

#### Guv, CM pay tributes to jawan killed in Sikkim

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday paid tributes to Indian Army jawan Saroj Kumar Das, who lost his life in the Sikkim flash flood, after his mortal remains arrived here. He was also accorded a guard of honour in the state capital.

Twenty-seven people, including eight army men, were killed in the flood, which was triggered by a cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday and affected over 25,000 people, damaged more than 1,200 houses and washed away 13 bridges in the Himalayan state, officials said.

The jawan's mortal remains were later taken to his native place in Dhenkanal district.

The district administration has made all arrangements for the funeral of Das, Dhenkanal Collector Saroj Sethi said.

His mortal remains were consigned to flames at Kendudhipa village with full state honours.



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AGENCIES

Jerusalem/Gaza, Oct 7: More than 100 Israelis were reported dead and over 700 wounded as Islamist group Hamas launched its biggest attack on Israel in years Saturday, even as health officials of Gaza claimed 198 Palestinians were killed in retaliatory air strikes by Israel.

Hamas militants fired more than 2,000 rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, according to the Israeli military, while Hamas fighters entered southern Israel by land, sea and air, using paragliders. Hamas says it captured several Israeli soldiers near border.

Israel said the Iran-backed group had declared war as its army confirmed fighting with militants in several Israeli towns and military bases near Gaza, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to retaliate. "Our enemy will pay a price the

government announced a cash

Hockey Team, Chief Minister

award of ₹5 lakh each to players

and staff members of Indian Men's

Naveen Patnaik Saturday said Odia

defender Amit Rohidas will also be

given an additional ₹1.5 crore for

his role in country's historic gold

Hangzhou, Patnaik expressed his

heartfelt congratulations to Amit

Rohidas, acknowledging his

outstanding performance and

calling him an "inspiration" for

but also throughout India.

youngsters not only across Odisha

P4

win at the 19th Asian Games in

# **ISRAEL AT WAR**

More than 100 Israelis & **198** Palestinians killed after Hamas attack triggers major escalation price

Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu says the enemy will pay an unprecedented

US Prez Joe Biden calls Netanyahu, extends full US support to Israel's right to self-defence

### In solidarity with

Israel: PM Modi NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra

Modi Saturday expressed solidarity with Israel after Hamas militants launched an attack on the country. Modi condemned it as "terrorist attacks" in Israel as its leader Benjamin Netanyahu said the country is at war. "Deeply shocked by the news of terrorist attacks in Israel. Our thoughts and pravers are with the innocent victims and their families. We stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour." Modi said.

been killed in air strikes as bombardments hit deep into Gaza City.

The United States unequivocally condemns the unprovoked attacks by Hamas terrorists against Israeli civilians. There is never any justification for terrorism," said White House National Security Council Spokesperson Adrienne More P10 Watson.

*India go past the century-mark* in the medal tally at Asian Games for the first time ever

matic final of the kabaddi event. The men too stood tall in their segment, emerging victorious after an hour of arguments to reclaim their Asiad title, defeating the defending champions Iran in a controversial final.

The pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty downed South Korean duo of Choi Solgyu and Kim Wonho in straight sets to clinch a historic gold, becoming the first-ever Indian badminton doubles pair to have the Asiad glory.

No relief for Odisha Kendu leaf pluckers KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Oct 7: There won't be any relief for lakhs of Kendu leaf pluckers in Odisha as the Centre is unlikely to withdraw goods and services tax (GST) on Kendu leaves in near future citing opposition from some states to the proposal.

The Odisha government's demand for withdrawal of 18 per cent GST on Kendu leaf was not discussed at the 52nd meeting of the GST council held in New Delhi Saturday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

When **Orissa POST** asked Sitharaman as to why the Centre couldn't withdraw the GST on Kendu leaf despite repeated demands of the Odisha government, the Finance minister said that the proposal was halted by some other Kendu leaf producing states when it was taken up in GST council meeting earlier.

"There are other states which objected to it. It's not that we stopped it. The proposal put forward by Odisha was objected by other states. I don't want to name them here and it was not discussed today," she said.

Naveen to lay stone for metro rail Jan 1 Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the Bhubaneswar metro rail project January 1 next year, officials said Saturday. Patnaik also approved its detailed project report (DPR) of over Rs 5,900 crore, which will be borne by the state government, they said. "The Chief Minister is slated to lay the foundation stone for the project January 1, 2024," an official said. Patnaik approved the DPR while reviewing the status of P3 Phase-I of the metro rail project.

#### India scripts history at Hangzhou CM announces ₹1.5cr for Amit Rohidas

#### Bhubaneswar: A day after the state POST NEWS NETWORK

Hangzhou, Oct 7: 'Ab ki baar, sau paar', which means crossing 100 medals this time, was the catchline for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Asian Games. And the troupe accomplished the feat of clinching 107 medals scripting history at Hangzhou.

type of which it has never known,"

he said. "We are in a war and we

at least 100 Israelis were killed.

Israel's N12 News reported that

will win it," he added.

The Indians secured six gold medals Saturday, but the special treat was delivered by the women's kabaddi team, who defeated Chinese Taipei for the



country's 100th gold in the ongoing edition. This is the first time when India reached the three-figure mark at the Asian

Police officers evacuate a woman and a child from a site hit by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip in southern Israel, Saturday

Israeli military said it had re-

sponded with air strikes into Gaza,

where witnesses reported hear-

ing heavy explosions and multi-

ple dead and wounded being car-

Games medal tally. The women's team survived by the skin of their teeth when they beat Chinese Taipei in a dra-

BEY **1FREE** 

PATANJALL

Hone

ried into hospitals. The Israeli mil-

itary said navy forces killed dozens

of Palestinian militants trying to

infiltrate Israel by sea. Gaza health

officials said 198 Palestinians had



# in world-renowned labs and it has successfully passed more than 100 parameters of purity.



Honey

PATANJALI

Honey

पतंजलि हनी, शुद्धता के 100 से अधिक मापदंडों पर शत प्रतिशत खरा है। हनी का जमना उसका स्वाभाविक गुण है।

New Pack

1 kg





## elsure



#### **ARIANA**, **DALTON SETTLE DIVORCE** MONTHS AFTER 2ND ANNIVERSARY

Singer-songwriter Ariana Grande and Dalton Gomez have settled their divorce. The Thank You, Next singer, who signed a prenup with Dalton, will pay him \$1.250.000. The settlement was reportedly filed and awaits a judge to sign off, TMZ reports. Grande filed for divorce in Los Angeles County in September. 

#### **ANGELINA JOLIE HAD DARK FASHION SENSE AS TEEN**

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie revealed she was a teenage punk who used to cut up her clothes and burn holes in them. "I was guite dark when I was young. I was a punk, not the popular kid burning little teeny cigarette holes into thingsthat was me as a teenager," Angelina admitted.



#### FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES You've finally realised that diet and exercise are a must, and you especially need to take good care. Today, you may

wish to eat something different. Tried Mongolian cuisine? Ganesha suggests that you go out with some friends who you've not been paying attention to.

#### **TAURUS**

You will spend your day in the company of near and dear ones, says Ganesha Family and friends might gather at your place and you will leave no stone unturned in welcoming them to your nest. In all prob ability, home makers will be able to shine in cooking as well as hosting, foresees Ganesha, Emotions will run wild and free

with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesha.

#### GEMINI

Today, you may be busy purchasing food supplies or penning an inventory. In your spare time, which you are likely to have in plenty today, you will try to befriend strangers or tread into unfa miliar territories. Such activities will not bring you any harm.

#### You are feeling lucky today.

The problem is that your feelings have nothing to do with the ground reality. So, while you may get busy trying your luck at risky specula tive markets, Ganesha may get increasingly worried about the losses you may incur because of your foolishness. It's better that you do nothing and spend some time with your family, make some changes in your house, or do anything to keep yourself busy.

#### LEO

Well, at least part of the force that deals with being smooth talker, says Ganesha. It is your power of expression that comes to the fore and stands you in good stead. Having mastered the art of communication, you now are a wizard of words who conjures showers of pearls with a mere twist of the tongue. When in doubt, people will simply walk up to you for some inspiring talk, and go home satisfied.

#### **VIRGO**

Take a break today, says Ganesha, Replace the mundane with something exotic. Attend private dos and social meets and be gregariously gregarious



# **Nora to headline All Africa Festival**

international singers

Maitre Gims and

Stonebwoy. Nora ex-

pressed her excite-

African

music and

dance

on

brating

stage.

She

says, "I am

truly excited to

be headlining

All Africa festi-

val in Abu Dhabi

amongst other in-

singers. This one

is special for me be-

cause being a North

African artist my-

self, I always enjoy

African music

and dance. It will

be a night full of

high energy

perform-

merging

the Indian

world and the African

world together but this

time on stage! I'll be bring-

ing dancers from India to

grace the stage with me and

what's more exciting is the au-

dience will be diverse, once

again merging India with

Africa & uniting everyone

PEANUTS

NO. YOU

WERE RIGHT

ALL ALONE

MARCIE

ances merg

ternational

celebrating

ment about cele-

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi will be through music and dance! headlining the All Africa Festival Nora has left no in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. stone unturned to The event will also feature

prove her limitless talent and dedication. She has amassed a global following and a dedicated fan base through her sensational performances and acting



with nature.

on discovery-

on Discovery Channel

and will stream

Star Vs Food Survival will premiere October 9, 2023

While her clos ing performance at the FIFA World Cup 2022alongside global names like Davido, Ozuna and many others, set the stage on fire. this time she will be seen headlining

an all-new

#### SUNIEL SHETTY **ON SHOWBIZ**

'No one stands up for another anymore'

Mumbai: Actor Suniel Shetty, who is set to grace the opening episode of the cooking reality show Star vs Food Survival, feels that with time, the Hindi film industry has lost out on the essence of togetherness as members of the film fraternity no longer stick with each other during rough patches.

In an episode, while recalling the initial phase of his career, Sunil Shetty deep dives into how Bollywood no longer has each other's back. He said: "We were always there for each other, we were there for the unions, we used to work together for associations - we had a united voice.

He continued: "Today when people throw stones at you, there is no one to defend. No one can say anything because we all are alone. No one stands up for each other anymore. That voice hasn't remained. Everything's become weak.'

Speaking about his experience of shooting Star vs. Food Survival, Suniel Shetty said that it was a soulful journey filled with love, laughter, friendship and a deep sense of connection

for Disney's Aladdin Mumbai: Tara is not only the prettiest actress in Bollywood, but one of the most multitalented ones as well. The actress had auditioned for the part

of Jasmine in Disney's live action film

Aladdin and was selected before she made her Hindi debut. She captioned the post saying, "Found a video of me singing A Whole New World for Disney's live-action version of Aladdin! I was selected for the role of Princess Jasmine (along with beautiful Naomi Scott who played her eventually) and rehearsed for the songs and scenes for a few months in London with the wonderful Disney team and the enormously funny Guy Ritchie who directed the picture. This was just a year prior to my first Hindi film's release!

Årman Malik to Lisa Laydon to Kishu Shroff all praised Tara on her singing ability in the comments section along with many other fans and impressed netizens. Armaan Malik said, "People need to know more about Tara the singer!", while Lisa Haydon wrote, "You suit this so much beautiful voice" whereas Kishu Shroff said, "A real life Princess."

Tara Sutaria started her journey with Disney,

lara

was selected

becoming its ambassador in India only to go on and become the star that she is today in Bollywood, with one of the largest fan followings. On the work front, Tara is all set to be seen in her solo lead thriller, Apurva.

was watching this act, it reminded me of the day l accidentally got on a roller coaster for the first time.

"I was so scared that day, and I felt the same way today. I don't know where this coordination, confidence, and courage come **IS NOT AN** from, but obviously, you guys look great, you're extremely fit, **ADRENALINE** and there's no denying that. But genuinely, in your performance, there was so much energy. I didn't see ;

FUN

global event. Mumbai: SENCIES Taking a stroll down the memory lane, actress Bhumi Pednekar recalled a memory of accidentally getting on a roller-coaster ride in London's festive fair called Winter Wonderland, revealing that she is scared to sit on the amusement park rides. This weekend, the talent-based reality show, India's Got Talent

ing all my songs into Today. the force is with you. the afro world After

Dance Meri Rani, once again will be

ening. Considering the random mood swings that affect you today it's in the best interest of others that you put up a 'Beware of me' sign. By being forewarned about it, you should be capa ble of handling your erratic behaviour.

#### SCORPIO

The day today is riddled with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a twopronged strategy, advises Ganesha. One - change your lifestyle, and two visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best. Ganesha counsels to take care of your health.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Be set to capture the flag and sing the victory song in whatever task you take up today. Your subordinates will be the ones needing your support and motivation. At the end of the day would be the smi

#### 

Your intuition will get the better of you today, baggin you respect and recognition. says Ganesha. But it's not every day that you get so lucky, so try and make the most of what's on the platter, for all you know, intuitions could have a mood swing too. Besides, if winning hearts is like a once-in-a-blue-moon thing, be on your best behaviour and wear your best suit it's a blue moon day for you today.

#### 

Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you leave your friends stumped But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesha suggests you complete all pending projects, and bear in mind that it is only fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

#### PISCES

A hectic day of socialising awaits you. You will discover hidden talents and unnoticed traits about yourself. Either that, or whoever brought them to your notice was only lying to get some socialising action of their own. You are a person of action, as well as of words, and hence, will go on to act on what you have planned, says Ganesha.

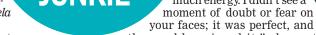
10, sees Bhumi Pednekar as one of the guests and the performers im season press every one with their sizzling act on Lahu Munh Lag Gaya from Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela.

Amazed by their act, Bhumi goes on to share an interesting memory, as she said: "I'm not an adrenaline junkie and I get very scared when I sit on amusement park rides. And when I

HERE'S NO WAY ANYBODY

CAN GET MORE THAN ONE SOUVENIR CAP

AT THAT BALL PARK.



BHUMI

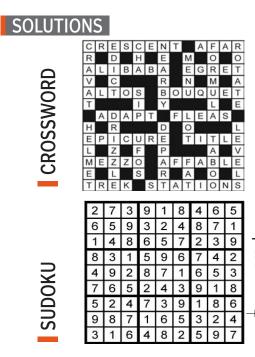
your faces; it was perfect, and I thoroughly enjoyed it," shares the Durgamati fame actress IANS

CROSSWORD

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.

	2					4	1	8
		8	5	4				
		3						
		7		3	2	5		
	9		1					61
	8							
					7			5
			4		1	9		
4			9		5	6		



y, the icing on the cake le you take to bed.	
DRN	CALVIN AND HOBBES

M SORRY

I RAN OUT

ON YOU, SIR



IF I HAD TRIED TO GO

OVER THAT WALL EIGHT

MORE TIMES, I WOULD

HAVE KILLED MYGELE / 17

WAS A BAD IDEA !



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

28

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27 Dangerous

28 Inveigle

Down

3

1 Stay

4 Quarrel

rug

situation

24 Gibbon, for one

2 Car wash option

Khan

5 Swedish shag

6 Anxiety

12 Frogman

13 Maxim

a riot

18 Primitive

wagon

20 Llama kin

25 Consume

26 Greek vowel

21 Beam

disorder

16 Put down, as

Across

7 Reserved

10 Like a sad sack

8 Beat

9 Taxi

11 Subside

15 Perfect

17 Original

22 Hotel amenity

23 Wolf's sound

19 Thief

14 Hold back





### OrissaPOST SUNDAY | OCTOBER 8 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR downtown

#### **CLASS ACT**

An artiste performs Odissi during the annual day celebration of Utkalika Dance Academy at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Saturday



# Avoid laser lights, limit DJ music NAVEEN TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE FOR METRO JAN 1, '24

#### BMC URGES DURGA PUJA COMMITTEES TO CELEBRATE 'CLEAN & GREEN DUSSEHRA' THIS YEAR

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has asked Durga Puja Committees across the city to avoid using laser lights and reduce the use of DJ music during Dussehera celebrations this year.

The decision to this effect was taken at a preparatory meeting of the civic body for the upcoming festive season Saturday which was chaired by Mayor Sulochana Das.

Urging Puja committees to celebrate "Clean and Green Dussehera" this year, the BMC has asked their members to ensure zero use of single use plas-



tics and install at least two dustbins near the pandals. Moreover, they have been urged to follow measures like zero dumping of waste, zero burning of waste and adhere to all fire safety norms during the celebrations.

Dussehra celebrations in the Capital city will be bigger this year with a whopping 185 pandals set to come up for Durga Puja. Last year 178 pandals were installed for the Puja in the city.

Meanwhile, Mayor Sulochana Das has asked the officials concerned to complete road repair works before the commencement of the festivities. BMC will ensure temporary idol immersion ponds whose numbers will be increased this year.

At the preparatory meeting, the Mayor also directed for repair of all potholes and proper street lighting near all major mandaps. The 1929 helpline will be available 24×7 during the festive season.

The Puja committees will engage volunteers for smooth crowd management, while police will deploy 'Police Mitras' at all pandals to keep an eye on anti-social elements

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the Bhubaneswar metro rail project January 1 next year, officials said Saturday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patnaik also approved its detailed project report (DPR) of over Rs 5,900 crore, which will be borne by the state government, they said.

"The chief minister is slated to lay the foundation stone for the project on January 1, 2024," an official said.

Patnaik approved the DPR while reviewing the status of Phase-I of the metro rail project.

"The DPR has been approved Work on the project will start at a total cost of Rs 5,929 crore, soon and the target for complewhich will be fully borne by the tion is 48 months, another official said.

"The Bhubaneswar metro is a landmark project for Odisha... It will further strengthen the public transport in the city and enable its economic growth,' Patnaik said.

The Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Corporation - a fully owned entity of the Odisha government - has been newly incorporated under the Companies Act, and it has started functioning.

A high-level committee has also been constituted for overseeing the expeditious engagement of an executing agency for the project, the officials said.

The entire alignment of the metro rail project from Trisulia Square to Bhubaneswar airport will be on an elevated structure with 20 stations, they added.

## No more GST on loose millet flour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

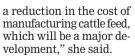
New Delhi, Oct 7: As 2023 has been declared the Year of the Millet, the GST Council Saturday decided to exempt millet flour from GST regime. Flour, containing at least 70 per cent millets will not attract any GST if sold in loose form or non-branded packets. However, branded millet

products will attract a GST of 5 per cent.

The council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers, also cut the GST rate on molasses to 5 per cent

from 28 per cent. It also ceded the right to tax extra neutral alcohol (raw product for making alcohol for human consumption) to the states. ENA used for human consumption will be exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST), while ENA for industrial use will be taxed

at 18 per cent. Briefing reporters after the 52nd GST council meeting, Sitharaman said the reduction in GST on mo-



The council also clarified that guarantees provided by corporates to their subsidiaries will attract an 18 per cent GST, while no tax will be levied if a personal guarantee is given by a director to the company.

**Revenue Secretary** Sanjay Malhotra said that when the corporate guarantee is given by a director to a company, then the value of service will be deemed to be zero and hence, no

GST will be applicable. "When a corporate guarantee is given by a company to its subsidiary company, then it will be deemed that the value is 1 per cent of the corporate guarantee. So, it will attract GST at 18 per cent on 1 per cent of the total amount guaranteed by the parent company," Malhotra said.

The council also decided to cap the maximum age of GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) president and members. The GSTAT president will have a maximum age cap of 70 years,



Through Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, it is our endeavor to ensure that every patient gets quality health facilities, on time and with minimum hassles 🔊 - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

ABHA

it Mahotsav

state government," the official

said.

# Jan Jan Ki Swasthya Sevaon Ki Digital Udaan Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)



lasses will benefit sugarcane farmers and enable their dues to be cleared faster because more money will be left in the hands of the mills.

"The council and we all feel that it will also lead to

#### 'State committed to wildlife conservation'

Bhubaneswar: Odisha is always committed to wildlife conservation and the state has put greater emphasis on community participation in that endeavour, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said. Addressing a function to celebrate the statelevel Wildlife Week 2023 at Soochana Bhawan here Saturday, Patnaik, who spoke on virtual mode, said, "On this occasion. I appeal the people of my state to join hands for protection and conservation of wildlife and restoration of ecosystem." He said Odisha, blessed with diverse flora and fauna, is a treasure trove of natural wonders. "From the melanistic tigers in Similipal to the Olive **Ridley turtles nesting** on our picturesque beaches, we are fortunate to be custodians of such incredible wildlife. It is our duty to ensure that they thrive in their natural habitats and are preserved for future generations to cherish," Patnaik said.

bers will be 67 years. This is a change from the earlier age limit of 67 and 65 years, respectively, for the GSTAT President and members.

while the limit for mem-

#### **CHSE question bank** for Plus-II students

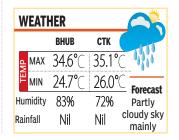
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: With the Plus-II examination in view, the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha Saturday announced creation of a question bank for state college students.

The council, in a letter to the principals of all affiliated schools and colleges informed that it has taken an initiative to create a question bank for the students. The questions will be available for reference and practice for the annual high school examination and other competitive examinations.

A CHSE official further informed that in the first phase of the process, the question bank will be available for subjects like physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics. Afterward, questions in other subjects will be made available to the students and the process is currently underway, he added.

The official informed that the question bank can be accessed on the official CHSE website i.e. www.cheseodisha.nic.in.



# **Get Your Digital Health Account Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)**



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Easy Access Get easy access to services from registered healthcare providers



#### **Freedom from Queues**

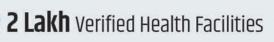
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olders	(Inked digitally) <b>31 Crore</b> health records linked digitally



46 Crore ABHA h

98 Lakh people skipped the queue and availed instant OPD registration using ABHA

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# downtown

ish on the podium at this edi-

tion of the Asian Games. Jena

was also rewarded with a cash

prize of Rs 1.5 crore for his

On the cash award for the

Indian Men's Hockey Team, the

official said that the reward will

be given in recognition of their

performance in winning the cov-

eted gold medal and sealing a

berth in the Paris Olympics 2024.

to the team over video call after

the medal ceremony Friday.

The chief minister also spoke

"In Odisha, where hockey

holds a special place in our

hearts, this historic day will for-

ever be etched in our memories

as a momentous triumph for our

beloved sport and our nation. I

wish the Indian team the very

best as they prepare for the Paris

Olympic Games," Patnaik added.

ment has been the sponsor for the

Indian hockey teams since 2018

and it will continue till 2033. The

state government Saturday is-

sued full-page advertisements

in local and national newspa-

pers to congratulate Indian Men's

Hockey team for the Gold medal

in the 19th Asian games

Notably, the Odisha govern-

achievement.

#### WSC launches new course on 'vertical transportation' and similar machines POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Keeping the rising industry needs for advanced technology and skilled workforce to manage modern equipment like elevators, escalators and travelators. World Skill Center Bhubaneswar (WSC) has launched a new programme in 'Vertical Transportation' to prepare the youths for a global career under the state government's 'Skilled In Odisha' vi sion

**OrissaPOST** 

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 8 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

The new programme being introduced in Academic Year 2023-24, is titled advanced certificate in facility technology (Vertical Transportation). It is designed under the guidance of Institute of Technical Education Singapore (ITEES) and aims to provide students required technical skills and exposure to install, commission, maintain, repair and inspect modern lifts and escalators covering the en-



tire gamut of operations under the domain.

The one-year programme with eligibility for 2-year ITI and polytechnic students is going to be a part of the School of Engineering at WSC. A global curriculum. ultra-modern labs including simulation facility and a finishing school approach, has made this course one-of-its-kind in the country. It covers core areas like installation and commissioning, operations and maintenance. troubleshoot and repair and inspection of escalators, elevators

Apart from the technical areas, the students under the programme will attend life skills modules which cover inter-personal communication, professional development, design thinking, entrepreneurship and software applications, sports and wellness.

Moreover, WSC provides meritorious students international exposure under Student **Exchange Program and Student** Internship Program at Singapore. This opportunity helps empower the students to learn the global trends and reshape their career goals.

The counselling for students shortlisted through online entrance under School of Engineering is scheduled from October 9 to October 12. The session covering total seven programs under School of Engineering and School of Services is set to begin soon.



GRACEFUL MOVE: Artistes perform during the 19th Sangam Utsav organised by Art Vision at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

# **CM announces** ₹1.5cr for Rohidas

#### CONSTRUCTION

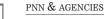
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#### AFFIDAVIT

In connection with the paper publication dated 10.08.2023 regarding missing link deed 10141900020, the name of vendor of the missing link deed (RSD 10141900020 dated 03.01.2019) is to be read as Ratnakar Behera instead of Ratnakar Jena. By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Soro, I, Sri Kamalakanta Mohanty, aged 39, S/o- Surendra Kumar Mohanty, At-

Manatri, P.O.- Janhia, P.S.-Soro, Dist.- Balasore declare that I have



Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: A day after Odisha government announced a cash award of Rs 5 lakh each to players and staff members of Indian Men's Hockey Team, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday said Odia defender Amit Rohidas will also be given an additional Rs 1.5 crore for his role in country's historic gold win at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Congratulating the Indian men's hockey team for winning gold at the Asian Games, Patnaik expressed his heartfelt congratulations to Amit Rohidas, acknowledging his outstanding performance and calling him an 'inspiration' for youngsters not only across Odisha but also throughout India.

"Amit Rohidas' remarkable achievements exemplify the spirit of perseverance and excellence. He has become a symbol of hope and pride for aspiring athletes in our state and beyond. His success story resonates with every individual striving to achieve greatness, and we are immensely proud of his accomplishments," Patnaik said in a statement.

Describing Amit Rohidas as a 'true son of the soil' from the hockey-rich region of Sundergarh, Patnaik remembered how he (Rohidas) had proudly earned himself an



tegral cog in India's campaign in Hangzhou, serving as the first rusher and displaying remarkable strategic acumen. His pivotal goal in the semi-final against South Korea propelled the Indian team towards the final and the coveted gold medal, a senior sports department official said.

After Kishore Jena's historic feat in javelin throw where he won a silver medal, Amit Rohidas becomes the second Odia to fin-

#### **₹3 LAKH EACH FOR WOMEN'S TEAM**

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced cash awards of Rs 3 lakh each for members of the Indian Women's Hockey Team and the support staff recognising their achievement of securing a bronze medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou. In the match, India defeated Japan,

#### 5-day dandiya fest in Puri from October 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The state's biggest dandiya event will be organised at Wonder World Water Park and Resort at Malatipatpur in Puri from October 20 to October 24.

In a press briefing, Wonder World Water Park Chairman Narayan Patra said the event will feature live performers, DJ/EDM beats, the biggest singers, and delicious Navratri special foods.

For those wanting to secure their spot at this extravaganza, VIP tickets are available online at a starting price of Rs 1,049, while regular tickets are being sold at Rs 799. From boating and zorbing to comfortable Mom's Corner, access to all water rides, and free parking, VIP ticket holders will enjoy a truly premium experience. The Managing Director of Park Niranian Patra said the event will offer the best of both worlds - the festive vibes of dandiya and the refreshing thrill of a water park. The organisers will offer exclusive Navratri delights like Aloo Tikki Chaat, Dhokla, Kachodi, Moongdal Halwa, and Cheese Uttapam.

To secure the tickets, one can call also at 1800 120 6676, 8144916946, informed the organisers. Park General Manager Radharaman Nayak, vice president Bibhutendra Mahapatra and (Amruta News - Chief Editor) Pradvumna mishra were

# Energy dept unveils 'Go Green Portal'



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: A green initiative of the state government, Go Green Portal, was launched by Energy department Additional Chief Secretary and GRIDCO Chairman Nikunja Bihar Dhal at Karavel Bhawan here, Friday.

Launching the web portal, Dhal said that this is a userfriendly platform and shall facilitate the prospective Renewable Energy (RE) developers for clearance of their RE projects. It will further boost the mechanism to monitor the RE project approval process.

The portal (https://greener

RE projects and shall provide a secure and efficient means for project registration, tracking, and communication. It will also facilitate for Development, Implementation, and maintenance of renewable energy projects in the state.

GRIDCO has been designated as the nodal agency for implementing Odisha RE policy in the state. 7 Solar PV projects with a cumulative capacity of 202.27 MW have been approved with an investment of Rs. 762.39 crore so far. Further, the single window committee has approved to carry out studies for setting up a 49.50 MW wind project at Deomali Hills. Koraput with an estimated

purchased the property bearing Khata No.-171/156, Plot No.- 188/792, Area A0.075 Dec. vide RSD No.-10141901058 dated 07.05.2019 from Chandan Kumar Jena. That the link RSD bearing No. 10141900020 dated 03.01.2019 executed by Ratnakar Behera in favour of Chandan Kumar Jena has been missed during time of purchase. The above link deed No.-10141900020 dated 03.01.2019 has not been deposited in any where for availing financial benefit by me or by my vendor. If it is found false or any claim is received for the same property I will remain responsible for the consequences arised therefore, I, undertake to deposit the original deed if it is found in future and also I declare that the property is free from encumbrance. That I swear this declarations to be deposited before Punjab National Bank, Mangalpur, Soro relating mortgage of the property in my name.

Olympic Bronze Medal at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Rohidas, a product of Odisha's rich sporting culture, honed his skills at the Panposh Sports Hostel in Rourkela. With an impressive track record of over 150 caps, he emerged as an in2-1 to finish third in the continental event. Naveen congratulated the team on their success, saying, "This is indeed a proud moment for our country as we witness yet another triumphant chapter in Indian Hockey. The credit for this success goes to the entire team whose dedication and hard work have shone brightly. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to every member of the team and all the stakeholders involved. Your teamwork and determination have brought us this victory, and I have no doubt that many more such triumphs await Indian Hockey in the future." present in the press conference.



ergvinvest.odisha.gov.in) is developed by GRIDCO to facilitate RE development in the state as mandated by OREP-2022 by providing a single window platform for RE developers in the state. The portal will streamline the review and approval process for

investment of Rs. 375 crore.

EIC cum PCEI, MD-OPGC, Director (R&A)- OERC, Director-SLDC, MD and Directors of GRIDCO, CE-OREDA, CEO-TP-CODL, and senior officials of Energy department were present on the occasion.

#### Hathkatha holds 'Festive Flea'

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: A twoday festive exhibition 'Festive Flea' by Hathkatha was inaugurated by INWEC chairperson Sukirti Patnaik and INWEC Co-Convenor Preeti Pallavi Patnaik at Prangan, Mango Hotels here Saturday.

The exhibition will showcase handlooms and handicrafts and especially hand-painted products over 17 diverse brands that include festive wear, exquisite handloom sarees, stunning jewellery, exquisite home decor and furnishings and an array of oneof-a-kind gifts. The exhibition is focused on promoting women entrepreneurs from the state. 'We are thrilled to invite you

to 'Festive Flea' where we are promoting small businesses," said Sonika Pradhan, the exhibition organiser and founder of Hathkatha

Hathkatha is a brand that deals in products often featuring



vibrant colours, intricate designs, and a unique blend of contemporary and traditional elements, making them appealing to a wide range of customers both within and outside the state. 'Festive Flea' is a premier festive exhibition that brings together a diverse range of brands and offers a unique shopping experience for attendees with exclusive deals and networking

opportunities. The brands play a significant role in promoting and preserving the indigenous craftsmanship of Odisha, supporting local artisans and providing them with

a platform to showcase their skills and talents.

 ${\bf S}$  scientists have found evidence of a sixth basic taste -- umami -- in addition to sweet, sour, salty and bitter, eight decades after Japanese scientist Kikunae Ikeda first proposed it in the early 1900s.

Researchers at the University of Southern California-Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences have found that the tongue responds to ammonium chloride through the same protein receptor that signals sour taste.

Emily Liman, Professor of biological sciences speculates that the ability to taste ammonium chloride might have evolved to help organisms avoid eating harmful biological substances that have high concentrations of ammonium.

"Ammonium is found in waste products -- think of fertiliser -and is somewhat toxic, so it makes sense we evolved taste



Scientists unlock secrets of a sixth basic flavour

mechanisms to detect it," she said, in the paper published in the journal Nature Communications.

In some northern European countries, salt licorice has been a popular candy at least since the early 20th century. The treat counts among its ingredients salmiak salt, or ammonium chloride. Scientists have for decades recognised that the tongue responds strongly to ammonium chloride. However, despite extensive research, the specific tongue receptors that react to it remained elusive

In recent years, the scientists

Researchers have made a groundbreaking discovery, establishing ammonium chloride as a sixth basic taste sensation, alongside sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami. This revelation sheds light on the tongue's ability to detect this distinct taste, primarily found in some Scandinavian candies

have uncovered the protein re-

sponsible for detecting sour taste.

That protein, called OTOP1, sits

within cell membranes and forms

a channel for hydrogen ions mov-

component of acids, and as food-

ies everywhere know, the tongue

senses acid as sour. That's why

lemonade (rich in citric and

ascorbic acids), vinegar (acetic

acid) and other acidic foods im-

part a zing of tartness when

gene into lab-grown human cells

so the cells produce the OTOP1

They introduced the Otop1

Hydrogen ions are the key

ing into the cell.

they hit the tongue.

receptor protein. They then exposed the cells to acid or to ammonium chloride and measured the responses.

"We saw that ammonium chloride is a really strong activator of the OTOP1 channel." Liman said. "It activates as well or better than acids.

Ammonium chloride gives off small amounts of ammonia, which moves inside the cell and raises the pH, making it more alkaline, which means fewer hydrogen ions

Further, the team turned to a technique that measures electrical conductivity, simulating how nerves conduct a signal.

Using taste bud cells from normal mice and from mice the lab previously genetically engineered to not produce OTOP1. they measured how well the taste cells generated electrical responses called action potentials when ammonium chloride is introduced. IANS

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# state

#### Youth electrocuted

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, Oct 7: A labourer of the newly built Dwarakapuri textile spinning mill at Chicherla village under Utkela police outpost limits and Kesinga block in Kalahandi district died after getting electrocuted while working at the mill premises Saturday morning. The deceased youth was identified as Asik Suna, 21, son of Kamal Suna of Chicherla village. Both his parents work in another state to eke out a liveli hood. Untimely death of Asik has completely shattered his father and mother as he was their only son.

Utkela police outpost incharge Premaraj Kanar reached the spot and launched an investigation. Police seized the body and sent it to Kesinga community health centre (CHC) for post-mortem. Family members of the deceased have demanded for compensation at the police station.



DISCOURSE ON DEMOCRACY: A debate competition on 'Media, Democracy and Youth' was held at the Government Autonomous College in Angul in the run-up to the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Dharitri, Saturday. Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy (middle), Principal Dr Gangadhar Kar (right), HOD of Botany department Dr Chittaranjan Sahu (extreme right), Dr Sarat Parida of History department (left) and Dr Srikant Barik of Odia department (extreme left) were present on the dais

# Star project draws a blank in Rayagada

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Oct 7: With sanctioned funds to the tune of ₹43 lakh returning, the Centre-sponsored Star project has drawn a blank in Rayagada district as the block education officers (BEOs) failed to provide details on the school dropouts, a report said Saturday.

The Centre had launched the Star project in tribal dominated Rayagada district which aimed at reducing school dropout rates

The project aimed at identifying the tribal students who leave studies midway, rehabilitating them in residential schools and help them get higher education.

Meanwhile, the scheme has drawn a blank in Rayagada district due to apathetic attitude of the Education department officials. The Centre had sanctioned ₹43 lakh for implementation of the project. However,

#### **SNAKEBITE CLAIMS** WOMAN, DAUGHTER

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Hinjilicut/Kabisuryanagar, Oct 7: A woman and her infant daughter died of snakebite during their sleep at Adheibara village under Kabisurvanagar police limits in Ganjam district in the wee hours of Saturday. The deceased mother-daughଲିଲ୍ଲା ଶିସାପୁକାରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ ରାୟଗଡ଼ DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE ,RAYAGADA

ing them back to the sphere of high school and vocational education.

Boys and girls within 14 to 16 years of age who left their studies midway due to financial constraints were to be identified and rehabilitated in residential schools free of cost.

The purpose of the scheme is to encourage all children to enroll for qualitative as well as free and compulsory education. The Education department had

The ambitious Lackadaisica ect aimed at attitude of BEOs educing schoo dropout rates blamed as sanctioned among triba students in the funds worth ₹43 lakh districts returns

repeatedly written letters to all BEOs asking them to identify all school dropouts in rural areas. However, despite repeated re-

minders none of them could provide details of the dropouts in their respective areas. The Education department had initially planned to start a hostel at the local Gobind Chandra Dev High School by giving admissions to only four dropout students in the first phase.

However, the plan was aborted on the direction of Odisha School Education Programme due to lack of required number of students. As a result, ₹43 lakh sanctioned towards the hostel had to return without being spent on the purpose.

Many students dropout from studies midway and migrate to other districts and out of the state to earn a living by working in hotels, farms, brick kilns and other establishments. This is because such ambitious government schemes continue to remain out of bounds for the villagers, local intelligentsia alleged demanding proper implementation of schemes.

When contacted, district education officer (DEO) Purna Chandra Bariha confirmed the development. He said that the headmasters and BEOs had been repeatedly asked to submit the details on the school dropouts in their respective areas but none of them complied with the order.

Locals have questioned why the DEO is not taking any action against the block level officials if they are not abiding by his order.

# Elderly gets 5-year jail for sodomising minor

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 7: A special POCSO court Saturday sentenced a 62-year-old man to five years of imprisonment after convicting him for having unnatural sex with a minor.

The convict was identified as Prasant Pradhan, 62, of Tarasingh area in Ganjam district. Apart from the punishment, the judge also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on Pradhan. In default, Pradhan has to undergo additional six months of rigorous imprisonment, the judge observed while delivering the order.

The judge also directed the secretary of district legal services authority (DLSA) to give away ₹2.62 lakh financial assistance to the survivor's family. This was stated before mediapersons here Saturday by public prosecutor Narayan Panda, who was pleading the matter for the state government.

The judge passed the order over the police charge-sheet after examining the statements of 14 witnesses. Pradhan who was serving as an under-trial in the jail was produced in the court



when the judge pronounced the order, Saturday.

The incident occurred when the minor boy was returning home from tuition under Tarasingh police station area, October 8, 2016.

Panda noticed the boy on road and called him inside his home. There he performed unnatural sex with the minor. The boy returned home and narrated his ordeal following which the village committee convened a meeting on the issue. There, Pradhan objected to the allegations by the minor's family and even threatened them.

Later, the boy's father lodged a complaint at the Tarasingh police station. Police arrested Pradhan and produced him in court over a case registered earlier.

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Date & time of availability of : From Dt.16.10.2023 (10 A.M.) bids of documents in the portal to Dt.30.10.2023 (5.30 P.M.) Last date/time for receip of : Dt.30.10.2023 (upto 5.30 P.M.)

Date and Place of Opening : Dt.31.10.2023 (12.00 Noon onwards

ter duo was identified as K

# Hilsa missing from menu as fish catch nosedives

Fish catch has dwindled particularly after industrial plants came up in Paradip, according to the local fisherfolk

funds had to return as the BEOs

could not provide any input on

the number of dropouts.

Reports said that the Centre

had identified 115 districts of

the country as backward areas

and named them as aspirational

districts to be developed. The

project aimed at identifying a

minimum of 50 dropout stu-

dents in each of these aspira-

tional districts where food, ed-

ucation and poverty are a

perennial problem and bring-



at cheap prices as fish catch is dwindling year after year.

Earlier, we used to catch quintals of Hilsa at this time of the year, but the catch has fallen in the present monsoon, a traditional fisherman Subba Rao said.

SU holds BrainbizZ quiz competition

Sambalpur: The Department of Business Administration at Sambalpur University Friday organised a spirited inter-departmental guiz competition 'BrainbizZ'. The event was orchestrated by the enthusiastic second-vear students of the department, who demonstrated exceptional team work and dedication under the guidance of the HoD Tushar Kanti Das. Professor

Basanti, wife of K Ganesh Patra and their two-year-old daughter Debasmita.



Sources said, the woman and her daughter went to sleep Friday night. However, Saturday early morning they screamed in pain when a poisonous snake bit them.

Family members rushed inside their room and saw a snake slithering away outside. They beat up the reptile to death and rushed the mother-daughter duo to Hinjilicut hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

Kabisuryanagar police reached the hospital and sent the bodies for post-mortem to Purushottampur hospital. Two cases of unnatural deaths were registered in this connection.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Oct 7: Hilsa fish, known as the salmon of India, has assumed a pride of place for its unique taste among the non-vegetarian food lovers.

However, the prized fish is missing from the platters due to a sharp drop in its catch and consequent skyrocketing of prices.

The steep and steady rise in prices can be gauged from the fact that four-five hilsa fish, each weighing around 200-300 gram, were sold at around ₹800 to ₹900 per kg at Baliput fish market in Atharbanki in the port town, Friday. This has left the fisherfolks worried as scanty fish catch has threatened their livelihood.

Similarly, hilsa fish weighing more than a kilogram was sold at ₹2.000. Such exorbitant prices of hilsa are being witnessed in the Hindu months of Shravana, Bhadraba and Ashwina when the



prices usually remain low as fishermen get bountiful catch from the deep sea

Gone are those days when fishermen used to catch hilsa abundantly from the sea during this time of the year. The bumper catch of hilsa during these months also allowed people to buy the palatable fish at a very cheap price.

With the fishermen facing shortage of ice to preserve the fish, people were able to buy those in pairs striking good bargains. Such scenes were being witnessed before 2012. However, after 2012 hilsa catch has fallen drastically and it was only in 2018 when hilsa was abundant in the market, although only for two days, a fish trader Paresh Mandal said. Since then, it has become a dream to buy hilsa

Nowadays, a gillnet or a trawler manages to catch barely one or two hilsas during a trip, he said.

Hilsas are a sensitive species. They swim away swiftly at the slightest threat. They live in salt water and swim to freshwater through the river mouths and estuarine waters to spawn. Hilsas love swimming upstream during the southwest monsoon when the rivers swell. Later, the hatchlings go back into the sea and repeat the cycle.

However, a number of fishing boats and mechanised trawlers operating along the coast fish in excess of the sustainable limit and overexploit the hilsa population.

Fish catch has dwindled particularly after industrial plants came up in Paradip, fishermen lamented attributing the decline in catch to rampant discharge of untreated effluents into the sea and rivers by the industrial plants.

Now, it has become a dream for a common man to get the delectable fish at a cheap price, they rued.

Das played a pivotal role in pro viding guidance and support to ensure the seamless execution of the competition. The dynamic coordination of the guiz was overseen by DK Mahalik, who brought his expertise to ensure the questions were engaging, diverse, and challenging.

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# VSSUT shines at ISRO Space Week

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 7: The Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) catapulted itself onto the cosmic stage as it proudly represented the VSS Space Innovation Centre (VSSSIC) at the prestigious Space Week organised by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri. This groundbreaking event held from Wednesday to Friday saw VSS-

SIC students and faculty members showcasing their technical prowess and unwavering dedication to the field of space exploration.

VSSSIC, an initiative emerged from the advent of first student-based satellite launch vehicle project led by VSSUT, aims to contribute to India's space endeavors. At the Space Week, the team exhibited their cutting-edge research



and innovations in rocketry, satellite technology, and space exploration.

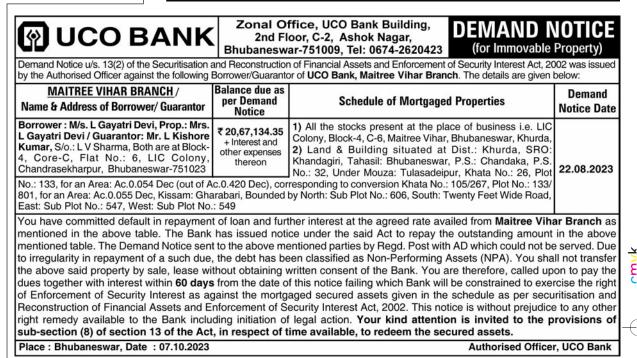
The event provided a glimpse into the future of space technology, with VSSUT's participation underscoring the university's commitment to nurturing the next generation of space scientists and engineers. Students had the opportunity to interact with industry experts and ISRO scientists, gaining valuable insights into the field.

The student's team interacted with the Ministry of Home Affairs about the future aspects of VSLV project as well as various undergoing projects of the university like Cansat, Picosat using

RF harvesting along with the entrepreneurs of their startup Telenae motivating thousands of students to step for their dreams incorporating the theme of space and entrepreneurship on the ground level.

Student members - Ayushman Jena, Shubhankar Panda, Suvham Nayak, Subranshu Ranjan Das and other members along with respective mentor guide Nivedita Patel had the opportunity to interact with respected dignitaries - A Rajarajan (Director, SDSC SHAR), Senthil Kumar R, (Deputy Director SDSC SHAR), and honourable chief guest Governor Ganeshi Lal and respected members of SDSC SHAR.

The VSSSIC team received accolades and awards for their stellar projects with VSLV securing the first prize. This recognition serves as a springboard for even greater achievements ahead.





# power post

#### FOCUS SOCIETY

**THE NONES** 

Be grateful for all ordeals, they are the shortest way to the Divine. THE MOTHER



# **Indians** Losing

The world's largest economy is the United States, which has a GDP of \$26 billion. Then comes China with \$19 billion. Third is Japan (\$4.4 billion), Germany fourth (\$4.3 billion) and fifth is India (\$3.7 billion)

During last month's Vibrant Gujarat summit, the prime minister said India's economy would be third largest during his third term, meaning from 2024 to 2029. He gave a 'Modi guarantee' that this would hap-

In May, the Hindu Businessline carried this headline: 'Per capita GDP for Bangladesh higher than India till 2022'. The report said Bangladesh had overtaken India in per person GDP in 2019.

Both of these things are true: India will likely become the third largest economy soon and India has fallen behind Bangladesh in per person GDP. What is important depends on how one looks at it.

What does it mean if this target of third largest economy is achieved? Germany has a population of eight crore, ours is 140 crore. At the point when we become equal and overtake them, it will mean it takes 17 Indians to produce the same amount of GDP output as one German. The average Indian will still be poorer than the average Bangladeshi.

Let us look at another story that examines the same idea of 'India winning' but Indians losing. Angered by the accusation that it had assassinated a Canadian citizen, the Indian government has asked Canada to remove 41 of its diplomats from India. We have 21 diplomats in Canada while Canada has 62. Hence the extra 41 need to be withdrawn. These diplomats have begun to leave now. What does their leaving mean? It means India will establish parity with Canada and India will have won. Who will be affected by the leaving of the diplomats? Indians.

India is currently the top source of foreign students in Canada, with 230,000 Indian students studying in Canadian institutions. With fewer diplomats here it will be harder for them to get visas and visa extensions. In 2022, Canada issued 1.85 lakh student visas to Indians.

Apart from students, 5.84 lakh other Indians also travelled to Canada in 2022. Compared to that, each year about 3.5 lakh Canadians come here. Presumably most of them are also of Indian origin. There was a reason why Canada required more diplomats here but that does not matter to us because we have put our nation first, ahead of Indians

The idea that the 'nation' should be put first, ahead of people, is stressed by the RSS and Jana Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhayaya in his four lectures, collectively published as 'Integral Humanism'. He wants India to be great but offers no de-

tails about how it will become great. Shouting 'Bharat Mata ki jai' (victory to Mother India) in unison appears to be the one action that he wants us to take

He ends the lectures with this exhortation. What will shouting the slogan achieve? What does this victory look like and how will we know when India has won? Such questions are not answered in Integral Humanism. Indeed, they are not even asked.

One can sense a burning passion felt by Upadhyaya as well as the Hindutva supporters of today and it is true that many of them are driven and often motivated. But towards what? What is Integral Humanism, which the BJP describes as its 'basic philosophy', ultimately meant to achieve? This is unclear from his writing or from the manifestoes of his Jana Sangh which talk about things like 'national rejuvenation vagna'.

India's problems are material. What is underdeveloped in India is not religion and spiritualism — we may even be considered world leaders in such things — it is the economy and the rule of law. The wellbeing of nations is measurable because it is the well-being of its people. It lies in the rates of infant mortality and in gender ratios, in the human development index and in per capita GDP and median incomes, in Nobel Prizes awarded, in scientific inventions and philanthropic contributions. There is no road map in Integral Humanism to getting India there. Nor is there even the expression of a desire to get there. All of what could be seen as measurable progress of the nation is either incidental or irrelevant in his writing. Upadhyaya's interest is in the abstract entity. Upadhyaya's India is not a real nation with people and faiths and sects and states and languages and dietary preferences and music and dissent and disputes. It is a construct. Bharat Mata is an anthropomorphic image of geographical lines, an imagined map, an idea. Guru Golwalkar, the other Sangh influencer, defined India as including Tibet, because it was the abode of the gods and the Hindu epics also give Hindus possession of Afghanistan. Burma, Iran and Lanka, Bharat Mata, he said, for thousands of years, had dipped her arms in the two seas, from Iran to Singapore, with Sri Lanka as a lotus petal offered at her sacred feet. What is desired to be made great is this abstraction. The actual people and cultures it contains today are useful only in so far as they help in achieving this undefined greatness. And India being poised to go ahead of Germany is to be boasted about while Indians falling behind Bangladeshis can safely be ignored.



Aakar Patel

Germany has a population of eight crore, ours is 140 crore. At the point when we become equal and overtake them, it will mean it takes 17 Indians to produce the same amount of GDP output as one German

espite India's millennia-old history of nonreligious movements, most atheists and rationalists choose to keep quiet about their skepticism of faith. The space that does exist for

debating religious authority and belief is shrinking, said Avinash Patil, a religious skeptic who was born Hindu and is now a leader of an anti-superstition group working in one of the country's western states.

In fact, Patil and his organization are still seeking justice for its founder and renowned rationalist, Narendra Dabholkar, who was gunned down during a morning walk in Pune 10 years ago. Indians not affiliated with

Deepa Bharath

**SEVERAL** 

**THE LAST** 

**EMPHASIZE** 

**SPIRITUALITY** 

AND RITUAL,

**LIKE THE ONE** 

**PHILOSOPHER** 

**KRISHNAMURTI** 

**STARTED BY** 

JIDDU

**OVER RELIGION** 

**INDIA HAS SEEN** 

**MOVEMENTS IN** 

**CENTURY THAT** 

any religion — known as the 'nones' — are a very small minority among the nation's 1.4 billion people, according to government statistics and independent surveys.

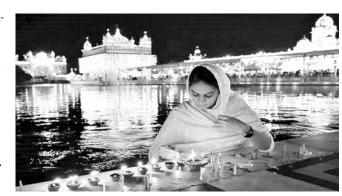
It is possible that 'nones' in India are underrepresented in such surveys due to societal taboos and shortcuts taken by interviewers, said Stephanie Kramer, a senior researcher at Pew Research Center who led a 2020 survey about the nation's religious makeup.

Only 13 out of the 30,000 Indians surveyed by Pew said they were unaffiliated with any religion, while many more responded that there was no such thing as having no religion, Kramer said.

Hindus are the largest religious group in India by far.

They comprise about 80% of the population while Muslims account for 14%, the largest of the minority religions. The country also is home to Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Sikhs and numerous Indigenous faith traditions.

Renouncing one's religion is allowed in India, and the Special Marriage Act of 1954 permits people with no religious beliefs to marry, as well as nonreligious and non-ritualistic weddings. But the country doesn't officially recognize atheism or the nonreligious. To avoid a hassle, some feel forced to list a religion on government forms



Historically, doubt has been an integral part of India's spiritual DNA. The gurus or spiritual masters, including the Buddha, encouraged followers to ask questions

such as birth certificates, or on school admissions paperwork.

"There are delays with documents when you don't state your religion," said Jaswant Mohali, a coordinator for the rationalist group Tarksheel Society Punjab.

Mohali's and Patil's organizations are among those pushing for the government to add a "no religion" checkbox to the country's new census form.

Although small in numbers, atheists in India have been able to exert influence and advance their agenda "with a human approach and empathy" said K. Veeramani. president of the Chennai-based Dravidar Kazhagam, a social justice organization advocating for equality.

'It's not about a show of hands," Veeramani said. "It's about clarity of thinking. The rationalist way of life is about equality and equity.

Sharp rhetoric about Hinduism often stems from deep-seated hurt and the trauma of caste, and not from hatred of Hindus or upper-caste Brahmins, said Annamalai Arulmozhi, a Chennai-based lawyer born to parents who were followers of Perivar and raised their children as atheists. Arulmozhi, who is still an atheist and a feminist, says feminism and fighting inequities perpetrated by the caste system have been cen-

tral to Periyar's movement, which continues today.

Fighting for justice means facing opposition from religion, culture, caste and everything else the system throws at you, Arulmozhi said. "Atheism has given me the strength to stand against all of this," she said. To get justice, you have to oppose all these structures, branches and corollary institutions. You need to reject all that feeling, to me, is atheism.'

would not have had the opportunity to get an education without the push for equality that Periyar led. She has found living as an atheist "freeing.'

The nones in India come from an array of belief backgrounds, including Hindu. Muslim and Sikh. Atheism is still largely invisible and ignored in India, said Mohali, who was born into a Sikh family. Rational thought, he said, is without a platform.

Sultan Shahin, founder of a progressive Muslim website called New Age Islam, said he is seeing more Muslims in India questioning their religion and some even calling themselves "ex-Muslims." Shahin shuns such labels but said most would view him as a "cultural Muslim."

"I question how the Quran is compiled and I ask these questions openly," he said. "We need to have room for these discussions without fearing for our safety.'

Historically, doubt has been an integral part of India's spir itual DNA. The gurus or spiritual masters, including the Buddha, encouraged followers to ask questions. Ancient Indian scriptures, such as verses in the Rig Veda, address skepticism around the fundamental question of a creator god, and the creation of the universe, said Signe Cohen, associate professor of religion at the University of Missouri who focuses on Hinduism and Buddhism.

"Buddhism is a functionally atheist religion because there is no belief in a god who is the creator of the universe or a savior of humans," Cohen said.

Other religions that took root in India pose similar questions, she said. Jain texts raise the question most atheists ask: If there is a creator god who is the ruler of the universe, why is there so much suffering?

India has also seen several movements in the last century that emphasize spirituality over religion and ritual, like the one started by philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti. His foundation is headquartered in Chennai and emphasizes living in the present.

"He (the philosopher) said we don't need to go the previous or next life because how we live now dictates the quality of the next moment or the next day,' said Harshad Parekh, a longtime follower and educator in Krishnamurti schools who was born Hindu and now is agnostic.

"Man cannot come to it through any organization, through any creed, through any dogma, priest or ritual, not through any philosophical knowledge or psychological technique," according to the late philosopher.

Krishnamurti also repeatedly stated that he held no nationality or belief and belonged to no particular group or culture. Parekh strongly aligns with that belief.

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#### SPECTRUM CASTE SURVEY

Fair deal for EBC imperative

and only view your path and your goal as a humanist. That Arulmozhi said her family

#### WISDOM CORNER

- Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it RABINDRANATH TAGORE
- We are such stuff as dreams are made on. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
- A deception that elevates us is dearer than a host of low truths

#### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1856:** In Canton (Guangzhou), Chinese officials boarded a British-registered ship, the Arrow, arrested several Chinese crew members (who were later released), and allegedly lowered the British flag; the event contributed to the start of the second Opium War, in which Britain and France battled China.
- 1967: British politician Clement Attlee–who, while serving as prime minister of the United Kingdom (1945-51), presided over the establishment of a welfare state in his country and the granting of independence to Indiadied at age 84.
- **2001:** In Italy's worst civilian air disaster in nearly 30 years, a Cessna took a wrong turn on a taxiway at Linate Airport in Milan and crashed into an SAS airliner about to take off, which exploded, killing 118 people, including 4 airport workers.
- **2005:** Killing at least 79,000 people, an earthquake struck the Pakistanadministered portion of the Kashmir region and the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan.



Dr Oishee Mukherjee

**OXFAM HAD SUGGESTED TO** IMPOSE **ADDITIONAL TAXATION ON THE RICH TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES OF** LOOKING AT THE **NEEDS OF THE POOREST BUT** 

IN VAIN

doubtedly has been a unique achievement of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has ignited with a concerted attempt to reclaim the turf from the BJP. If the Opposition alliance is to challenge the BJP next year, eroding its control over caste groups, especially in the heartland states, and reclaiming the narrative of emancipation hold the key. The fact that extremely backward classes dominate the OBCs in Bihar and other states a well which, in turn, form the dominant section of the population raises troubling questions about the BJP's claims of inclusive welfare and grassroot development.

It is a well-known fact that the whole administrative apparatus is dominated by the forward castes, which obviously take all decisions. It may be mentioned here that the Supreme Court had in December 2021 directed Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, whose policies of introducing OBC reservation in local body elections had been

The caste survey un- challenged, to set up a dedicated commission each for an 'empirical inquiry' into the applications of reservation in local bodies. They were to specify volumes of the reservation required while limiting the total to a highest of 50 percent. Later Odisha and Haryana decided to follow the example

Though a section of the media has criticised this survey by giving various justifications, it is undoubtedly an eye-opener to the fact that development has been on misplaced priorities and that there is an imperative need to plan schemes that benefit the lower castes and the EBCs who constitute 36 per cent of the Bihar population.

The figure would not be much different if say such a census was carried out in the Hindi heartland states.

In this connection, questions have been raised the EWS (economically weaker sections) who were found to constitute 15 per cent of the population in Bihar get 10 per cent quota. In fact, 15 percent people are getting an exclusive 10 per cent quota while

85 per cent people from the SCs, STs and OBCs are getting 50 per cent quota. This has been found to be irrational. Demands have been made for sub-categorisation of OBCs so that the EBCs get a fair deal. and this can happen by implementing the Rohini Commission report.

If the poor are the biggest caste, what is the agenda of the government to rectify matters? How much additional money will be allocated for the MGN-REGA programme in the current budget to make sure that those enrolled get work for 100 days or at least 80 days a month? Obviously, this year's allocation needs to be doubled for which a 0.5 per cent surcharge will have to be levied on the billionaires of the country. Will the centre do this and change its pro-rich image to reach out to

the poor? One may recall that Oxfam had suggested for imposing additional taxation on the rich to meet the government's priorities of looking at the welfare and needs of the poorest. But the government did not give credence to such suggestion.

Rural transformation is a favourite subject alright but doing actual concrete work is something different. A lot heavilv revolves around monetary allocation for rural development, which unfortunately is very less than the actual requirement. Moreover, how can the government find money for welfare schemes after giving huge subsidies to the business houses to start their enterprises that are run purely on commercial basis? Even subsidised land is given for setting up hospitals and educational institutions, which only the rich and the upper middle class can afford to go.

The entire question revolves around what strategy would now be adopted to reverse the pro-rich, pro-urban bias and target the extremely backward castes who languish in poverty. If the poor is the biggest caste, can we expect that policies would be revised to target this section and upgrade their livelihoods? The questions beg answers.

#### Nothing succeeds like success

Sir, Indian sports has touched the nadir of world standards as we crossed the 100-medal mark surpassing 70 earlier in Jakarta. The Khelo India movement is going on in high spirits as more and more medals are pocketed by our sportsmen and sportswomen in the best way possible. The Khelo India movement is gain ing momentum as we come across more and funds are allotted to this cause to give importance to sports in this country. Thanks to the initiative taken by the sports ministry and the care taken by sports associations, we all see our country's flag flying high in the world of sport. Nothing succeeds like success. It is time to work harder to get more Olympic medals, and the sports authorities must work in that direction and put in extra efforts to make our dream of becoming the first three in world events a reality. It is time to encourage other sports as well.

> CK Subramaniam. NAVI MUMBAI

#### Before it's too late

Sir, Scrub Typhus cases are on the rise in several districts of Odisha. Eight people have already died due to this disease, and more than 2,800 positive cases have been found this year in Odisha. Scrub Typhus is a form of Typhus caused by Orientia tsutsugamushi. It spread through the bites of infected chiggs. The mites feed on infected rodent hosts and subsequently transmit the parasite to other rodents and humans. The symptoms of the disease are fever, headaches, body aches, and sometimes rashes. The state health department must intensify the surveillance so that early detection and diagnosis can be made. The administration needs to increase the testing, which will help detect cases rapidly. The state government has alerted all district headquarters hospitals about the  $\rightarrow$ measures that need to be taken. All hospitals should be provided with ample amounts of testing kits and other medical essentials. The government also needs to spread awareness about the disease to the masses through different channels. Common people need to follow all safety protocols and test immediately after detecting any kind of symptom. Every stakeholder should take this seriously before it gets too late.

Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

101





# Nitish, Lalu's masterstroke to counter BJP's politics

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 7: Caste is the biggest factor to define the social structure of Bihar and people choose their life partner and elect their representatives from the same caste as theirs.

There is a perception here that people from the same caste may be better disposed and more trustworthy than people from other castes

Politicians, especially in the current ruling parties, understand this mentality of the people and went for the caste based survey to make people aware about their actual strength.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yaday who are well aware

**JNUSU** elections

by Jan: Official

of the caste combinations of Bihar, released the data of the caste based survey on October 2 with the aim to clear the confusion among people about their numbers. Also, the chance of creating confusion in the minds of voters by the political parties would no longer fully apply

in Bihar following this report. The Bihar government has counted 215 castes and their actual numbers. This would turn out to be a master stroke by Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad, to counter

the Narendra Modi led BJP. For Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad, the caste based survey is similar to the Mandal Commission report that was brought by Vishawanath Pratap Singh after assuming power at



the Centre. At that time, he was confronting the Congress party which was represented by and large by people of the upper castes. Now, the upper castes are the core voters of the BJP and Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar released the caste based survey to defeat the saffron party.

The two know that the Lok Sabha election 2024 would be fought around the OBCs and PM Narendra Modi will play this card to lure the voters in the country and Bihar. Nitish and Lalu Prasad knew that the numbers of OBC and EBC are higher in Bihar and they came up with the actual numbers to avoid any confusion among the voters. Moreover, they do not want the BJP to create confusion in Bihar in the name of the OBCs.

Shivanand Tiwari, the national vice president of the RJD said: "Narendra Modi became scared after the release of the caste based survey and the way he is choosing his words betravs his uneasiness. On the other hand, the deprived section of society is also feeling uneasy. They have contributed their labour and hard work in building the nation but their status is similar to second class.

Over the years, the BJP has come to be known as the party

of the upper castes. They are the core voters of the BJP and are 15.52% including Bhumihars who are 2.86%, Brahmins are 3.66%, Rajputs are 3.45%, and Kayasthas are 0.60% in Bihar.

On the other hand, Nitish Kumar has core voters who come from the Lav-Kush equation where Lav stands for Kurmis having 2.87% and Kush stands for Kushwaha who are 4.21% in Bihar. Moreover. he has a stronghold among OBC and EBC voters. Lalu Prasad has the Muslims and Yadavs who are 17.7% with the Yadavs at 14%. A sizable vote bank of Scheduled Castes (19%) EBC and OBC also support Lalu Prasad. So, these two are well ahead of the BJP on this count.

Rai launches drive to

combat dust pollution

New Delhi: Delhi's Environment

launched a month-long drive to

capital and said strict action will

be taken against anyone found

violating relevant norms. The

directed authorities in the

National Capital Region to

Centre's air quality panel Friday

enforce a ban on coal usage in

hotels and restaurants, and to

take punitive measures against

polluting industries and thermal

Delhi plunged into the 'poor'

category.

India

Department.

power plants as the air quality in

ment predicted clear skies dur-

ing the day. The maximum tem-

perature is likely to settle around

37 degree Celsius, according to

Meteorological

Minister Gopal Rai Saturday

prevent dust pollution in the

#### Waterlogged school forces 70 students to study on road in Banka

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 7: Around 70 students were forced to study on road as their school was waterlogged in Bihar's Banka district.

Students of Majhgaon primary school under Amarpur block are regularly coming and studying on the road.

Due to heavy rain for the last three days in the district, the school is waterlogged



School Principal Manoj Kumar Paswan said the block education officer was informed about the water-logging but no arrange ment has been made so far.

'We have 70 students in the school and two teachers including me. The schools is waterlogged and hence we are using the adjoining road as a makeshift arrangement," Paswan said.

'The school was built in 1950 and its building is also dilapidated. We have written to the the education department about it in 2016 but no action has been taken so far," Paswan said.

However, Block education officer Amarpur, Banka, Shivnarayan Thakur said, "We have received complaints about water-logging in a school located at Majhgaon village. We have informed the higher officers for the same and demanded for the repair work of the building as well as pumping out water from school premises,

#### **DELHI'S AIR QUALITY TURNS 'POOR'** likely to be held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: JNUSU elections are likely to be held by January after the conclusion of the admission process for PhD courses, a senior official said.

The entrance exam for admission to PhD courses in the Jawaharlal Nehru University are scheduled for this month.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: The air qual-

ity in the national capital

Saturday was in the 'poor' cat-

egory, and the minimum tem-

son's average, officials said.

The process for Jawaharla Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) elections will be initiated after the new students in the 2023 PhD batch are enrolled to give them an opportunity to participate in the polls, the official said.

"We may hold the JNUSU elections by January. The process for the elections will be initiated after the conclusion of PhD admissions for the new academic session and the scholars arrive on campus," the official told PTL

"Jawaharlal Nehru University is a research university and we don't our scholars' representation to be missed during the elections," the official said.

The administration recently held a meeting with students' union representatives and a consensus was largely reached on issues related to the delay in the elections

The official said sessional exams are currently underway for Masters and Bachelors programmes. The students will get busy with the elections if the polls are held now and it will impact their attendance in classrooms. "The Lyngdoh

#### THE AIR OUALITY INDEX (AOI) IN THE NATIONAL **CAPITAL WAS RECORDED AT 231 AT 9 AM. AN AQI BETWEEN ZERO AND 50 IS CONSIDERED** 'GOOD', 51 AND 100 'SATISFACTORY', 101 AND 200 'MODERATE', 201 AND 300 'POOR', 301 AND 400 'VERY POOR', AND 401 AND 500 'SEVERE'

and 401 and 500 'severe'.

quality panel directed authorities in the National Capital Region to enforce a ban on coal usage in hotels and restaurants, and to take punitive measures thermal power plants as the air

which is implemented in Delhi-

NCR to combat air pollution during the winter season.

Quality Management (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for proactively implementing GRAP, reported a "sudden decline" in air quality parameters in the region over the last 24 hours, with Delhi's AQI reaching 212 (in the 'poor' category). "It is essential to invoke Stage-I of GRAP immediately throughout the en-

tire NCR to take steps to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region," the commission said in a statement.

GRAP categorizes actions into four stages: Stage I – 'Poor' (AQI 201-300), Stage II - 'Very Poor (AQI 301-400), Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450), and Stage IV -

Delhi's humidity was recorded at 62 per cent at 8.30 am on

'Severe Plus' (AQI > 450).

Saturday. The weather depart-

Delhi cops identify 117 key traffic congestion points





On Friday, the Centre's air

the 'poor' category. 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory' 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and

perature settled at 20.9 degree Celsius, a notch below the seaagainst polluting industries and The Air Quality Index (AQI) quality in Delhi plunged into in the national capital was recorded at 231 at 9 am. An AQI This action comes as part of between zero and 50 is considered the government's pollution con-

trol plan known as the 'Graded Response Action Plan' (GRAP) 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor',

The Commission for Air

Committee Recommendations, in conjunction with the Supreme Court order of 2011, mandates that a candidate must attain a minimum percentage of attendance to be eligible for the polls. If we hold the elections right now students will fall short of the attendance criterion and it will also be unfair for Masters and Bachelors students who are undertaking exams currently,' he added.

#### HC favours reopening sealed Roshanara Club

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Delhi High Court Friday favoured reopening the century-old Roshanara Club here for its members after its premises were sealed and taken over by DDA last month, nearly six months after an eviction notice was served to it on account of expiry of its lease.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma said Roshanara was a "running club" and its members should be permitted to use its facilities.

"I want the club to start immediately. Make the club functional," the court said. Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), assured the court that the club has not been closed and only its management has shifted to the government which will re-open the outer area in one week and "run it much better"

Asserting that the government has given a fillip to sports in the country as he highlighted the success of Indian athletes at the ongoing Asian Games, the senior law officer submitted the prime area of Roshanara has to be used for "egalitarian" purposes and not for the benefit of an "elitist conglomerate".



Security personnel attempt to stop Bihar Jeevika Cadre Sangh workers during their protest march organised to demand a hike in their wages and regularisation of their jobs, in Patna, Bihar PTI PHOTO

# Bihar to create patrolling force to check accident fatalities on NHs

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 7: The Bihar government has initiated a process of establishing a dedicated patrolling force for national highways covering 5,358 km of roads in the state, a senior officer said Saturday.

The move comes after data suggests that at least 44 per cent of the total deaths in road accidents take place on national

Additional 1,500 traffic personnel will be required for the dedicated force, the officer said.

deaths due to road accidents on national highways in Bihar is alarm ing. Fatalities on national highways in the state have increased by almost 12 per cent in 2022 as compared to the

previous year. "Over-speeding accounts for 30 per cent and

Accident

The state recorded a 16.13% rise in road accident deaths in 2022 as compared to the previous year

wrong-side driving for 12 per cent of accidents. highways in the state. These two factors are the main cause of deaths in road accidents in Bihar.

Additional Director 'The number of General (ADG) of Bihar Police (Traffic) Sudhanshu Kumar told PTI. Proper enforcement of

traffic rules will certainly bring down the number of road fatalities on national highways, he said. That is why the Bihar

Traffic Police have decided to establish a dedicated highway patrol force



Altogether, 10,790 road accidents were reported across the state last year. claiming 8.896 lives, as against 9.553 accidents and 7,660 deaths in 2021

> in the state. A detailed proposal in this regard has been sent to the authority concerned for the final approval." he said.

Expressing concern over road accident deaths on highways, the ADG said the government is committed to reduce the number of such fatalities.

"We are taking up several steps to contain these unfortunate incidents. Highway patrolling vehicles, which will be deployed at strategic locations every

50 km, will play a crucial also on the list role in saving the lives of people," the police oftricts will be covered in ficer said. the second phase, the

The remaining dis-

The ADG, however, resources said fused to divulge other details of the proposal. According to sources, the highway patrolling units will initially be engaged in those districts where the fatalities in road accidents on na-

tional highways are high in the state. Saran, Hajipur, Bakhtiyarpur, Mokama, Begusarai, Khagaria, Bihpur, Katihar Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran and Gopalganj are among the districts where the proposed highway patrolling force will be deployed

Darbhanga, Supaul, Narahia, Narpatganj, Forbesganj, Araria, Jhanjharpur, Purnea, Jamui and Chaka are PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Delhi Police Friday identified 117 key traffic congestion points across the city and attributed them to a variety of causes, including construction activities and encroachments.

The congestion is being regulated through the deployment of staff at major intersections, introduction of "one way" traffic schemes and launching of encroachment/congestion removal drives, police said.

The congestion points, according to a survey, have been divided into six ranges. The northern range has maximum number of such points 27 followed by the southern range 22, central range 21, eastern range 20, western range 19 and New Delhi range eight. Ten flyovers, including Geeta Colony, Azadpur Chowk flyover. Rani Jhansi and Peera Garhi, are in the list of 117.

Delhi is experiencing significant traffic congestion due to its land

use pattern, an exponential increase in motorisation and various other factors, police said. To address this issue, the traffic police conducted a thorough survey to determine primary traffic congestion areas in the city as traffic volume exceeds the road network's capacity congestion builds up and worsens with increasing traffic flow, officials said.

Police said modernisation efforts such as installation of variable message sign boards (VMS) and installation of redlight violation detection (RLVD) cameras at 43 junctions to ensure traffic discipline have been put in place. The process for the installation of RLVD cameras at 57 more traffic junctions is likely to finalised shortly.

A project has been prepared for intelligent traffic management system (ITMS), aimed at improving mobility, discipline and road safety on the roads by using technology-based traffic solutions and enforcement are being made, officials said.

	HMALLIK, DIST- ANGUL - 7		
	athmallikt@gmail.com,Tel: 94370		
	ice No. 6005 /1F/ 2023, Date:07.10		
Revised Short Tender Notice for Constru		at Forest Color	y, Athm
under Athmallik Range of Athmallik Fore			
No.MM-208:Sealed Tender is hereby invite		ne Governor of C	disha fo
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Range of Athmallik Forest Division			
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# **PHOTO POST**



**OrissaPOST** 

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 8 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

People take part in a 'silent rally' for peace and harmony in the violence-hit Manipur, at Khongjom War Memorial Complex, in Thoubal district, Manipur



National and State Disaster Response Force personnel conduct a mock drill regarding safety of passengers travelling on ships, in the Brahmaputra river in Guwahati



An artisan gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of the Durga Puja celebrations, in Nagpur



Children take part in a face painting competition organised under Wildlife Week 2023 at Van Vihar National Park, in Bhopal





**P8** 

The Jet Suit demonstration as part of the cyber conference in Kochi

Locals wade through a waterlogged road after the Hooghly river inundated nearby areas in Nadia district, West Bengal



Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation buses at Vidhana Soudha during their flagging off ceremony in Bangalore



Preparations underway for Gaganyaan mission's Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1), which demonstrates the performance of the Crew Escape System, in Bangalore













False cases are being slapped in an attempt to subdue and threaten opposition leaders and parties and an atmosphere of fear has been created, which is not good for the country ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CM

#### **IMRAN MASOOD REJOINS CONGRESS**

Imran Masood, an ex-MLA from western Uttar Pradesh who was expelled by the BSP in August, returned to the Congress Saturday with the party describing it as 'ghar wapsi'



# uote

The Rajasthan government will also conduct a caste survey like the one held in Bihar ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

The economic crisis in rural India is so deep that in September the demand for MGNREGA has increased by 30% in 4 years. Instead of doing anything about it, the Prime Minister is cursing the Congress in his speeches in election-bound states for hiding its monstrous failures under his

speeches MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CONGRESS PRESIDENT



#### SHORT TAKES

#### IAF to unveil new ensign

New Delhi: The IAF will unveil its new ensign at the annual Air Force Day parade at Prayagraj on Sunday to better reflect its values, 72 years after a similar exercise was undertaken. The Indian Air Force's move comes over a year after the Navy made changes in its ensign shedding its colonial past."October 8 will go down as a momentous day in the annals of IAF history. On this historic day, the Chief of Air Staff will unveil the new IAF ensign," the IAF said.

#### Man sentenced to death

Palwal (Haryana): A special POCSO court here has sentenced a man to death for raping his minor daughter for three years, a senior police official said Saturday. In the verdict announced on Friday, Special Judge Prashant Rana also imposed a fine of ₹15,000 on the man and directed the government/District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay the victim a compensation of ₹10.5 lakh. The victim has already been paid ₹3 lakh and the remaining amount is pending, he said.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: A doctor should not use an unusually large signboard and write on it anything other than his name, qualifications, titles, specialty or registration number, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has suggested, saying his prescription papers should also

have the same contents. It is improper to affix a signboard on a chemist's shop or in places where he does not reside or work, the NMC's Ethics and

Medical Registration Board (EMRB) said in its E-Book: Professional Conduct Review -Lessons from Case Archives".

The book also highlighted that trust deficit in the doctor-patient relationship leads to litigation against the doctors and emphasised that the most common cause of complaints against doctors is due to a communication gap.

The commission stated that care should be taken not to mislead the public through signboards, visiting cards, an-



nouncements etc. Medical practitioners may acquire skills and training in various areas related to a particular field, but the use of the title 'consultant/special-

Docs must not mislead public through signboards: NMC

ist' should be restricted to those who are qualified in the particular speciality, it said.

As an appellate body, the Ethics and Medical Registration Board of the NMC has been hearing cases of misconduct and passing judgments.

The need to disseminate the learnings from the complaint cases against doctors was felt right from the beginning, Dr Yogender Malik, editor of the booklet and member of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board of the NMC, said. The

thought was shared with the board and a group of experts was formed.

They worked very hard, going through hundreds of pages of each case and summarised them without losing the essence of the case and the message, he stated. The case studies in the book show that it is very difficult for a patient to differentiate between ethics, conduct and negligence, the NMC said. Doctors too feel that patients have no right to complain unless there is harm, the NMC stated.

member arrested

**Chhota Rajan gang** 



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: The Mumbai police Saturday arrested a member of the Chhota Rajan gang, who has been on the run for the past 28 years, from Surat in Gujarat in connection with a 1994 robbery attempt case, an official said.

The accused, 59-year-old Sabir Barkatali Lakhani, who resided in Antop Hill locality in the city, was arrested by the crime branch of Mumbai police, he said. "In 1994, the accused, who was a member of the Chhota Rajan gang, along with four of his associates stormed into a real estate broker's office at Sindhi Camp in Chembur carrying arms with the intention of committing robbery. During the incident, they also attacked an on-duty crime branch official as well," the police official said.

A case was registered against them under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 399 (making preparation to commit dacoity) and 307 (attempt to murder), the police said. "The accused were later arrested and a local court sentenced them to five years of jail.

Three of the five arrested accused were in encounters with police, but two accused, including Lakhani, went absconding a year later in 1995. The court later issued a non-bailable warrant against them," he said. The crime branch recently received a tip-off that Lakhani was in

I-T dept attaches assets worth ₹150cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surat, he added.

Lucknow, Oct 7: Newly constructed flats and a building complex in Varanasi and bank deposits worth about ₹150 crore\_ have been attached under the anti-benami properties law by the Income Tax department as part of its probe against Maharashtra Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi and his alleged associates, official sources said Saturday. The Lucknow-based benami assets investigation unit of the department had launched searches in Varanasi and some parts of Maharashtra early this week as part of this investigation. Sources said that the raids have ended and the department has attached ₹10 crore worth of bank deposits of a company called Vinayak Group, Tower 'C' of a real estate property called Vinayak Plaza at Maldahiya in Varanasi with a market value of ₹40-50 crore, and 45 flats built in Varuna Gardens project in the Hamrautia locality of the city located on the banks of the river Ganga. The properties have been attached under the provisions of the Prohibition of Benami Properties Transaction Act. According to the sources, these 2BHK and 3BHK flats in the Hamrautia project are allegedly owned by Azmi and these are estimated to be worth about Rs 30-32 crore (market value).

# 62 people found alive; central team to visit state

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, Oct 7: The toll in the flash flood in Sikkim rose to 30 as four more bodies were found Saturday, while 62 people who were reported missing for the past three days were found alive, a government agency said here.

The number of missing people thus came down to 81, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) said in its latest bulletin on Saturday evening. An inter-ministerial central team will visit the flood-hit state from Sunday to assess the damage due to the natural calamity, Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra said

here. The flash flood triggered by a cloudburst in the early hours of Wednesday affected 41,870 people in four districts of the Himalayan state, with Mangan bearing the brunt of the calamity as a population of around 30,300 were hit by the disaster, it said.

The other three affected districts are Gangtok. Pakvang and Namchi. Of the 30 deaths - four were in Mangan, six in Gangtok district, 19 in Pakyong and one in Namchi. The report said that the 19 deceased people in Pakyong included nine army men. Twenty-three soldiers had gone missing on



Indian Army officers inspect the damage caused by flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall in Naga village in north Sikkim

October 3 and one of them was rescued earlier.

So far, 2,563 people have been rescued from different areas and 6,875 people have taken shelter in 30 relief camps set up across the state, most of which have been cut off from the rest of the country. The deluge also damaged more than 1,320 houses and washed away 13 bridges in the four districts of the picturesque

Himalayan state, said the report. More than 3,000 tourists stranded in Lachen and Lachung in Mangan district of Sikkim after the flash flood hit the area, are safe officials said Saturday The Indian Air Force made multiple attempts to carry out rescue and relief operations by Mi-

17 helicopters but was unable to fly from Bagdogra as well as Chaten due to inclement weather: During the day, Chief

Minister Prem Singh Tamang visited the flood-hit areas of Mangan district and inspected the rescue and relief work being carried out by the army and the local administration.

Tamang earlier announced an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh for the families of the deceased and an immediate relief of ₹2,000 each for all those taking shelter in the camps. The search for the remaining missing soldiers is continuing both in Sikkim and the northern parts of West Bengal through which the Teesta flows, the Chief Minister said.

### Cong moves court over Ravan poster on Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 7: A Congress leader has filed a petition in a court against BJP national president JP Nadda and party's IT cell incharge Amit Malviya over a social media post by the saffron party, showing party leader Rahul Gandhi as 'a new age Ravan'.

In his petition, general secretary of Congress' Rajasthan unit, Jaswant Gurjar, has pleaded that a case be registered against both BJP leaders under IPC Section 499 (false imputation against another person), 500 (defamation), 504 (intentional insult).

Gurjar has filed the petition at Jaipur Metropolitan Court-11. The court has de-

cided to hear the ar- The Congress has prot guments on the plea inst the poster at on October 9. A photograph of Gandhi morphed ne country .

as Ravan in a poster put out from the Bharatiya Janata Party's official handle on X has stirred a controversy, triggering strong criticism from the Congress, which has called it "unacceptable" and "downright dangerous".

"The petition has been admitted by the court and the hearing for the case has been scheduled on October 9." Guriar said. "The accused publicised the post deliberately with ill-intention on October 5 and the aim of the accused is to insult and to harm the goodwill of Congress and people associated with it and to make political gains," the plea said.

The petition said that the BJP



Gandhi as anti-Ram and antireligion to instigate people against him. The petitioner has pleaded before the

court to get the stateed to hear the ments of both the acarguments on the pl October 9 cused recorded and get the matter investigated.

The Congress party has protested against the poster at several places across the country. The poster showed Gandhi with several heads, with the title

"Bharat Khatre Mein Hai - A Congress party production. Directed by George Soros" The post by the BJP accompanying the poster said, "The new age

Ravan is here. He is evil. Anti-Dharma. Anti-Ram. His aim is to destroy Bharat." Soros, a Hungarian-born American financier, philanthropist, and activist, had come under fire from the BJP after he made critical comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the wake of a report by US short-seller Hindenburg Research on the Adani Group.

### SC to hear pleas on delay in clearing names on Oct 9

#### Labourer killed, three injured

. . . . . . . . . . . . .

Jabalpur: A labourer was killed and three others were injured when rubble piled up below an under-construction flyover fell on them in Jabalpur city Saturday, police said. The incident took place at Shivaji Chowk, City Superintendent of Police Ritesh Kumar said. The injured have been rushed to the hospital, he said.

#### Woman Naxalite surrenders

Gadchiroli: A woman Naxalite involved in many encounters, including one that left 12 jawans dead, arson and murder and collectively carrying rewards of ₹11 lakh has surrendered before the police in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, officials said Saturday.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday two petitions including the one alleging delay by the Centre in clearing the names recommended by the collegium for appointment and transfer of judges

The appointment of judges through the collegium system has in the past become a major flashpoint between the Supreme Court and the Centre with the mechanism drawing criticism from different quarters.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia is scheduled to hear the pleas on October 9. While hearing the matter on September 26, the apex court had voiced dismay over the "delay" in the appointment of judges and asked



Attorney General R Venkataramani to use his office to resolve the issue.

"There were 80 recommendations pending until last week when 10 names were cleared. Now, the figure is 70, of which 26 recommendations are of transfer of judges, seven are reiterations, nine are pending without being returned to the collegium and one case is of appointment of the Chief Justice to a sensitive high court," the bench had said. All these recommendations

are pending since November last year, it had said



Cadets during Passing Out Parade at Subsidiary Training Centre (STC), BSF, Humhama, on the outskirts of Srinagar PTIPHOTO

Some other assets were also attached by the department.

#### Girl sexually assaulted in MP

Indore: A four-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by the driver of a van that ferried children to a private playschool in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, police said Saturday. Based on a complaint lodged by the parents of the child, the police arrested the van driver, identified as Sumit, on Friday evening, an official said. The assault came to light when the mother noticed the girl's unusual behaviour, and she complained of pain in her private parts, Sanyogitaganj Police Station incharge Vijay Tiwari said.

### Some plants may worsen air pollution on a warming planet PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: On a warming planet, plants like oaks and poplars will emit more of a compound that exacerbates poor air quality, contributing to problematic particulate matter and low-atmosphere ozone, a study shows.

The same compound, called isoprene, can also improve the quality of clean air while making plants more resistant to stressors including insects and high temperatures."Do we want plants to make more isoprene so they're more resilient, or do we want them making less so it's not mak-

ing air pollution worse? What's

the right balance?" said Tom Sharkey, a professor at Michigan State University in the US.

"Those are really the fundamental questions driving this work. The more we understand, the more effectively we can answer them. Sharkey said. Isoprene from plants is the second-highest emitted hydrocarbon on Earth, only behind methane emissions from human activity. Yet most people have never heard of it, the researchers said.

Isoprene interacts with nitrogen oxide compounds found in air pollution produced by coalfired power plants and internal combustion engines in vehicles. These reactions create ozone, aerosols and other byproducts



that are unhealthy for both humans and plants, they said. Prior to the study, researchers understood that certain plants

produce isoprene as they carry

out photosynthesis. They also

knew the changes that the planet is facing were having competing effects on isoprene production. Increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere drives the rate down, while increasing tem-

peratures accelerate the rate. One of the questions behind the MSU team's new publication was essentially which one of these effects will win out, the researchers said.

'We were looking for a regulation point in the isoprene's biosynthesis pathway under high carbon dioxide," said Abira Sahu, the lead author of the new report and a postdoctoral research associate in Sharkey's research group. "Scientists have been trying to find this for a long time. And finally, we have the answer," Sahu added. The researchers noted that the temperature effect trumps the carbon dioxide (CO2) effect.

"By the time you're at 95 degrees Fahrenheit—35 degrees Celsius-there's basically no CO2 suppression. Isoprene is pouring out like crazy," said Sahu. In their experiments, which used poplar plants, the team also found that when a leaf experienced warming of 10 degrees Celsius, its isoprene emission increased more than tenfold.

The discovery will help researchers better anticipate how much isoprene plants will emit in the future and better prepare for the impacts of that. However, the researchers also choices people and communities make in the meantime.











# international

view of the current situation in Israel, all

ndian nationals in Israel are requested to

emain vigilant and observe safety protoco

as advised by local authorities. Please exer

ise caution, avoid unnecessary movement

mergency and also provided URLs for Israel

According to the details on the website of the

ndian Embassy here, there are about 18,000

Indian citizens in Israel, primarily caregivers

mployed by Israeli elders, diamond traders.

amas militants fired thousands

of rockets and sent dozens of

fighters into Israeli towns near

the Gaza Strip in an unprece-

dented surprise early morning attack dur-

ing a major Jewish holiday Saturday, killing dozens and stunning the country. Rockets rained down on Israel from Gaza starting at 6:30 am, following months rising violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the highest number of fatalities in West Bank, which has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, in years. Israel said it is now at war with Hamas and launched airstrikes in Gaza, vowing to inflict an "unprecedented

The Hamas militant group says it is

holding "dozens" of Israeli soldiers cap-

tive in the Gaza Strip. Abu Obeida,

and stay close to safety shelters," the

Embassy said in its advisory. The advisor

gave relevant phone numbers in case of

Home Front Command and Preparedness

brochures. The advisorv was issued in

English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu,

Malayalam and Kannada languages

IT professionals and students.

AGENCIES

Timeline

Aug 2005: Israeli forces unilaterally withdraw from Gaza 38 years after capturing it from Egypt in the Middle East war, abandoning settlements and leaving the enclave under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

Jan 25, 2006: The Islamist group Hamas wins a majority of seats in a Palestinian legislative election. Israel and the US cut off aid to Palestinians because Hamas refuses to renounce violence and recognise Israel.

June 14, 2007: Hamas takes over Gaza in a brief civil war, ousting Fatah forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is based in the West Bank

Dec 27, 2008: Israel launches a 22day military offensive in Gaza after Palestinians fire rockets at the south ern Israeli town of Sderot. About 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis are report ed killed before a ceasefire is agreed.

July-August 2014: The kidnap and killing of three Israeli teenagers by Hamas leads to a seven-week war in which more than 2,100 Palestinians are reported killed in Gaza and 73 Israelis are reported dead, 67 of them military

March 2018: Palestinian protests begin at Gaza's fenced border with Israel. Israeli troops open fire to keep protestors back. More than 170 Palestinians are reported killed in sev eral months of protests, which also prompt fighting between Hamas and Israeli forces

May 2021: After weeks of tension during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, hundreds of Palestinians are wounded in clashes with Israeli security forces at the Al Aqsa compound in Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest site. Fighting goes on for 11 days, killing at least 250 people in Gaza and 13 in Israel.

Aug 2022: At least 44 people, including 15 children, are killed in three days of violence that begin when Israeli air strikes hit a senior Islamic Jihad commander



Palestinians walk away from the kibbutz of Kfar Azza, Israel, near the fence with the Gaza strip



The Sri Lankan

not have international

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

investigations. Full stop.

Few people may want (it),

but the Parliament doesn't

government does

spokesman for the group's military wing, said the soldiers, including some officers, were captured during the surprise infiltration.

#### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

After the Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I, Britain gained control of Palestine, which was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab majority. The international community tasked Britain with creating a Jewish homeland in Palestine, which heightened tensions between the two groups.

In the 1920s and 1940s, the number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine increased significantly, as many Jews fled persecution in Europe and sought a homeland in the wake of the Holocaust. Friction between Jews and Arabs, as well as resistance to British rule, intensified. In 1947, the United Nations

voted to divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration. The Jewish leadership embraced the plan, but the Arab side rejected it, and it was never implemented.

In 1948, unable to end the strife, British authorities withdrew and Jewish leaders proclaimed the founding of Israel. Many Palestinians objected, and a war ensued. Neighboring Arab countries intervened with military force. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were driven from their homes in what they call Al Nakba, or "The Catastrophe".

#### WAR AND PEACE

Over the years, Israel and Palestine have been involved in several skirmishes. some minor, some of catastrophic proportions that led to the deaths of thousands. In 1987, Hamas, an acronym for



Israeli soldiers work to secure residential areas following a mass-infiltration by Hamas gunmen from the Gaza Strip, in Sderot, southern Israel

#### **NEPAL, INDIA DISCUSS SECURITY ISSUES**

Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya

(Islamic Resistance Movement), a po-

litical group with military capabilities,

was launched by Palestinian cleric

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin as a political arm

of the Muslim Brotherhood, a tran

snational Sunni Islamist organisation.

The two Palestinian uprisings, or

'intifadas', profoundly impacted Israeli-

Palestinian relations, especially the

second, which ended the 1990s peace

process and ushered in a new era of

conflict. Both the intifadas had the in-

the Camp David Summit July 11, 2000,

bringing together Israeli Prime Minister

Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority

Chairman Yasser Arafat for intensive final

status negotiations, but the

summit ended in no cigars, further wors-

ening relations between the two nations.

US President Bill Clinton convened

volvement of Hamas

Nepal and India have discussed a wide range of issues relating to mutual security, defence supplies, training and capacity building as part of the efforts to step by bilateral cooperation



**UNITED STATES** "There is never any justification for terrorism. We stand in solidarity with the government and people of Israel, and extend our condolences for the Israeli lives lost in these attacks," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement released by the State Department. UNITED NATIONS UN Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland said: "This is a dangerous precipice, and I appeal to all to pull back from the brink."

IRAN An adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei Saturday congratulated Palestinian fighters, the semi-official ISNA news site reported. "We will stand by the Palestinian fighters until the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem," it quoted Yahya Rahim Safavi as saying

**GERMANY** "Terrifying news reaches us today from #Israel. We are deeply shocked by the rocket fire from Gaza and the escalating violence. Germany condemns these attacks by Hamas and stands by Israel," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on social media

FRANCE Emmanuel Macron strongly condemned the attacks. "I express my full solidarity with the victims, and their families and those close to them," he said.

SAUDI ARABIA The foreign ministry called for an "immediate cessation of violence".

EGYPT Egypt warned of "grave consequences" and called for "exercising maximum restraint and avoiding exposing civilians to further danger".

EUROPEAN UNION EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said: "I unequivocally condemn the attack carried out by Hamas terrorists against Israel. It is terrorism in its most despicable form."

RUSSIA Russia is in contact with Israel, the Palestinians and Arab countries in connection with the escalation of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said, urging restraint.

UKRAINE Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned what he called a "terror attack" on Israel and said Israel's right to defend itself "cannot be doubted".

KUWAIT Kuwait expressed its "grave concern" over developments between Israel and the Palestinians, blaming Israel for what it called its "blatant attacks".

JAPAN Japan strongly condemns rocket launches and cross-border attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups into



Palestinians react as an Israeli military vehicle burns after it was hit by Palestinian gunmen who infiltrated areas of southern Israel, at the Israeli side of Israel-Gaza border AP/REUTERS PHOTOS

#### Syria shells northern rebel-held

### region of Idlib, killing 7 people

price.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 7: Syrian and Russian bombardment of rebelheld parts of northwest Svria claimed seven more lives and wounded others Saturday, two days after one of the country's deadliest attacks on a government target in years, a war monitor and a paramedic group said.

Thursday's drone strike on the Homs Military Academy killed 89 people, including 31 women and five children, and wounded as many as 277, according to the health ministry.

The Syrian military accused insurgents "backed by known international forces" of carrying out the attack and said "it will respond with full force and decisiveness to these terrorist organisations, wherever they exist".

No one claimed responsibility for the attack that happened during a graduation ceremony at the academy. On Saturday, Syrian artillery pounded towns and villages held by rebels in Idlib province, killing seven and wounding 10, according to the opposition's Syrian Civil Defense. After more than 12 years of civil war, Idlib is the last major rebel stronghold in Syria. The Britainbased Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor. had a similar death toll and reported that insurgents fired rockets on governmentheld areas, including the outskirts of President Bashar

Assad's hometown of Qardaha.



#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, Oct 7: Forcibly deporting Afghans from Pakistan could lead to severe human rights violations including the separation of families and deportation of minors, the United Nations warned Saturday. Pakistan recently announced

a crackdown on migrants living in the country illegally, including 1.7 million Afghans, telling them to return to their home countries by October 31 to avoid mass arrest and expulsion. The government denies targeting Afghans and says the focus is on people who are in the country illegally, regardless of their nationality.

It said it is setting up a hotline

and offering rewards to people who tip off authorities about such migrants. The UN agencies said Afghanistan is going through a severe humanitarian crisis with several rights challenges, particularly for women and girls, who are banned by the Taliban from education beyond sixth grade, most public spaces and many jobs.

"Such plans would have serious implications for all who have been forced to leave the country and may face serious protection risks upon return," it said, referring to Pakistan's crackdown.

They acknowledged Pakistan's "sovereign prerogative" over domestic policies and said they are ready to help register and manage Afghan nationals, in-



cluding those who may be in need of international protection. The International Organization for Migration and the UN refugee agency called on countries to "suspend forcible returns of Afghan nationals and ensure any possible returns to the country take place in a safe, dignified and voluntary manner." Landlords and real estate

#### dozens, injure many in western Afghan

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, Oct 7: Two 6.3 magnitude earthquakes killed dozens of people in western Afghanistan Saturday, the country's national disaster authority said.

The United Nations gave a preliminary figure of 320 dead, but later said the figure was still being verified. Local authorities gave an estimate of 100 people killed and 500 injured, according to the same update from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Mohammad Abdullah Jan said four villages in the Zenda Jan district in Herat province bore the brunt of the quakes and aftershocks. Dozens of houses have been damaged.

The United States Geological Survey reported the 6.3 magnitude tremblors. It said the epicentre was 40 kilometres (24.8 miles) northwest of Herat city. There was an aftershock with a 5.5 magnitude.

A map on the USGS website indicates seven earthquakes in the area.

At least five powerful earthquakes struck the city around noon, Herat city resident Abdul Shakor Samadi said.

"All people are out of their homes," Samadi said.

"Houses, offices, and shops are all empty and there are fears of more earthquakes. My family and I were inside our home, I felt the quake." His family began shouting and ran outside, afraid 🗎 to return indoors.

"As deaths and casualties from the earthquake continue to be reported, teams are in hospitals assisting treatment of wounded; assessing additionalneeds," the UN Agency said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

#### Sunak calls for de-escalation in call with Trudeau INDIA-CANADA ROW

The telephonic talks between Sunak and Trudeau took place in the days after the fallout of that diplomatic row resonated in the UK when Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami was blocked from a planned visit to Glasgow Gurdwara in Scotland last week by pro-Khalistan extremists

#### AGENCIES

London, Oct 7: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau have underscored the importance of de-escalation of the India-Canada diplomatic row and respect for the rule of law in a call, which was dominated by the standoff over the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in Canada in June

According to a Downing Street statement, the British Indian leader spoke to Trudeau Friday evening during which he was updated on the situation relating to Canadian diplomats in India. Both leaders agreed to stay in contact as Sunak reaffirmed the UK position of respect for the rule of law after Canada's allegation of Indian involvement in the killing of a pro-Khalistan wanted terrorist.

"Prime Minister Trudeau updated on the situation relating to Canadian diplomats in India," reads the Downing Street statement

"The Prime Minister [Sunak] reaffirmed the UK's position that all countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law, including the principles of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. He hoped to see a de-escalation in the situation and agreed to remain in contact with Prime Minister Trudeau on the next steps," it said. The Canadian Prime Minister's Office from Ottawa



echoed the statement, saying that Trudeau provided an update on the current situation between Canada and India.

'The leaders emphasised respect for the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the

need to ensure the safety and security of their citizens. They underscored the importance of deescalation in this context. Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Sunak agreed to remain in close contact and to continue working together to tackle global issues," the Canadian government statement reads.

The call comes in the wake of Trudeau's statement in the Canadian Parliament last month that its security forces were "actively pursuing credible allegations" linking Indian government agents to the murder of Khalistan Tiger Force leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June, an allegation strongly rejected by India as "absurd and motivated".

The telephonic talks between Sunak and Trudeau took place in the days after the fallout of that diplomatic row resonated in the UK when Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami was blocked from a

planned visit to Glasgow Gurdwara in Scotland last week by pro-Khalistan extremists.

clerics in some of the city's

their duty to inform on Afghans

2.000 people were arrested across

the country since the crackdown

province have detained some

1.100 Afghan nationals, accord-

ing to Inspector General Riffat

Mukhtar. He said the courts re-

leased about 300 after they pro-

vided their documents. The rest

remain in prison awaiting de-

portation to Afghanistan.

began earlier this week. Police in southern Sindh

Concerned to see that the Indian High Commissioner, Vikram Doraiswami, was stopped from meeting with the Gurudwara Committee at the Gurudwara in Glasgow. The safety and security of foreign diplomats is of utmost importance and our places of worship in the UK must be open to all," Anne-Marie Trevelvan, the UK Foreign Office minister for Indo-Pacific wrote on X.

In recent developments, the Ministry External Affairs (MEA) said it has been coordinating with its mission in Ottawa and consulates in other Canadian cities over safety concerns.





# business



I think it's sort of feasible within the next four years to do an uncrewed test landing there (Mars) ELON MUSK | FOUNDER, SPACEX

#### **AI UNVEILS A350'S FIRST LOOK**

Air India Saturday unveiled the first look of its A350 aircraft following its rebranding and the introduction of a fresh logo and livery, following its acquisition by the Tata Group. "Here's the first look of the majestic A350 in our new livery at the paint shop in Toulouse. Our A350s start coming home this winter," the flag carrier said in a post on X



The RBI, which had initially

given time till September 30, for

getting the notes deposited or

exchanged, extended the same by

a week till October 7, on the last

Maintaining that the notes

continue to be legal tender, the

RBI had also announced a new

system for getting them deposited

8) it can be, you know, deposited

in or exchanged in the Reserve

FROM PEAKS TO LOSSES

'... thereafter (from October

date.

or exchanged.

uote

#### ₹2K notes worth over ₹12K-cr still in circulation X reportedly testing ₹3.43 LAKH CR OF ₹2,000 NOTES HAVE COME BACK, PUBLIC CAN RETURN NOTES IN RBI OFFICES POST OCT 8

of notes are still in circulation,

Das said, reiterating that the

notes can be returned even after

the end of the extended period.

RBI had surprised all by an-

nouncing its intent to withdraw

the ₹2,000 note introduced in

2016 for quick remonetisation, fol-

lowing Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's announcement to suck

out over 88 per cent of currency

in circulation by banning the

₹500 and ₹1,000 notes.

It can be noted that May 19, the

It is an exciting time for India, and Indian whiskies are not far behind as we are playing our part in the India story

SIDDHARTH SHARMA FOUNDER, PICCADIL DISTILLERIES

3PL solutions tie-in well with the D2C segment as demand varies across cities/regions and the required logistics investment is on the higher side. Brands need reliable logistics partners with a wider reach across India to ensure consistency of experience

MRIGANK GUTGUTIA PARTNER, REDSEER

While this is a challenging time, we remain confident in the underlying fundamentals and potential of our business. The steps we are taking will position us for continued

success and allow us to adapt to the evolving needs of our clients and the market SANKAET PATHAK CEO, SYNAPSE

SHORT TAKES

#### Google, Apple face fines of \$50.4mn

Seoul: South Korea's telecommunications regulator said Friday it seeks to slap up to 68 billion won (\$50.42 million) in combined fines against Google and Apple for their violation of the country's in-app payment laws. In August 2022, the Korea **Communications Commission** (KCC) launched a probe into Google Play and App Store for their enforcement of certain in-app payment methods and other irregularities against app developers. Wrapping up the probe, the commission decided to impose a fine of 47.5 billion won on Google and 20.5 billion won on Apple based on the judgment that they violated the country's revised Telecommunications Business Act by abusing their monopoly power to force local

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: Governor Shaktikanta Das Friday said ₹3.43 lakh crore of ₹2,000 denomination notes have come back to the system so far, and reminded the public that they can return the withdrawn notes at 19 RBI offices from October 8.

Addressing the customary post-policy press meet here, Das said 87 per cent of the notes which have been returned have



been deposited into bank accounts, while the rest have been exchanged over the counter. At present, over ₹12.000 crore

Institutional funding

*Retail real estate* the year-ago period.

has not been able to this year as against \$491.8 million in 2022 period.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Institutional investments in real estate declined 21 per cent in July-September period to \$793.4 million due to lesser inflows in office assets, according to Colliers India

Institutional inflows stood at \$1,002.1 million in the year-ago period

Real estate consultant Colliers India Saturday released the data that showed a sharp fall of 89 per cent in investment in office assets to \$79.1 million during July-September from \$694.3 million in the corresponding period of last

vear Funds inflows in mixed-use assets too dipped 73 per cent to \$27.2 million during July-September period from \$100.8 million in the year-ago period.

However, the institutional investments in residential properties rose 47 per cent to \$274.6 million in the third quarter of this calendar year from \$187 million in the year-ago period.

Industrial & warehousing assets attracted \$340.3 million during July-September as against mere \$20 million in the year-ago period Investments in alternate assets, which include data centres, student housing, senior housing, holiday homes and life sciences, stood at \$72.2 million during July-September period as against zero inflows in



Foreign investments contributed 77 per cent in the total institutional inflows.

Across asset classes, institutional investments in office assets have risen 60 per cent to \$2,886.9 million during January-September period from \$1,802.8 million in the year-ago period.

Inflows in housing assets jumped more than two-fold to \$707.9 million from \$276.5 million. Similarly, investments in industrial and warehousing as-

sets jumped more than threefold to \$690.6 million in January-September from \$199.8 million in the year-ago period. However, inflows in alternate investments fell 42 per cent to \$230.4 million from \$398.8 million.

Investments in mixed-use properties plunged 90 per cent to \$42.3 million from \$408.8 million.



in real estate plunges Surging crude to drag **OMCs' profit: Moody's** 

PRICE OF CRUDE OIL JUMPED AROUND 17% TO OVER \$90/BBL IN SEPT FROM AN AVERAGE OF \$78/BBL IN O1 OF FY24

New Delhi, Oct 7: High crude oil prices will weaken the profitability of the country's three state-owned oil marketing companies -- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) -- as they have limited flexibility to pass on higher raw material costs to consumers due to the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in May 2024, according to a report by Moody's.

The report points out that the market margins of the three oil

Marketing margins on diesel turned negative since August while margins on petrol have narrowed considerably over the same period as in-

September, from an average of 878/bbl in Q1 of fiscal 2024.tled up 51 cents at \$84.58 per bar-



been "largely met".

travel to the RBI offices

It is quite possible for the global oil price to breach the \$100 mark a barrel. Significant efforts of Saudi Arabia and Russia to curtail oil supply and also extend the schedule of oil supply cuts could lead oil to breach this psychological mark

G CHOKKALINGAM | FOUNDER AND HEAD OF RESEARCH, EQUINOMICS RESEARCH

tended their combined 1.3 million Moody's report states. Nonetheless, we believe barrel per day (bpd) cuts until the high oil prices are unend of 2023. likely to be sustained for long as global growth weakens, it adds. The increase in raw material

oil companies will maintain their credit quality, helped by costs comes strong balance sheets. Additional after the price of capital from the government, if crude oil jumped made available, will further support their credit metrics. around 17 per cent to more than \$90/bbl in Among the three companies. HPCL has the lowest buffer to tol-

On the positive side the report states that the credit metrics of the OMCs will remain well positioned through fiscal 2024. The

Sales of gasoline in September were 1.1% lower than the previous month at 3.06 million tonne. Sales of diesel, mainly used by

passenger vehicles decreased 6.49 million tonne. Cooking gas, or liquefied

#### new paid premium membership tiers Bank in the issue offices of the Reserve Bank, which is there in INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE almost every state capital we have presence. So there are 19 of San Francisco, Oct 7: X (forthem," Das told reporters. merly Twitter) is reportedly

He added that the original obplanning to split its premium jective of withdrawing the notes, paid subscription service into three membership tiers to earn which was also driven by the need to take care of old notes, has more money and become profitable by 2024. Das also said that the postal de-

According to reports, X would split the current \$8 Premium partment's services can be availed in case someone cannot subscription into three different plans: Basic, Standard, and Plus, at various price points.

According to a Bloomberg report, citing sources, it remains unclear if a free X version will continue to exist.

The entry-level Basic plan will not reduce the number of ads that users see on the platform.

The Standard tier will show half as many ads and the top Plus premium offering will remove ads entirely and may cost more than \$8 per month.

During a briefing by X CEO Linda Yaccarino to X debt holders, she reportedly told them that the company's advertising, data licensing, and subscription revenue is growing quarter over quarter "in the high single digits". Yaccarino asserted last month

that the company will be profitable by early 2024, adding that the platform may now have 200-250 million daily active users.

#### **Fuel demand dips** 2% MoM in Sept

#### REUTERS

Washington, Oct 7: India's fuel consumption dropped 2% monthon-month in September, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed Friday.

Total consumption in September, a proxy for oil demand, totaled 18.18 million metric tonne, down from 18.57 million tonne in August. However, it was up 7.6% compared with the same period a vear earlier.

trucks and commercially run about 2.7% month-on-month to

companies -- the difference between their net realized prices and international prices -- have already weakened sig-**OMCs** nificantly from the high likely to start levels seen in the April-June quarter incurring EBITDA of the current filosses in second half of

nancial year. fiscal 2024 if crude rises to around \$100/bbl

ternational prices increased. The earnings of the three Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), all of which enjoy a Baa3 stable

#### attract any investment during Jan-Sept period

publishers to use specific billing systems and unfairly postponing due app review, reports Yonhap news agency.

#### **Reliance Retail** to raise \$598mn

Bangalore: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail Ventures said Friday it would raise ₹49.67 billion (\$598 million) from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, in the latest bet on India's largest retailer ahead of a potential stock market listing. The investment by ADIA at a valuation of \$100.8 billion will translate into a stake of 0.59% in the company, the retail unit of oil-to-retail conglomerate Reliance Industries said. Reliance Retail, with more than 18,000 stores and which competes with Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart, has attracted investments from private equity firm KKR & Co and Oatar Investment Authority in recent months.



rating, will weaken in the second half of fiscal 2024 if oil prices remain elevated at current levels of \$85/barrel(bbl)-\$90/bbl.Still, full-year earnings will remain comparable with historical levels at this price range, the rel. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures settled up 48 cents at \$82.79.

On Friday, Brent futures set-

Brent Crude went above the \$90 a barrel mark for the first time in 2023 after OPEC+ leaders Saudi Arabia and Russia ex-

tial marketing losses in fiscal 2023 which resulted in borrowings, according to the report.

holders of other currencies.

**BIZ BUZZ** 

erate a material increase in crude

oil prices because of substan-

troleum gas, sales increased by 3.7% to 2.55 million tons while On the other hand, a strong US naphtha sales fell 11.5% to about dollar is typically negative for oil 1 million tonne. Sales of bitumen, demand, making the commodity used for making roads, fell 3.6% from August, while fuel oil use relatively more expensive for scaled up by 1.9% in September.

### ESIC concludes Rajbhasha Pakhwara

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 7: The closing ceremony of observation of official language fortnight (Rajbhasha Pakhwara) was organised by Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Headquarters October 06. The function was presided over by Rajendra Kumar, Director General ESIC. Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Vigilance Officer, other senior officials and employees were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar said that Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world. In a country with full of diversity, Hindi language is the source to bind people together. While motivating officials to work in Hindi, he said that officers and officials should try to do more and more work in Hindi and encourage others to do the same.

He said that working in Hindi is not only a constitutional obligation but moral responsibility as well. He also talked about the use of modern e-tools for easy use of Hindi. During the function, the headquarters' Hindi magazine "Panchdeep Bharti" was also released.

Ratnesh Kumar Gautam. Insurance Commissioner (Official Language) gave information about various events organised during Rajbhasha Pakhwara and also urged for maximum use of the Hindi, in daily official work

On this occasion, winners of various Hindi competitions like Hindi noting and drafting competition, official language knowledge competition, Hindi essay competition and Hindi debate competition, organised during the Rajbhasha Pakhwara, were honoured with prize money and certificates.

#### MCL bags D&B PSU Award-2023

Sambalpur: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a flagship Coal India subsidiary having business operations in Odisha, has won the prestigious Dun & Bradstreet PSU Award-2023 for business excellence in the coal mining sector. On behalf of company, the award was received by Shambhu Jha, General Manager/Technical Secretary to the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) at 15th edition of "PSUs & Government Summit" Friday evening in New Delhi, which was also attended by Vivek Joshi, IAS, Secretary to the Government of India -Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance. OP Singh, Chairman-cum-Managing Director and the Functional Directors of the company have congratulated the Team MCL for winning this coveted award and wished best for future endeavours. "The D&B award for the year 2023 serves as a significant source of motivation for Team MCL, as it acknowledges the collective and committed efforts of all



members towards ensuring energy security in the nation," the CMD said affirming that Team MCL will continue to strive for excellence in business operations with unwavering enthusiasm. Dun & Bradstreet, a leading global B2B analytics and business intelligence solution provider, and helps companies around the world to improve their business performance. MCL is a leading PSU of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Coal, operating coal mines in Sundergarh, Jharsuguda and Angul districts of Odisha

### **UNCERTAINTY GROWS** Ather, Ola see tepid investors' response

While both startups and legacy automakers saw sales dip, the pressure is far higher on startups, which need to increase sales as well as reduce losses to attract investors

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 7: Despite gaining significant market shares, Indian electric two-wheeler (E2W) market leaders like Ola Electric and Ather Energy are witnessing a lukewarm response from investors amid heavy losses and regulatory uncertainties, the media reported.

According to Nikkei Asia, industry executives view the lukewarm response to Ola and Ather's fundraising "as a warning sign despite the startups' rapid growth" while green mobility is considered a sunshine sector.

Ather Energy "resorted to a rights issue after potential investors balked at its ask of more than \$200 million at a valuation of at least \$1 billion," the report mentioned, citing people aware of the company's plans.

Hero MotoCorp-backed EV company Ather Energy's losses surged more than 2.5 times in the financial year 2022-23.



The EV startup reported a loss of ₹864.5 crore in FY23, against a loss of ₹344.1 crore in FY22, according to its annual financial statements filed with the Registrar of Companies (RoC). Ather's total expenses more than tripled to ₹2,670.6 crore

from ₹757.9 crore in FY22, de-

spite strong sales.

The surge in losses reported even after the firm's revenue from operations grew 4.3 times to reach ₹1,784 crore during the fiscal year ending March 2023. Meanwhile, SoftBank-backed Ola Electric's valuation rose just 10 per cent to \$5.5 billion after a \$140 million funding round led by existing backer Temasek in September, the report mentioned.

**IPO-bound Ola Electric** posted a net loss of ₹784.1 crore in the financial year FY22, a four times jump from ₹199.2 crore in FY21.

As per its FY22 results, the total expenditure stood at ₹1,240.4 crore in the reported fiscal year.

#### Malabar Gold & Diamonds brings 'Artistry' exhibition



Bhubaneswar: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar showroom presents 'Artistry', an exclusive exhibition and sale of gold, diamond, and precious gems jewellery. The featured ornaments having timeless elegance are creations of master craftsmen. These jewels are shining examples of their expertise and ingenious skills, justifying the theme of the show 'Experience Wearable Art'.

Artistry show inaugurated in the presence of Shreemayee Mishra, Chairperson, Odisha Labour Welfare Board and Malabar Gold & Diamonds Management Team, distinguished guests and well-wishers. Also this exhibition is being organised at Cuttack from October 6 to October 9. The show features the exclusive brands of Malabar Gold & Diamonds MINE - diamond jewellery, ERA - uncut diamond jewellery, PRECIA precious gems jewellery, ETHNIX -handcrafted jewellery, DIVINE - Indian heritage jewellery, Starlet - kid's and Zoul - young adult collection jewellery. The show was unveiled October 7 and will continue till October 15. The brand has started "One India One Gold Rate" campaign under which customers will be given best gold rate across any Malabar Gold & Diamonds stores in India. This show offers 0% deduction on 22 karat old gold exchange. The brand has also announced a 'Wedding Advance Purchase' scheme wherein gold rate protection is offered to customers by paying as little as 5% advance of the total purchase amount.











#### **OrissaPOST** SUNDAY | OCTOBER 8 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR



# **Satwik-Chirag aces Asia**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 7: Star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty earned India's first-ever badminton gold medal at the Asian Games with a straight-game win over South Korea's Choi Solgvu and Kim Wonho here Sunday. Satwik and Chirag will become the World No.1 team when BWF releases the ranking chart Tuesday.

World No.3 Satwik and Chirag, who had become the first Indians to win the Asian Championships in 58 years in March this year, extended their sensational run with a 21-18, 21-16 win over Choi and Kim, ranked 15th, to achieve their crowning glory.

It was also India's first medal in men's doubles in 41 years since Leroy D'sa and Pradeep Gandhe won a bronze in the 1982 edition.

The medal ensured India's bestever performance at the continental showpiece as they ended with three medals - a men's doubles gold, a men's team silver and a men's singles bronze. India had won a silver and bronze in the 2018 edition at Jakarta, while bagging five bronze at the 1982 edition.

The Indians came into the summit clash with a 2-0 head-to-head



It seemed like a tricky affair as Satwik and Chirag lagged in most part of the opening game, which saw both teams produce an immaculate display of attack.

Satwik and Chirag only grew as they now have an Asian Games gold to go with the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold, 2022 Thomas Cup title and the

2022 World Championships bronze.

The duo also won the Asia Championships gold, Indonesia Super 1000, Korea Super 500 and Swiss Open Super 300 this year.

# Jyothi, Deotale reign supreme

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 7: Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam led India's medal rush with a hattrick of gold as the compound archers ended South Korea's dominance to propel the country to its best-ever haul of nine medals at the Asian Games here Saturday.

The compound archers claimed all the five gold medals on offer while veteran Abhishek Verma and Aditi Swami secured one silver and a bronze each. The recurve archers earlier Fridav bagged two medals. India's first in 13 years in the Olympic discipline. India had won two silver medals in archery in the 2018 edition in Indonesia.

Reigning world champion Aditi began the penultimate day at the continental showpiece by winning a bronze in the women's compound individual event when she prevailed over Indonesia's Ratih Zilizati Fadhly in a lopsided playoff.

The 17-year-old Indian, who bagged the World Championship title in Berlin two months ago, was not at her best and dropped four points but that did not matter much as she won 146-140.

Later Jyothi, who had already secured a gold in mixed pair and women's team events, made it three in a row when she rallied to defeat her formidable South



Korean opponent So Chaewon 149-145 in the women's compound individual final.

In a battle between the master and apprentice, it was the 21year-old reigning World Champion Deotale who emerged

winner by two points. Deotale, who secured the Worlds title at Berlin, was near flawless and dropped just one point to overwhelm Verma 149-147, which completed India's overall dominance in the compound section.



#### Seeding leads to gold in men's cricket Indians dominate kabaddi event



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 7: The Indian men's kabaddi team emerged victorious after an hour of arguments to reclaim its Asian Games title, beating defending champions Iran 33-29 in a controversial final, which was temporarily suspended, here Saturday.

The women's team survived by the skin of their teeth as they beat Chinese Taipei 26-25 in a dramatic final for the country's 100th medal. There was hardly anything separating the two teams in the men's summit clash at 28-28 with one minute and five seconds left on the clock.

But controversy erupted in the last minute when Indian skipper Pawan Sehrawat went in for a do-or-die raid. Sehrawat went into the lobby (out of bound) without a touch. However. Amirhossein Bastami and three other Iranian defenders rushed towards the Indian in an attempt to push him out, leading to confusion and mayhem.

It was unclear whether Sehrawat had been successfully tackled or not and there was also confusion as to which rule was to be applied – the old one or the new one.

According to the new rule. Sehrawat was out but the old rule deemed Sehrawat and all the Iranians who followed him also out, which would give India four points and Iran one.

With the officials see-sawing between ruling in favour of India and Iran, both sets of players sat on the court in protest when the decision went against them in unprecedented scenes.

After a lot of deliberation, discussion and arguing by both sides, and the match being suspended, the officials ruled it in favour of India and the scoreline read 32-29.

Winners of seven consecutive gold medals at the continental showpiece, the Indian men's team had suffered a shock semifinal loss to Iran at Jakarta five vear's ago

This was India's third gold in women's kabaddi which was introduced in the 2010 edition. India won gold in the 2010 and 2014 editions but settled for silver in 2018 after losing to Iran in the final. This time the Indians faced Chinese Taipei, an emerging kabaddi nation, in what turned out to be an edge-of-theseat summit showdown.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 7: The Indian men's cricket team clinched the gold medal on their Asian Games debut after their final against Afghanistan was called off due to rain, and the Ruturaj Gaikwadled side was adjudged winners by virtue of being seeded higher in the continental showpiece Saturday.

Put in to bat, Afghanistan were 112/5 in 18.2 overs when persistent rain halted the proceedings at the Zhejiang University of Technology Cricket Field, and the match never restarted from that point.

The Afghans had a jittery start and were reduced to 12/3 inside four overs after their top-three -Zubaid Akbari (5), Mohammad Shahzad (4) and Noor Ali Zadran (1) – fell cheaply.

Shivam Dube (1-0-4-1) got the first breakthrough when he had Akbari in his first over. Akbari perished going for a hook shot to a rising delivery by the Indian pacer. In the next over, wicketkeeper-batter Shahzad was



caught behind off a delivery from left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (3-0-17-1).

The Afghans committed a harakiri when Zadran was run out after a Ravi Bishnoi throw from deep square-leg helped Jitesh Sharma uproot the stumps. Shahidullah then revived their innings scoring an unbeaten 43-ball 49 (3x4, 2x6) in a partnership with Afsar Zazai (15).

But India struck back when leg-spinner Bishnoi (4-0-12-1) broke the 37-run partnership, cleaning up Zazai with a wrong one. From the other end, leftarm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed castled Karim Janat for 1.

That brought skipper Gulbadin Naib to the crease and he shared a 60-run partnership with Shahidullah to give some respectability to the Afghanistan total before their progress was hindered

The match could not resume and the match referee from Sri Lanka Graeme Labrooy abandoned the match as India sealed their maiden gold in cricket at the Asian Games.

#### Rohit & Co ready for Oz test A FINISH CAMPAIGN N WITH 107 MEDALS bronze, a quantum leap from top-seeded Chinese team also

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 7: Indian athletes touched the magical figure of 107 medals at the Asian Games with their blood, sweat and toil over the last fortnight to give the country an early Diwali gift, and a promise of a best-ever harvest at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

With India concluding their engagements at the continental showpiece Saturday as no athlete from the country is in the fray in a couple of events scheduled on the final day of competition Sunday, the tally of 107 will remain etched in the collective memory of the nation until the athletes decide to reset it in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan in 2026.

India's final tally in Hangzhou stood at 28 gold, 38 silver and 41

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Aiden

Markram (106, 54b, 14x4, 3x6)

smashed the fastest World Cup

century off just 49 balls, while

Quinton De Kock (100, 84b, 12x4,

3x6) and Rassie van der Dussen

(108, 110b, 13x4, 2x6) also made

punishing hundreds as South

Africa sounded early warning

with a mammoth 428/5 against

-Sri Lanka in their World Cup

match here Saturday.

3

the 70 medals the contingent bagged at Jakarta in 2018. The tally had touched the 95-medal mark Friday with a few assured medals Saturday.

But, surprisingly, the athletes bagged 12 medals on the last day of their campaign, clinching six gold, four silver and two bronze. India's fourth position is unlikely to change as fifth-placed Uzbekistan has 20 gold as compared to India's 28. Silver lining in chess

The Indian men's and women's chess teams won silver medals Saturday after posting easy wins in the ninth and final round. The top-seeded men finished on 15 match points (2 for a win, 1 for a draw), one behind the gold medallists Iran.

Markram, Proteas set new records

The troika went on a ram-

— Australia's 417/7 against

page to power the Proteas past

the highest World Cup total

Afghanistan in the 2015 edi-

tion. Markram also broke for-

mer Ireland all-rounder Kevin

O'Brian's 50-ball century record

(vs England in 2011) in the

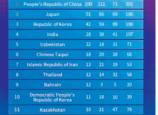
In reply, Sri Lanka were

bowled out for 326 in 44.5 overs,

falling short by 102 runs.

Charitha Asalanka (79, 65b,





In the women's section, India won their games easily to set up a 4-0 win over South Korea to finish with 15 match points. The

8x4, 4x6), Kusal Perera (76, 42b.

4x4, 8x6) and skipper Dasun

Shanaka (68, 62b, 6x4, 3x6) bat-

After De Kock and Van der

Dussen set the platform for a

massive score with their sec-

ond-wicket stand with 204 runs,

Markram applied a brutal coup

de grace to pulverise Sri Lanka.

turions — De Kock, Van der

Dussen and Markram — also

recorded their maiden WC tons.

All three South African cen-

ted well for the losing side.

won their last-round match against the UAE to take the gold with 17 match points. Bronze for hockey eves

A wounded Indian women's hockey team rose from the shock semifinal loss to edge past defending champions Japan 2-1 and claim the bronze medal. The Indian women thus avenged their 0-1 defeat against Japan in the last edition of the Games in Jakarta in 2018.

Deepika gave India the lead in the fifth minute from a penalty stroke before Japan equalised through Yuri Nagai from a penalty corner in the 30th minute. Sushila Chanu, a rare goal scorer, handed India the winning goal in the 50th minute from a set piece gone wrong.

#### Odisha FC go down fighting against Goa

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Oct 7: Odisha FC continued their ISL 2023-24 campaign with a hard-fought 3-2 loss in their first away game of the season at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Goa Saturday evening.

In the early stages of the game, Odisha's Mourtada Fall found the back of the net in the 6th minute.

The second half saw FC Goa's Noah Sadaoui coming into the spotlight. In the 55th minute, Noah converted a penalty. He continued his spree in the 68th minute, netting another goal.

Fall once again showcased his scoring prowess in the 81st minute. In the dying moments of the game, Jay Gupta scored with a left-footed shot to seal FC Goa's victory.



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 7: Rohit Sharma, one of the most revered cricketers of his generation, would carry the audible expectations of a billion people when his Indian team starts their highstakes World Cup campaign against Australia here Sunday. For the sports aficionados,

the Asian Games campaign with 100-plus medals was a juicy appetiser and they are bracing up for exotic main course from country's most followed sports team

Led by a genial Pat Cummins, Australia are a tough yet likable bunch, who are ready for a good scrap at the Chepauk where both the teams have had some epic battles in the past be it the tied Test of 1986 or the close Reliance Cup game the next year or the 2001 Test series-decider.

If India's batting is world class, Australia's pace attack is top notch but does it have the legs to survive the cruel Chennai heat will be a million-dollar question

There are 15 different men, with different shades of character coming together for a common cause. A skipper, who at 36, knows that his legacy will be defined by whether he holds aloft the coveted Cup, November 19. Then there is near 35-year-old

#### **RECORDS THAT INDIANS CAN BREAK**

**3** Virat Kohli needs three more cen-turies to go past Tendulkar (49) in terms of becoming the first global cricketer to strike 50 tons in ODIs

**1** Rohit is also in the run for break-ing another record with the bat, as a ton more would make him the Indian with the most number of hundreds in the event's history, going past Tendulkar (6)

**3** Rohit is just three maximums away from becoming the highest six-hitter in international cricket as he looks to go past legendary West Indian opener Chris Gavle (553)

665 Shubman Gill needs 665 runs more to become the highest run-scorer in an ODI calendar year, as he would go past Tendulkar (1894)

13 Mohammed Shami is 13 wick-ets away from becoming the highest Indian wicket-taker in World Cup history, as he would surpass Zaheer Khan and Javagal Srinath (44)

Virat Kohli, arguably the best all-format batter of his generation. He needs three more centuries to get past iconic Sachin Tendulkar the man he had carried on his shoulders on a beautiful Wankhede night 12 summers back.

After 12 seasons, Kohli is standing at the cusp of where Tendulkar stood in 2011. The only difference is Kohli has one World Cup in his kitty. So does Rohit (2007 World T20) and 37year-old Ravichandran Ashwin (2011). But those were trophies where the narratives were set by others and these juniors played their part to the 'T'.

But this edition is their edition. Rohit wants to own this stage. So does Kohli and Ashwin. A 34-



year-old Ravindra Jadeja or a 33-year-old Mohammed Shami does not want to be left behind. Or a Jasprit Bumrah, who would like it to be 'Now or Never'.

Most of them might not play another World Cup in four years' time and even if one (likely Kohli with his fitness) remains available for the next edition in 2027, one never knows whether the format will remain relevant and appealing to younger generation.

This bunch is high on talent and feisty quotient and wouldn't want to be tragic heroes. An Indian World Cup triumph might just save ODI cricket from dying a slow death. The format is virtually on ventilator.

At Chepauk, India have won seven out of 14 ODIs with six defeats and one game abandoned. Australia have in fact won five out of their six ODIs at this venue. There are no favourites in this match. Let the 'Cup of Hope' turn into 'Cup of Joy' for India.



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World Cup.



