. Interestingly, even the RSS controlled Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) made it clear to Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav that it is opposed to at least two of the four codes. The BMS supported the Code on Social Security and the Code on Wages but opposed the Industrial Relations Code and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code.

DJB director bathes in Yamuna amid toxic chemical claim

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 30: Delhi Jal Board (DJB) director Sanjay Sharma Sunday took a bath in water from the Yamuna, with a chemical defoaming agent added, in response to a Delhi BJP MP's allegation that the river water is toxic and challenging him to use it to bath in.

The DJB Director collected water from the Yamuna in a container and then took a bath on the bank to show the water is not hazardous. The war of words between the two erupted when the defoamer chemical was sprayed in the river to destroy the foam ahead of the Chhath Puja.

"This is not any message to (MP) Pravesh Verma ji. He is our honorable MP. This message is for the people of Delhi," the DJB Director Sharma said after taking the bath.

As the toxic foam had risen on the Yamuna's surface, the DJB officials sprayed the river water surface with chemicals to remove it. However, it was objected by BJP leaders saying it would affect the devotees, and leading to a controversy between DJB official and the BJP leaders.

The DJB Director also filed a complaint against Verma and Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga for "obstructing discharge of official duty and criminal intimidation" on Saturday.



PhD student held for posts on Shinde, Fadnavis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 30: The Maharashtra cyber wing has arrested a 29-year-old PhD student of a university in Ahmednagar for allegedly posting objectionable comments against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Twitter, an official said Sunday.

The cyber cell had received a complaint on October 14 about an unidentified person using a particular Twitter handle to post the objectionable comments, he said. The accused was also using the handle on the micro-blogging site to abuse women and female journalists, he said.

To avoid legal action, the accused was using Wi-Fi-VPN (virtual private network) and trying to create an impression that he was posting the content from Mumbai, the official said.

The cyber wing conducted a technical analysis of the tweets and found the accused was posting them from the Mahatma Phule Agricultural University at Rahuri in the state's Ahmednagar district, he said.

Accordingly, a cyber team went to Ahmednagar on Friday and conducted raids on some suspects on Saturday, the official said. The cyber team detained two suspects and brought them to Mumbai for further investigation into the matter.

The probe team later arrested the main accused in the case from the university, he said, adding that two mobile phones and a laptop were also seized.



# international



Please know that prayers and warm wishes from so many are a comfort to our family and are helping Paul to make progress with his recovery  
NANCY PELOSI | US HOUSE SPEAKER

## LEBANON PREZ LEAVES WITH NO REPLACEMENT

President Michel Aoun left Lebanon's presidential palace Sunday, marking the end of his six-year term without a replacement, leaving the small nation in a political vacuum that is likely to worsen its historic economic meltdown



### of the day quote

Good to speak to US Secretary of State @SecBlinken. Thanked him for his strong and clear message yesterday on counter-terrorism and 26/11 accountability. Discussed the Ukraine conflict and other regional issues  
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA

I have the greatest respect for the United States and the democratic freedoms that the American people enjoy  
THE DALAI LAMA | TIBETAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

I came to power with the people's power not because of the establishment  
IMRAN KHAN | EX-PAK PM

### SHORT TAKES

#### 11 killed in stadium crush

**Kinshasa:** Eleven people were killed Saturday, including two police officers, in a crush at an overcrowded stadium concert in Kinshasa headlined by Congolese singer Fally Ipupa, the interior minister said. The capital's Stadium of Martyrs was packed over its capacity of 80,000 and some of the crowd ended up forcing their way into the VIP and reserved sections, Reuters reporters at the concert said.

#### Labour puts pressure on Rishi

**London:** Labour is urging the government to publish its assessments of Suella Braverman's security breach following her controversial reappointment as UK home secretary just six days after she was forced out, local media reported. New Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is under growing pressure over reinstating Braverman as home secretary after a former party chair claimed she had committed "multiple breaches" of the ministerial code, Sky News reported.

#### Storm victims feared tsunami

**Manila:** Victims of a huge mudslide set off by a storm in a coastal Philippine village that had once been devastated by a killer tsunami mistakenly thought a tidal wave was coming and ran to higher ground where they were buried alive by the boulder-laden deluge, an official said. At least 20 bodies, including those of children, have been dug out by rescuers in the vast muddy mound that now covers much of Kusiong village in southern Maguindanao province, among the hardest-hit by Tropical Storm Nalgae, which blew out of the northwestern Philippines early Sunday.

#### Workers leave iPhone factory

**Hong Kong:** Workers in a manufacturing facility in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou appear to have left to avoid Covid-19 curbs, with many travelling on foot for days after an unknown number of employees were quarantined in the facility after a virus outbreak.

#### Brazil votes

**Brasilia:** A polarised Brazilian electorate began casting votes Sunday in a knife-edge presidential runoff that pits far-right incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro against leftist former leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Bolsonaro has vowed to consolidate a sharp rightward turn in Brazilian politics after a presidency that witnessed one of the world's deadliest Covid-19 epidemics and widespread deforestation in the Amazon basin.

## RUSSIA HALTS UKRAINE GRAIN DEAL

# Global food concerns rise

A ship with 40,000 tons of grains bound for Ethiopia under the United Nations aid program could not leave Ukraine Sunday as a result of Russia's suspension of the deal, said Oleksandr Kubrakov, Ukraine's minister of infrastructure



than 9 million tons of grain in 397 ships to safely leave Ukrainian ports since it was signed in July, and the UN chief Friday urged Russia and Ukraine to renew the deal when it expires in late November. The grain agreement has succeeded in bringing down global food prices, which have fallen about 15 per cent from their peak in March, according to the United Nations. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the decision predictable and said Russia has been deliberately aggravating the food crisis since September. Currently, some 176 ships loaded with grain are being prevented from sailing from Ukraine's ports, he said. "This is food for more than 7 million consumers. Why is it that a handful of people somewhere in the Kremlin can decide whether there will be food on the tables of people in Egypt or Bangladesh?" he said

Saturday in his nightly address to the nation. Other Ukrainian officials were more vehement, with one saying that Russia has started a real-life "hunger games" for the world's poor. A ship with 40,000 tons of grains bound for Ethiopia under the United Nations aid program could not leave Ukraine on Sunday as a result of Russia's suspension of the deal, said Oleksandr Kubrakov, Ukraine's minister of infrastructure. Russia's action is facing international condemnation. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Russia to reverse its decision in a tweet Sunday. Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary general, said the world body is in touch with Russian authorities about the decision and that it's vital all parties refrain from any actions that would impede

AGENCIES

**Kyiv, Oct 30:** US President Joe Biden has warned that global hunger could increase because of Russia's suspension of a UN-brokered deal to allow safe passage for ships carrying Ukrainian grain. "It's really outrageous," said Biden speaking in Wilmington, Delaware, Saturday. "There's no merit to what they're doing. The UN negotiated that deal and that should be the end of it." Biden spoke hours after Russia announced it would immediately halt participation in the agreement, alleging that Ukraine staged a drone attack Saturday against Russia's Black Sea Fleet ships off the coast of occupied Crimea. Ukraine has denied the attack, saying that Russia mishandled its own weapons. The grain initiative has allowed more

## UK wants probe into Liz Truss' phone hack claim

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Oct 30:** The British government insisted Sunday it has robust cybersecurity for government officials, after a newspaper reported that former Prime Minister Liz Truss' phone was hacked while she was UK foreign minister. The Mail Sunday said that the hack was discovered when Truss was running to become Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister in the summer. It said the security breach was kept secret by then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the head of the civil service. The newspaper, citing unnamed sources, said Russian spies were suspected of the hack. It said the hackers gained access to sensitive information, including discussions about the Ukraine war with foreign officials, as well as private conversations between Truss and a political ally, former Treasury chief Kwasi Kwarteng. The UK government spokesperson declined to comment on security arrangements, but said it had "robust systems in place to protect against cyber threats," including regular security briefings for ministers. Opposition parties demanded an independent investigation into the hack, and into the leak of the information to a newspaper. "Was Liz Truss's phone hacked by Russia, was there a news blackout and if so why?" said Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesperson Layla Moran.



A float is paraded during the Day of the Dead parade in Mexico City. The parade was inspired by the 2015 Bond movie "Spectre" and has become an event in Mexico City with thousands parading around giant floats, music and costumes

## Imran halts march as scribe crushed under his container

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Oct 30:** A female Pakistani journalist attending former prime minister Imran Khan's long march died Sunday after being crushed under his container, an incident that forced him to halt the march for the day. The deceased was identified as Channel 5 reporter Sadaf Naeem. After the tragic incident, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

chairman called off activities for the day. "We are ending today's march due to an accident. We have decided to stop here," Khan said. Khan also sent his condolences to the family of the deceased and said that he would pray for the departed soul. The long march would start from Kamoke on its fourth day on Monday. Earlier, it was planned to reach Gujranwala by the end of its third day. Geo News reported that Sadaf was hit by the container car-

rying Khan but it was not confirmed. She was trying to interview Khan for her TV channel, Dunya TV reported. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while reacting to the death of the journalist, said that he was deeply saddened by the death of the reporter. He further wrote in his tweet that Sadaf Naeem was a dynamic and hardworking reporter, adding that he prays for the forgiveness of the deceased and patience for the family.

# SK mourns, wants answers after Halloween mishap kills 153

A huge crowd celebrating in Itaewon surged into an alley, killing at least 153 people, most of them in their 20s, emergency officials said, adding the death toll could rise

REUTERS

**Seoul, Oct 30:** Shocked family members collected bodies, parents searched for children and a country sought answers Sunday after at least 153 people were crushed to death when a crowd in South Korea surged in an alleyway during Halloween festivities. President Yoon Suk-yeol declared a period of national mourning and designated Seoul's popular Itaewon district a disaster zone after the Saturday night stampede. The parties, some still in their teens and many in Halloween costumes, were ready to enjoy the bars, nightclubs and restaurants where the revelry routinely spills over into narrow and often steep

side streets. Instead, the street became filled with people crying for help, while emergency workers desperately sought to free trapped bodies and perform CPR on people splayed across the debris-littered ground. Choi Sung-beom, head of the Yongsan Fire Station, told a briefing at the scene 82 people were injured, 19 of them seriously. The deaths included 22 foreigners, he said. Families and friends desperately sought word of loved ones at community centres turned into facilities for missing people. At least 90% of the victims had been identified by midday, with delays affecting some foreign nationals and teenagers who did not yet have identification cards, the Interior Ministry said.



People pay tribute near the scene of the stampede

Makeshift memorials began appearing near the site, with onlookers leaving flowers and notes. President Yoon expressed condolences to the victims and his wishes for a speedy recovery to the many injured in one of the South Korea's worst disasters and

the world's worst stampedes in decades. UNRULINESS, THEN CHAOS South Korean tech and mobile game firms including Kakao (035720.KS) and NCSOFT (036570.KS) pulled their Halloween promotions after the tragedy while

## Somalia: 100 dead in twin car blasts



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mogadishu, Oct 30:** At least 100 people have been killed over 300 injured in twin car bomb explosions targeting Somalia's Education Ministry building here, Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said Sunday. The fatalities in Saturday's car bomb attacks are likely to rise, Mohamud told media after visiting the bombing site early Sunday. Several government offices, hotels and restaurants are situated near the bombing site, Xinhua news agency reported. An unspecified number of people, including journalists and police officers were among the casualties, Sadiq Dudishe, spokesperson of the Somali Police Force, said earlier. The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab Islamist group, which often targets the capital and controls large

parts of the country, claimed responsibility. Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, while condemning the attack, said such action by al-Shabab won't stop the government's commitment to eradicating terrorism in any form. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia in a statement called for sustained military operations against the insurgents, so as to suppress surging terror attacks in the country. Extending its condolences to the families of the victims, the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia tweeted it "wishes a speedy recovery for those injured, and stands resolutely with all Somalis against terrorism." The blasts came as the Somali president and leaders of the federal member states, including security officials, were meeting to discuss ongoing offensive operations against al-Shabab.

## Students defy Iran protest ultimatum



PROTESTS SHOW NO SIGN OF EASING AMID FIERCE STATE WARNINGS  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CLASH WITH SECURITY FORCES  
JOURNALISTS DEMAND RELEASE OF THEIR JAILED COLLEAGUES  
RIGHTS GROUPS REPORT ARRESTS OF ACTIVISTS, STUDENTS

REUTERS

**Dubai, Oct 30:** Weeks of protest in Iran entered a more violent phase Sunday as students defied an ultimatum by the Revolutionary Guards and were met with tear gas, beatings and gunfire from riot police and militia, social media videos showed. The confrontations at dozens of universities prompted a threat of a tougher crackdown in the seventh week of demonstrations since 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died after she was arrested by the morality police for attire deemed inappropriate. Iranians from all walks of life have been protesting since Amini's death. What began as outrage over Amini's death on Sept. 16 has evolved into one of the toughest challenges to clerical rulers

since the 1979 revolution, with some protesters calling for the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards told protesters that Saturday would be their last day of taking to the streets, the harshest warning yet by Iranian authorities. Nevertheless, videos on social media, unverifiable by Reuters, showed confrontations between students and riot police and Basij forces Sunday at universities all over Iran. One video showed a member of Basij forces firing a gun at close range at students protesting at a branch of Azad University in Tehran. Gunshots were also heard in a video shared by rights group HENGAW from protests at the University of Kurdistan in Sanandaj.

## amusement park Everland cancelled Halloween-themed events

Many regional governments and organisations have cancelled or reduced festivals and other celebrations. The crush of partygoers came as Itaewon, a symbol of freewheeling nightlife in the South Korean capital for decades that was just starting to thrive after more than two years of Covid-19 restrictions, with trendy restaurants and shops replacing seedy establishments. It was the first Halloween event in Seoul in three years to be virtually free of Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing. Many of the partygoers were wearing masks and Halloween costumes. Twenty-four hours before, there were already warning signs that the festivities were attracting dan-

gerous numbers of people, and victims and their relatives questioned an apparent lack of crowd control. Early Sunday costumes and personal belongings mingled with blood spots in the narrow street. Survivors huddled under emergency blankets amid throngs of emergency workers, police, and media. Many of those killed were near a nightclub, Choi said. The foreigners killed included people from China, Iran, Uzbekistan and Norway, he said. Witnesses described the crowd becoming increasingly unruly and agitated as the evening deepened. Chaos erupted just before the 10:20 p.m. (1320 GMT) stampede, with police on hand for the event at times struggling to control the crowds, witnesses said.



# business

## of the day quote

**Inflation pressure on the cost of goods sold will most likely continue in the foreseeable future and hence we will continue to pursue with further price increases to strengthen our earning, in combination with cost measures to mitigate these cost impacts**

**RADEVAN SIKORSKY** | CFO, UNITED BREWERIES LTD

**I feel that the demand is robust and we are witnessing this. If we look at the performance of the entire housing industry for the last four to five quarters, the sector is performing extremely well. We are very positive about growth for the coming quarters**

**GIRISH KOUSGI** | PNB HOUSING FINANCE MD AND CEO

**Since expansion happens... There will be a certain stage where you necessarily will have to export, if we have to be on high capacity utilisation**

**DILIP OOMMEN** | CEO, ARCELORMITTAL NIPPON STEEL

## SHORT TAKES

### M-cap: Top 9 add ₹90,319cr

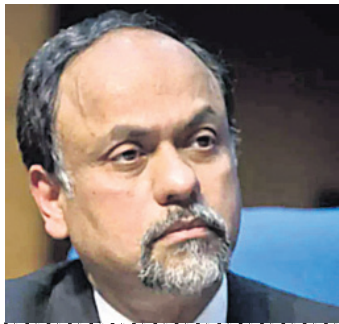
**New Delhi:** Nine of the 10 most valued domestic firms together added ₹90,318.74 crore in market valuation last week amid a positive trend in equities, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest winner. Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 652.7 points or 1.10 per cent. Markets had a special one-hour Muhurat trading session Monday to mark the beginning of Hindu Samvat year 2079. Stock markets were closed Wednesday for 'Diwali Bali Pratipada'. Barring Hindustan Unilever, rest nine companies witnessed addition in their market valuation, including Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys and State Bank of India (SBI). The market valuation of Reliance Industries rallied ₹36,566.82 crore to reach ₹17,08,932.42 crore. The market capitalisation of HDFC Bank advanced ₹11,195.61 crore to ₹8,12,378.52 crore.

### Earnings, Fed decision in focus

**New Delhi:** The ongoing quarterly earnings season, the Reserve Bank's special meeting of its rate-setting committee and the US Fed interest rate decision are the major events that would dictate trends in the equity market this week, analysts said. Besides, auto sales numbers and macroeconomic data to be announced during the week would also influence trading in the equity market. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data for the manufacturing sector would be announced Tuesday, while the services sector numbers are scheduled to come Thursday.

### India, GCC talks likely next month

**New Delhi:** India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries are expected to start negotiations for a free trade agreement next month with an aim to boost economic ties between the two regions, an official said. GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region -- Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. "Terms of reference for the agreement are being finalised and we expect to launch the negotiations next month," the official said. India has already implemented a free trade pact with the UAE in May this year.



**Bima Sugam will be a one-stop shop for buying and selling insurance, for policy servicing, and also for claim settlement**

**DEBASHISH PANDA** | IRDAI CHAIRMAN

### MARUTI RECALLS 9,925 UNITS OF 3 MODELS

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd is recalling 9,925 units of its three models, Wagon R, Celerio and Ignis, to rectify a possible defect in rear brake assembly pin, according to a regulatory filing by the company. The affected vehicles are manufactured between August 3 and September 1, 2022.



# Lack of reliable data major obstacle to MSME growth

The last MSME survey was conducted by the National Sample Survey Office 6 years ago

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** The micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, which is considered to be the backbone of the Indian economy, consists of a vast set of an estimated 6.34 crore enterprises in the country.

However a major roadblock in the growth of the MSME sector is the lack of reliable data about enterprises operating in this sector.

Surprisingly the last MSME survey was conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2015-16, i.e., six years ago.

This lack of reliable data, according to sources, is a major roadblock in the growth of the MSME sector.

Considering the fact that the MSME sector itself has undergone changes in 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic had erupted and they needed urgent credit requirements, the need for a survey of the sector becomes all the more pertinent.

The government may consider conducting a survey of the MSME sector soon, sources said.

The survey would help estimate the actual number of MSMEs in the



country along with realistic assessments of their credit requirements, they added.

Due to lack of regular survey, there is still a significant credit gap for the MSME sector and unmet demand remains substantial.

As per the UK Sinha Expert Committee on MSMEs' report, the overall credit gap in the MSME sector is estimated to be ₹20 lakh crore to ₹25 lakh crore.

Along with the credit gap, the MSME sector is often not able to borrow at globally competitive rates since there is not sufficient and affordable financing available to fi-

ancial institutions that target the MSME sector.

MSME enterprises also have to contend with delayed and erratic payments from their customers, which makes working capital management and financing very difficult.

Since few MSMEs have sufficiently predictable cash flows, it becomes difficult for MSMEs to access affordable financing to operate and grow their businesses.

Therefore, regular surveys of the sector would significantly help bridge the credit gap for MSMEs in the country, industry sources said.

# IN A FIRST, RBI's MPC PANEL TO DISCUSS INFLATION REPORT

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 30:** For the first time since the implementation of the monetary policy framework in 2016, the Reserve Bank will submit a report to the government on its failure to keep the retail inflation rate below six per cent for three consecutive quarters beginning January 2022.

The monetary policy framework, which came into effect about six years ago, mandates the RBI to maintain retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

In case of failure to maintain the inflation target for three consecutive quarters, the central bank, under section 45ZN of the RBI Act, is required to submit a report to the government explaining the reasons and spelling out the remedial actions it would be taking to check the price rise.

The central bank has called a special meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) November 3, to prepare its report on missing inflation targets to the government. The six-member rate-setting panel is headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"Under the provisions of Section 45ZN of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act... An additional meeting



of the MPC is being scheduled November 3, 2022," the central bank said in a statement.

Section 45ZN of the Act deals with failure to maintain the inflation target.

Governor Das had earlier said the central bank will not make the report public. It is not clear if the government too would like to keep the report confidential or make it public for wider discussions and deliberations, he had said.

To tackle price rise, the government in 2016 gave a mandate to the RBI to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side for a five-year period ending March 31, 2021.

Section 45-ZA of the RBI Act, 1934 requires that the central government shall, in consultation with the RBI, determine the inflation target in terms of Consumer Price Index (CPI), once in every five years.

# FPIs pull out ₹1,586cr from equities in Oct

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** After withdrawing over ₹7,600 crore last month, foreign investors have slowed down the pace of equity selling in India in October so far, as they pulled out ₹1,586 crore from capital markets.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net buyers of ₹51,200 crore in August. The month of November is expected to have net inflow of more or less similar to this, K Dileep, Head of PMS at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to the data from the depositories, FPIs withdrew ₹1,586



crore from equities in October (till 28). The one trading session is left for the month.

However, in the last few days, FPIs slowed down on selling substantially. In fact, they invested more than ₹6,000 crore in the last four trading sessions.

In July, FPIs made a net investment of nearly ₹5,000 crore. Before that, foreign investors were net sellers in Indian equities for nine months in a row which started in October last year.

# Adani to invest \$150bn in pursuit of \$1trn valuation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** Richest Asian Gautam Adani's group will invest over USD 150 billion across businesses ranging from green energy to data centres to airports and healthcare as it chases the dream to join the elite global club of companies with USD 1 trillion valuations.

October 10, Adani Group Chief Financial Officer Jughesinder 'Robbie' Singh detailed the growth plans of the group, which started off as a trader in 1988 and expanded rapidly into

ports, airports, roads, power, renewable energy power transmission, gas distribution and FMCG and more recently into data centres, airports, petrochemicals, cement and media, at an investor meet organised by Ventura Securities Ltd in New Delhi.

The group plans to invest USD 50-70 billion in green hydrogen business and another USD 23 billion in green energy over the next 5-10 years, he said. It will invest USD 7 billion in electricity transmission, USD 12 billion in transport utility and USD 5 billion in the road sector. Its foray into data centre business with cloud services would entail an investment of USD 6.5 billion in partnership with Edge ConneX and another USD 9-10 billion is planned for airports, where it is already the largest private operator. Its foray into the cement sector with the acquisition of ACC and Ambuja cement entailed USD 10 billion investment.

# 4 firms set to go public next week

Seek to raise over ₹4,500cr via IPO

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** The primary market is heading for a busy time, with four firms, including Global Health Ltd, which operates hospitals under the Medanta brand, and micro finance lender Fusion Micro Finance Ltd, lining up their IPOs next week.

The other two companies whose IPOs are ready to open are DCX Systems, a manufacturer of cables and wire harness assemblies, and Bikaji Foods International.

Together, these four companies are expected to fetch over ₹4,500 crore through the IPOs, according to merchant banking sources.

Apart from these, Uniparts India and Five Star Business Finance are expected to come out with their respective IPO in November, they added.

The initial share sale of DCX Systems will open for public subscription October 31 and conclude November 2, while that of Fusion Micro Finance will be open during November 2-4.

The IPOs of Global Health and Bikaji Foods will open for subscription November 3 and close November 7.

In 2022 so far, as many as 22 companies have floated their IPOs to raise over ₹44,000 crore. In 2021, 63 IPOs raised more than ₹1.19 lakh crore, according to data from the exchanges.

"Volatility of the secondary market has led to a weak IPOs market in 2022 and it is expected to remain subdued going ahead," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.



However, the response of investors to the offered IPOs was decent because of the opportunity to invest in new companies at attractive prices. This was also in context of high liquidity available from HNI's and retail investors looking for listing gain, he said.

In majority, IPOs were also attractive for institutional investors to invest in high-quality new businesses bringing diversification to schemes, he added.

DCX Systems' IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹400 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of equity shares up to ₹100 crore by promoters NCBG Holdings Inc and VNG Technology. The Bengaluru-based company has already raised ₹225 crore from anchor investors. It has fixed a price band of ₹197-207 per share for its issue.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used towards debt payment, funding working capital requirements, investment in its wholly-owned subsidiary Raneal Advanced Systems to fund its capital expenditure expenses and general corporate purposes.

Fusion Micro Finance is look-

ing to raise ₹1,104 crore from its IPO which comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth ₹600 crore and an offer of sale of 13,695,466 equity shares by promoters and existing shareholders.

Global Health's IPO consists of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to ₹500 crore, and an OFS of up to 5.08 crore equity shares by Anant Investments, an affiliate of private equity major Carlyle Group, and Sunil Sachdeva (jointly with Suman Sachdeva).

The IPO price band has been fixed at ₹319-336 per share and at the upper end of the price band, the company is expected to fetch ₹2,206 crore through the issue.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used to pay debt and general corporate purposes.

Bikaji is aiming to mop-up an estimated ₹1,000 crore, through its initial share sale, merchant banking sources said.

Certain shareholders of the Rajasthan-based company as well as its promoters -- Shiv Ratan Agarwal and Deepak Agarwal -- will offload around 2.94 crore shares through the OFS route.

# Road transport sector has maximum delayed projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** The road transport and highways sector has the maximum number of delayed projects at 262, followed by railways at 115 and the petroleum sector at 89, showed a government report.

In the road transport and highways sector, 262 out of 835 projects are delayed. In railways, out of 173 projects, 115 are delayed, while for petroleum, 89 out of 140 projects are delayed, as per the latest flash report on infrastructure projects for September 2022.

The Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) is mandated to monitor central sector infrastructure projects costing ₹150 crore and above based on the information provided on the Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) by the project implementing agencies.

The IPMD comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The report showed that the Muneerabad-Mahaboobnagar rail project is the most-delayed project. It is delayed by 276 months.



The second-most delayed project is the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project which is delayed by 247 months. The third-most delayed project is Belapur-Seawood-Urban Electrified Double Line, which is delayed by 228 months.

About the road transport and highways sector, the report stated that the total original cost of implementation of 835 projects when sanctioned, was ₹4,94,300.45 crore. This was subsequently anticipated at ₹5,26,481.88 crore, implying a cost overrun of 6.5 per cent.

The expenditure incurred on these projects till September 2022 is ₹3,21,980.33 crore, which is 61.2 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

About railways, it said the total original cost of implementation of 173 projects when sanctioned, was of the order of ₹3,72,761.45 crore, which later increased to ₹6,23,008.98 crore, implying a cost overrun of 67.1 per cent.

The expenditure incurred on these projects till September 2022 is ₹3,50,349.9 crore, which is 56.2 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

# iPhone no more a device for only the rich & famous

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** India has finally arrived on the world map for Apple. With its revenues surpassing ₹33,300 crore in the fiscal year that ended March 31, 2022, millions of aspirational fans in the country now want to join its ecosystem.

According to data from business intelligence platform Profer, Apple India logged a net profit of ₹1,263 crore, a growth of 3 per cent (year-on-year) in the fiscal year, as sales were up a massive 45 per cent.

In India, not just high-end new-generation Apple phones are flying off the shelves, older generation models like iPhone XR, 11, 12 and 13 are now popular among those who cannot afford the new handsets, thanks to attractive offers and schemes.

From your neighbourhood bar-

ber to the morning milkman, from your local vegetable seller to washerman, iPhones are becoming the new norm for them and they do not mind paying a little extra over Chinese models to join the ever-growing Apple family in the country.

With an iPhone comes the need for an Apple Watch, AirPods Pro and an iPad, thus driving the entire ecosystem for the company in a country where Apple iPhones were once reserved for only the rich and the famous.

According to Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint, India is among 20-odd countries where the 'premiumisation' trend has just started.

"Easy finance, buy now, pay later (BNPL), and shift from mid-tier to premium is happening. Though the premium smartphone market



**Apple India logged a net profit of ₹1,263 crore, a growth of 3 per cent (year-on-year) in the fiscal year, as sales were up a massive 45 per cent**

(over \$400 retail) is only 7 per cent in India of the total smartphone market, it is likely to hit 10 per cent next year and is growing much faster (more than 14 per cent) than the overall smartphone market (7

per cent)," Pathak told IANS. Basically, the strong aspirational and brand value, along with a wider iPhone portfolio, is now driving Apple sales in India.

Apple CEO Tim Cook said last

week that the company has made a new revenue record in India in the July-September period, and continues to perform well with strong double-digit growth in the country, which is next on Apple's big manufacturing plans.

According to CyberMedia Research (CMR), iPhones grew 44 per cent (quarter-on-quarter) in the July-September period in India, selling over 1.7 million iPhones.

"Apple posted gains in the India market in Q3, 2022 and in the run-up to the all-important festive season. We continue to see the consumer demand for premium smartphones remaining resilient, with Apple being a prime beneficiary with its iPhone sales," Prabhu Ram, Head-Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR, told IANS.

Another key reason, according

to Pathak, for growth is that Apple's user base is at a record level in India and these users are spending more on devices and services within the Apple ecosystem.

"This led to the revenue growth as we saw in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, 2022. Apple continues to drive a new user base in India across its product categories and in a unique position with respect to the ecosystem stickiness," he elaborated.

Despite the prevailing macro environment, Apple posted gains on the back of its strong brand equity and the sheer aspirational appeal of iPhones in India, added Ram.

Riding on the momentum, the year 2023 is likely to be a year when Apple is set to experience a growth never-seen-before in the India market, say industry experts.



# South Africa bounce India out

SURYAKUMAR'S BRILLIANT KNOCK IN VAIN AS OTHERS FAIL TO SUPPORT HIM



**BRIEF SCORES**  
India 133 for 9 (Suryakumar Yadav 68, Lungi Ngidi 4/29, Wayne Parnell 3/15) lost to South Africa 137 for 5 in 19.4 overs (David Miller 59 n.o., Aiden Markram 52, Arshdeep Singh 2/25) by five wickets.

back-drive boundary off Lungi Ngidi to complete his half century will be remembered for times to come. His knock will be in ICC's T20 'Hall Of Fame' and how he looked like batter from another planet was evident with the second best score being 15.

On a track where good technique and steely temperament was needed, Surya added another component to it - swagger. At 49 for 5, India looked deep down the barrel

# Spanish armada sinks hosts with heavy salvos

INDIA PAY THE PRICE FOR CONCEDED TOO MANY PENALTY CORNERS



India skipper Harmanpreet Singh (13) is all pumped after scoring against Spain in the FIH Pro League game at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Hosts India were stunned 2-3 by lower-ranked Spain in a match of the FIH Pro League at the Kalinga Stadium here Sunday. After eking out a hard-fought 4-3 win over New Zealand a couple of days back, much was expected of India. However, they failed to raise their game to the expected level and had to suffer a defeat.

India started the stronger side but wasn't at their best as Spain didn't allow the home side much joy to attack on the turnover. The Spanish attackers were fluent and frequently caught the Indian defenders napping. Such was the speed of the Spain attacks that India conceded seven penalty corners. Any top-ranked side like Belgium or Australia would have

certainly converted the majority of the penalty corners. Spain, on the other hand, just managed to convert only two and it was enough for them to earn full points.

Spain stepped up late at the end of the first quarter and India shot-stopper Krishan Pathak made a string of saves on the evening to thwart the away side, who had 13 shots on goal.

At the start of the second quarter, Spain scored from a penalty corner. PR Sreejesh made a save from the penalty corner but Spanish players kept the rebound inside the circle before De Ignacio-Simo Eduard swept the ball into the Indian goal.

Then in the 26th minute, Marc Miralles struck a powerful shot from a penalty corner, which Sreejesh got his knee to but couldn't keep out. India, though, bounced

back immediately with skipper Harmanpreet Singh scoring off a penalty corner to halve the deficit. Spain threatened to score more but Pathak made a string of saves in the third quarter, which didn't allow the Red Sticks to pull further ahead.

India kept pouring forward in search of the equaliser and it came through the brilliance of Abhishek. Harmanpreet sent a fierce hit into the opposition 'D'. Abhishek trapped the ball facing his own goal, but turned swiftly to restore parity in the game with a hard drive past Rafi Adrian under the Spain bar.

However, the visitors were again ahead 45 seconds later. Marc Reyne collected a pass inside the circle and struck a powerful reverse hit from a narrow angle to ensure three points for his side.

VINTAGE STUFF: Suryakumar Yadav drives during his classy innings, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Perth, Oct 30:** Suryakumar Yadav (68, 40b, 6x4, 3x6) played the best knock of his short international career but South Africa exposed India's inadequacies against extreme pace and bounce to win a low-scoring thriller by five wickets in the T20 World Cup here Sunday. It was Surya's effort that took India to 133 for nine in their 20 overs, but defending that was always going to be tough.

Arshdeep Singh (2/25), did bowl another dream first spell but Aiden Markram (52, 41b, 6x4, 1x6) and David Miller (59 n.o., 46b, 4x4, 3x6), one of the best T20 finishers in the game, ensured the target was achieved in 19.4 overs.

While South Africa (5 points from 3 games) are now on top of Group 2, India (4 points from 2 games) with upcoming matches against Bangladesh (Nov 2 in

Adelaide) and Zimbabwe (Nov 6 in Melbourne) are well within striking distance of a semifinal berth.

India made a match of it on tournament's spiciest track in cold conditions but Virat Kohli dropped Markram at deep mid-wicket off Ravichandran Ashwin's bowling allowing South Africa to run away with the game. India also missed some close run out chances.

However, it was not the bowlers, but the batters who were responsible for India's defeat. And the two South African bowlers, who were not in the limelight made all the difference. It was Lungi Ngidi (4/29) and Wayne Parnell (3/15) who decimated India on the bouncy WACA track.

Ashwin (1/43) lost his confidence after the dropped catch and it showed in subsequent overs as Miller devoured on his length deliveries. But if there was one silver lining from



DEADLY SPELL: Lungi Ngidi celebrates with teammates after dismissing Virat Kohli (not in pix), during the India-South Africa game, Sunday

the game, it had to be Surya, whose little gem in terms of pure impact would have been on par with Virat Kohli's brilliance at the MCG.

Perhaps the world's most decorated T20I batter in recent times, Surya's pulled six and a bowler's

as some of the top-order players were failing to get their bats down in time as the ball reached the keeper's gloves. However, Surya turned things around with some astounding strokeplay. Sadly it did not help India in the end.

# No excuses, says Rohit Spain eves retain U-17 WC title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Perth, Oct 30:** Conditions in Perth were very difficult for batting but India captain Rohit Sharma said that cannot be an excuse for the team's five-wicket loss to South Africa in the T20 World Cup here Sunday. "We expected the pitch to have something in it, with the weather around. We knew there will be help for the seamers and that is the reason why 130 was not an easy chase. I thought we fought well till the end, but overall South Africa were better on the day," Sharma said after the match.

"The pitch is such that seamers can pick up a wicket or two anytime during the game. It was a match-winning partnership from (David) Miller and (Aiden) Markram. But we were not good enough on the field. We have played in such conditions in the past, so it cannot be an excuse. We have to be consistent in every department of the game," Rohit added.

Rohit also said that the side had fielded inconsistently. "We could not hold on to our chances, we missed a few run-outs including myself. We were a poor on the field and we weren't clinical. When you defend such a low total, you will have

## Injured DK may miss B'desh tie

**Perth:** Dinesh Karthik, the oldest playing member of the Indian team, suffered a back injury during the side's T20 World Cup match against South Africa here Sunday and is a doubtful starter against Bangladesh at Adelaide. At the end of the 15th over Karthik was seen writing in pain as he clutched his back and was on his knees. The physio immediately rushed out and, after a few minutes, Karthik was seen leaving the ground while holding his back. That he had sustained a back injury was confirmed by his teammate Bhuvneshwar Kumar. "I know he had some back issue. Obviously, the physio will give a report and we will have more clarity after that," Bhuvneshwar said during the post-match media conference.

to be perfect in every department of the game," asserted Rohit. "The last two games, we were pretty good in the field. We need to keep our heads high and learn from our mistakes in this game," added the Indian skipper.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma, admitted that his bad form had become a worrying factor for the team.

COLOMBIA SUFFER HEARTBREAK AFTER CONCEDED OWN GOAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Navi Mumbai, Oct 30:** Defending champions Spain retained the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup title with a 1-0 victory over first-time finalists Colombia whose campaign ended in a heartbreak after an own goal in the summit clash here Sunday. Despite repeated attacks, Spain failed to breach the Colombian defence. However, an own goal by Colombian defender Ana Maria Guzman Zapata in the 82nd minute of the final at the DY Patil Sports Stadium here sealed the South American team's fate.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino, alongside top officials from the Asian Football Federation (AFC) and All India Football Federation (AIFF), was in attendance at the venue as Spain retained the title they also claimed in 2018.

The two teams also met in the group phase, with Spain winning 1-0. This was European giants Spain's second title.

Spain were no doubt the better outfit on the day as they maintained possession for lengthy period. However, their attackers could not convert the couple of chances that



came their way. The Colombian players also defended stoutly, by trying to maintain numerical superiority in their defensive third. It was clear that they were trying to take the match to penalties. However, the own goal led to Colombian heartbreaks.

In the third-fourth place classification match, Nigeria beat Germany 3-2 on penalties. Two

missed penalties by Germany's Paulina Platner and Loreen Bender and a save by goalkeeper Omilana Faith off Paulina Bartz's shot paved the way for Nigeria's first-ever medal in the tournament.

Hosts India failed to clear the group stage after losing all their three matches that were played at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

## Hartley strike helps JFC register 1st win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jamshedpur, Oct 30:** Jamshedpur FC (JFC) secured their first victory of the season after beating NorthEast United 1-0 (NEUFC) in a match of the ISL here Sunday. JFC skipper Peter Hartley scored the only goal as NEUFC recorded their worst ever start to an ISL season with their fourth consecutive loss.

The hosts received a defensive boost as Hartley returned to the starting line-up and Eli Sabia was dropped. An injury ruled midfielder Germanpreet Singh out of this game, and he was replaced by Farukh Choudhary.

The Highlanders did well to keep Jamshedpur at bay till the half-hour mark. A minute later, the Red Miners found the breakthrough via Hartley. Harry Sawyer rose highest to head Wellington Priori's corner towards goal. His effort landed at the feet of Hartley, and the Jamshedpur FC skipper calmly side-footed the ball into the back of the net.

In the 52nd minute, Sawyer was picked out by Boris. The striker adjusted his footing, but his effort was blocked. Moments later, Chukwu outmuscled his marker and got his shot away, but that was blocked as well.

## SHORT TAKES

### Silver for Sankar

**Santandar (Spain):** India's Sankar Muthusamy signed off with a silver medal after losing the men's singles final in straight games against Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin at the BWF World Junior Championships here Sunday. The 18-year-old from Tamil Nadu went down fighting 14-21, 20-22 to Lin in a 48-minute summit clash. Despite losing the first game tamerly, Sankar fought very hard in the second. However, Lin's attacking style of play always kept the Indian on the defensive. The former world junior No.1 thus joined fellow Indians Aparna Popat (1996), Saina Nehwal (2006) and Siril Verma (2015) in winning a silver medal at the prestigious tournament.

### Easy for seeds

**Bhubaneswar:** The state snooker championships got underway Sunday at the Cuttack Club. Most of the matches were one-sided affairs with the top seeded players winning easily. In the matches played on the day, Govind Sharma defeated Sujit Agarwal 3-1, Mishal Swain overcame Siddhant Manek 3-0, Chirag Arora trounced Khalid Sultan 3-0, Chandra Mohanty beat Vishesh Singhal 3-0 and Sudip Das defeated Satya Mohan Rath by an identical margin. Earlier Saturday, Ashutosh Padhy had defeated Kunal Agrawal 4-0 in the final of the billiards championships. This incidentally was Ashutosh's fifth title at the state level.

### Gawli takes charge

**Navi Mumbai:** Former India defender Mahesh Gawli was appointed as the head coach of the under-20 men's side, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced Sunday. He will replace Shanmugam Venkatesh who stepped down after India failed to qualify for the AFC U-20 Asian Cup. The decision was taken by the IM Vijayan-led AIFF technical committee here. "The committee recommended that former Blue Tigers defender Mahesh Gawli take over as the head coach of the India U-20 men's national team," the AIFF stated. Besides being in charge of the U-20 side, Gawli will continue to be Igor Stimac's deputy in the senior side, it added.

# Gunners too good for Forest

ARSENAL BACK ON TOP OF POINTS TABLE AFTER RESOUNDING VICTORY

AGENCIES

**London, Oct 30:** Arsenal hammered Nottingham Forest 5-0 in a match of the Premier League played Sunday. The win helped the Gunners maintain their two-point lead over Manchester City in the points table. This was Arsenal's 10th win in 12 games and took their tally to 31 points.

Goals from Gabriel Martinelli (fifth), Reis Nelson (49th, 52nd), Thomas Partey (57th) and Martin Odegaard (78th) completed the rout against Nottingham Forest. They had put up some fight in the first half after conceding an early goal. However, in the second session the Arsenal blitzkrieg completely blew Forest away.

Earlier in a match played late Saturday night Liverpool went down 1-2 to Leeds at Anfield. It forced manager Jurgen Klopp to say that if the show doesn't improve, Liverpool's chances of qualifying for the Champions League look very slim.

"We cannot qualify for the Champions League if you play as inconsistent as we do in the moment," said Klopp. "We have to fix that and



Arsenal footballers celebrate after their victory over Nottingham Forest in the EPL game played Sunday

then only anything is possible."

For the second time in a week, Liverpool were beaten by a side that started the day in the relegation zone. Klopp again pointed the finger for his side's struggles this season on a series of injuries and a brutal schedule to make way for a mid-season World Cup.

Leeds began Saturday night second bottom of the table but climbed out of the relegation zone thanks to their first win in nine games.

Leeds could not have wished for a more generous gift from the hosts

than for the opener after just four minutes. Goalkeeper Alison Becker stumbled as he tried to reach Joe Gomez's backpass, allowing Rodrigo an easy finish into the unguarded net for the Spaniard's sixth goal of the season.

The lead did not last long as Mohamed Salah levelled by steering home Andy Robertson's cross on 14 minutes. However, Crisencio Summerville's 89th minute goal inflicted the Reds first home league defeat in front of a crowd since April 2017.

## Gauff all pumped up for WTA Finals

AGENCIES

**Fort Worth (US), Oct 30:** Coco Gauff is hardly an unknown quantity at this point, even though she is still just 18. The Floridian has proven herself by rising steadily through the rankings, up to a career-best No. 4 in the world currently, and progressing steadily through Grand Slam brackets, including an appearance in her first major final at the French Open in June.

Gauff took the latest step in her evolution as a professional tennis player by qualifying for the first time in singles and doubles at the WTA Finals, which begin Monday on an indoor hard court set up in Dickies Arena here. She is one of four women making a singles debut at the season-ending event; only eight qualify.

"It is significant that there's a lot of new faces. It shows that the tour is always evolving," Gauff said Saturday. "There's always going to be someone coming up and doing well. That's what makes the tournament exciting," the youngster added.

Gauff and Jessica Pegula will face off against Xu Yifan and Yang Zhaoxuan to close out Monday's schedule. The singles match earlier on Day 1 will be Pegula versus Maria Sakkari.

# Verstappen on brink of historical F1 achievement

Dutchman needs 1 more victory to achieve most wins in a season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Mexico City, Oct 30:** Max Verstappen inched closer to a record 14th victory of the Formula One (F1) season by holding off a pair of Mercedes and Mexican favourite Sergio Perez to win the pole for the Mexico City Grand Prix. It was the sixth pole of the season for Verstappen, who clinched his second consecutive F1 title earlier this month. Red Bull had wrapped up the constructors title last week.

With three races left in the season, the last remaining drama involves Verstappen trying to snap a tie for the single-season wins record with Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel, Lewis Hamilton looking to avoid the first winless season of his career, and Perez trying to become the first Mexican to win an F1 race at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

With a packed crowd chanting



"Ole! Ole! Ole! Che-co! Che-co!" every time Perez passed on the track Saturday, the roar was deafening as he shot into the top three. But Hamilton, who had his first lap wiped away, still had to complete a qualifying run.

Hamilton qualified third, behind teammate George Russell, as the Mercedes drivers seek their first win of the season. Hamilton, a seven-time champion, has never gone winless since his 2007 F1 debut. He was second to Verstappen a week ago at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, where Verstappen raced to his record-breaking 13th win of the season.

Verstappen has not promised to give teammate Perez any favours to help him win in front of his adoring fans here.